



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

P.O. Box 77033 RPO Ottawa South

Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5N2

613-233-6633 jill@uco-ottawa.ca www.uco-ottawa.ca

Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #88

March 2022

Dear Brothers and Sister-in-Christ,

So Jesus said to them again, Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

John 20:21-23

Peace and Grace to you as we meditate upon The Cross, and look forward to celebrating our Risen Christ this Eastertide! Is the Cross not the perfect act of forgiveness, of Grace? Thank you, Jesus, for dying upon The Cross for us, for dying instead of us.

As I begin my Sabbatical year, I look forward to a time of reflection and restoration. I was blessed with a new grandson in February, and now have 4 precious grandchildren. How faithful is our Lord!

He gives through you, dear faithful friends, to the poor, and my eyes fill with tears of gratitude for you. Thank you most sincerely for your sacrificial offerings.

May you be blessed ten-fold. We appeal to you, UCO supporters, to help us to make our increased budget this year, in order that we may meet the needs of Urban Christian Outreach, and be found faithful. I will return next February, but in the meantime our Lord has recalled our gifted Treasurer, Mary-Anne Zwicker to the Board to oversee our finances, and has raised up a Spirit-filled Christian Outreach Worker, Ms. Cheryl Bradley, who, along with our Board of Directors, and volunteers, will look after our friends on the sidewalks during my absence. Praise God for his blessing!

Cheryl comes to us with a heart for Christ and for His poor among us. She has much experience, and began her training with UCO prior to the pandemic. Cheryl and I have been working together these past few months, and I know that all those whom we serve will be blessed by her kindness, and by her willingness to walk with Jesus.

The Lord is Risen!!! Hallelujah!!!
Jill Wilson, E.D.



Here's a report from Cheryl:

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139:15-16 ESV

While ministering downtown during the month of February, things looked and felt a little different than usual with the protesters in town. I wasn't sure how I would navigate the parking situation, or if I would be received well once I got there, as I was wearing a mask. Then I met a panhandler named Peter*.

I asked Peter if he would like a pair of gloves. He asked for a pair of socks and I was able to give him two pairs. I asked him how he was doing with the commotion and noise from the convoy. He admitted it could get noisy, but he was doing well and there was plenty of food going around! As our conversation continued, a couple of comments Peter made struck me as curious; he said, "We are all just a bunch of pawns in this game; we are all just a number."

Peter bravely shared with me that for the first two years of his life he didn't have a name.

His crib at the orphanage where he was dropped off, only displayed a number – and no name. He was not given his name until he was two years old. My heart broke.

This man had struggled and suffered so much over the years. He could no longer see the value he held as he reflected on being just a number in the crowd, without his own identity. As these confessions came from a man who professed faith in Jesus, I thought that he could use a little reminder.

I told Peter that he was more than just a number. I had the pleasure of reminding him that God loves him and that he had a name even before the creation of the world. As a believer, Peter's Heavenly Father chose his name even before he was placed in that crib. His name is written on the palm of God's hand and written in the Lamb's book of life.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before Me.

Isaiah 49:16 NKJV

This spoken truth brought a smile to Peter's face. When he looked up at me in acknowledgement, not only was his face smiling, but his eyes were smiling, also. They were filled with the sweet joy of a reminder that we belong to Jesus even before we enter this life, and we will return to him when we are called home. Peter told me that he knew his Bible well. We shared some of God's Word and prayed together before we parted ways.

I'd like to ask that you join me in continuing to pray for Peter. May the comfort that I saw in his eyes remain with him throughout his trials and tribulations.



May the sweet reminder that Peter has a name, and his name was chosen by our Heavenly Father before the creation of this Earth, give him assurance that he belongs to God. One day, he will return to God in His perfect kingdom, where there will be no more sadness, no more sorrow, no more hurting, no more pain, and no more tears.

***You keep track of all my sorrows,
You have collected all my tears in
your bottle. You have recorded
each one in your book.*** Psalm 56:8
(NLT)

Sometimes, the darkness of our situation shadows the light of Truth... but the darkness cannot overcome it. Sometimes even believers need a reminder that not one of our tears is wasted. God collects every tear in his bottle. He hears our prayers. He has called us by name, and He loves us.

*name changed to respect the privacy of the individual.

***The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not
overcome it.***

John 1:5 ESV

**Yes! He is Risen! He is Risen
Indeed!**

Cheryl Bradley



UCO's 30th Anniversary 2023

Saturday, May 06th, 2023

Next year, in 2023, God-willing, we will be celebrating 30 Years of ministering to God's poor, homeless, and marginalized of Ottawa. Please save the date, and join us for a service of celebration, followed by a luncheon.

We hope to gather from 11:00 am until 1:00 p.m. More details, including an invitation, will be sent out at the end of the year. We will be looking for volunteers to help with planning, food preparation and set up/take down. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, or would like to volunteer in any way, please email Jill at jill@urbanchristianoutreach.ca Praise God for his faithfulness, his provision and his Grace!

How to Donate:

1. By **Interac e-transfer** to: donate@urbanchristianoutreach.ca
2. **By mail**, send a cheque to:
Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)
P.O. Box 77033
Ottawa, ON K1S 5N2
3. **By Credit Card**: follow the links on our website at www.uco-ottawa.ca
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