

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Update #89

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“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

I’m so excited to share this update with you all. What a blessing and honour it is to be entrusted to minister to our city’s poor, homeless and marginalized. I have had so many days where I feel the Lord’s presence on this journey. He is with us always.

There was one day in particular, when I was trying to find a parking spot in order to visit a local drop-in centre. I ended up driving around, and found myself stopped at a red light. This pause gave me the opportunity to look at my surroundings. In that moment, I felt the Holy Spirit leading me to a different local community centre right in front of me. I knew there was a program located there, that specifically works with women in difficult situations.

I thought this would be a great chance to learn more, and to see if UCO could help provide Christian resources, or pastoral care for these women. I introduced myself as an Urban Christian Outreach Worker.

I felt prompted to ask what their needs were, so that I could bring it to God and pray for those specific needs. I was then directed to an office down the hall, where I met two wonderful women, Dina* and Esther*, who run classes and workshops for ladies who have been through traumatic circumstances. I explained that we are a Christian non-profit ministry that believes in building real and intentional relationships, by meeting people where they’re at, by guiding them to resources and programs, by offering one-on-one pastoral care, and by pointing them to Jesus.

They were excited and shared that my arrival was perfect timing! Esther recently had some women express interest in learning about Christianity, but she wasn’t sure how to help them with that. She invited me to come back the following week to join them for one of their drop-in programs, and to give me the chance to connect with these women. The following week I was so excited to return.

I connected with one of their clients, Ruth*, and she shared some of her struggles and the uncertainty of her future. After the program, we walked to the bus stop together. I was blessed to be able to pray with her before we parted ways, planning to meet again sometime soon to share more about God’s love for us.

Building these types of relationships, and encouraging men and women to seek and discover hope and restoration in Christ, is such a joy! I look forward to connecting with Ruth again, and many others like her. I believe that the Lord led me to the community centre that day. What seemed like a frustrating inconvenience trying to find parking, led to an amazing opportunity and blessing to meet Ruth, and to share what God is doing through UCO. It led to me being able to connect with women who are already thirsty and hungry for God. I can see the hand of God at work here. Even though I can't see the whole picture yet, God sees it all.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

I love how God's living word feeds our weary, tired souls and gives us the opportunity to share His love with others. It's exciting to see how each organization has its own gifting, and how we can support each other by using our talents to connect for the greater cause. Praise Him!

Please join me in continuing to pray for Ruth, for the ministry friends we've met, and for those we are yet to meet – praying that they might find hope in Jesus.

**names changed to respect the privacy of the individuals.*

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Galatians 5:25 (NLT)

***Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Bradley***



How to Donate:

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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