



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Charitable Registration #13776 1938 RR0001

Update #97

December 2024

Dear Friends,

We serve such a loving and faithful God! A big God, huge God; a God that delights in our faith. At this time of writing, we are in the midst of a postal strike, and most of our donations arrive in December and they arrive via mail. But, in the midst of this strike, we do not despair, but rather a Board member and I prayed by telephone this morning, and we gave thanks to God, in Faith, trusting him to provide for us, no matter what our circumstances. And he did. This afternoon, by his mighty works, and through a generous gift, he provided for us. And we are trusting that he will continue to provide for us in the coming days, and weeks, and months, and years, just as he has for the past 31 1/2 years! How Great is our God!

John, (not his real name) struggles with depression, particularly at Christmas time. He longs to be reconciled with his family. He cries when he speaks of his loved ones, and of his many regrets. Please pray for the miracle of reconciliation for John and his family, and that our Lord would draw ever so near to him in his time of loneliness. Lord have mercy upon John and his family.

During a Bible study in a coffee shop last week, a dear UCO guest, Carol, (not her real name) who is very poor and marginalized, and I were talking about how cold it has been outside, and how devastating it is for the homeless. She said,

“The Lord is near them, and will never forsake them.”

Wow; what beautiful faith! I love that! She gave me permission to share this with you.

“When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” Luke 7:9



Our faithful Father sent his only son, Jesus, to be born on Christmas morning, to be the Saviour of the world, to teach us, to encourage us, to die for us, to die instead of us, that we might live forever with him. Let's encourage one another in faith, and make a decision to trust God with our loved ones, and with every detail of our lives. When we sin or turn away from him, he is faithful to forgive us. Sometimes there are consequences. Always there is Grace. May we make a decision during this holiest time of Advent to forgive those who have hurt us, those who have let us down, and allow God to enable us to forgive. If our Lord forgives us, who are we not to forgive ourselves, and others? He is in our hearts, and therefore, by grace, we can also forgive. All we have to do is to ask, to make room in our hearts, and to be willing to forgive. Our sweet Jesus does the rest. Only then can we truly have Peace. Forgiveness is a beautiful gift that Jesus has given to us. May we put our faith and our trust in Jesus, and return that gift to him this Christmas, by asking others to forgive us, and by forgiving ourselves and all those who have hurt us. I think that it might be fair to say that we need to forgive just about everyone that God has put in our lives, including ourselves.

"Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary grace."
Matthew Henry

'And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

On behalf of the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized, and on behalf of our volunteers and Board members, we give thanks to our Lord for you. May you be blessed with a peaceful and holy Advent, a joyful Christmas, and a faithful and healthy New Year.

With Love and Gratitude,
In Christ our Saviour and King,
Jill Wilson, E.D.

How to Donate:

1. **By e-transfer** to:
donate@urbanchristianoutreach.ca
2. **By mail**, send a cheque, or post-dated cheques 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
4. **By Credit Card**: through **Canada Helps** at www.canadahelps.ca
5. **Through the United Way payroll deductions program or one- time offering**
6. **By leaving a gift in your Will**

UCO's Current Needs:

1. Prayer for our UCO 'guests,' whom we are so blessed to come alongside
2. Divine financial favour
3. Winter coats, boots, gloves, hats
4. Tim Horton's, A&W, and McDonald's gift cards
5. Grocery store gift cards
6. Socks, toothbrushes, deodorant, and hand-warmers