



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Peace and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and Advent blessings!

While writing this, I am feeling so blessed and grateful to be walking with Jesus, to know that by grace, we can look forward to spending eternity with him, and that no matter what messes we manage to get ourselves into in this life, he forgives us, redeems us, and restores us. I thank God that I have a peaceful home, some food in the refrigerator, a loving family, a faithful church family, caring friends, and reasonably good health; all beautiful gifts given to me by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. But what should happen if my situation were to change? Am I ready to walk 'through the valley of the shadow of death' knowing that Jesus is with me?

I think of the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized – those who struggle with desperate loneliness or depression – and I think, 'there by the Grace of God go I.' It is our mission to come alongside those who are in lack – our calling – both

yours and mine – to sit for awhile and to share the love and hope that we have because our Jesus was born to bring us this hope, and he died so that we never have to.

Jesus, our Lord, so real, so alive to us, leads us into the brokenness of this world, where we learn that we too, are broken and in need of his redemptive love.

For 25 years, you have partnered with UCO to bring the Good News to the poor on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. You have been so faithful. To quote a dear friend of mine who is an Ordained Minister, and who recently had to appeal to his congregation for over a million dollars, "I hate to do this folks, but I'm asking for money!" 2018 has been a difficult year financially for us, but we are trusting God, and appealing to you, dear friends of UCO, to radically give of what our Lord has given you, so that we can continue to serve our Lord among the poor. We need a lot of money: \$7,594.78, plus extra to pay my salary and expenses and to get us through the lean months of January and February.

We humbly appeal to you to prayerfully consider what you can do to help us at this time. I know this is painful, but I also know that our God is a BIG God, whose loves a generous giver. We are trusting our Lord, because we see the most amazing things that he is doing in the lives of the poor whom we are so very privileged to befriend. May we be found faithful!

After 'shadowing' me one morning downtown, our Board member Evan had this to say:

“My faith has always been running plays up the middle, just gaining a few yards, and eeking out a first down, but when I went out witnessing with Jill, God threw a 40-yard-long bomb to the wide receiver, and I caught it!”

God drew Evan into the ministry work, opened his heart, and used his gifts to minister to others, while revealing Himself in amazing ways to Evan. I invite you to join me one morning and to spend time with Jesus among the poor. This is where we find him.

We are sad to say that over the past year, we have lost 3 dear UCO friends whom we have had the privilege to know. All three are in Paradise with Jesus now, and so we Praise God for this! We look forward to meeting with them again one day, where we will find them free from their addictions, free from mental illness, and free from poverty. What a joy that will be. But in the meantime, we minister to those who

are left behind to mourn. This can be an especially difficult time for our friends downtown. While many people rush by with shopping bags full of gifts for loved one, many of our friends downtown won't be making special Christmas plans. One such friend, recently told me that she hates Christmas, as she feels that she is the focus of others' blame and shame when family gathers. With your help, we can share God's love with those who are hurting by encouraging them, by pointing them to the Saviour, Jesus Christ, who loves them unconditionally, who died for them, who will never, ever mock them, shame them, but in fact the One who took all of our sins upon him, who bore our mocking and shaming, so that we could have life ever after. This is Love. If you are going through a difficult time right now, we would welcome an opportunity to pray for you. Please call me at 613-899-4527.

As we celebrate this most holy season of Advent, and anticipate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, on behalf of the community of UCO, may I say, 'Thank you', and wish you and your loved ones a most Blessed Advent season, a joyful Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous New Year. To God be the Glory!

Peace and Gratitude,
Jill

UCO's Urgent Needs:

- 1. Money \$7,594.78**
- 2. Prayers**