

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

P.O. Box 23071 2121 Carling Ave. Ottawa, Ont. K2A 4E2

Tel: (613) 233 - 6633

Update # 42

October 2006

A Song of Thanksgiving

It was a mid- September day on the sidewalks. She stooped to the ground and picked up an early- fallen leaf, radiant with autumn colour. Without a word she placed it in my hands and we paused for a moment of lingering wonder in the presence of our Creator. That leaf remained with me, to remind me of UCO's many reasons to say 'thank you' to our amazing God.

Here are some of the 'thank you's' that are vibrant in my heart as I write this letter:

Thank you for friends amongst the poor who see beauty in small things and who teach us lessons in faith and life.

Thank you for this year's change in regulations that gives affordable bus passes to many amongst the poor. (Imagine walking everywhere you need to go!)

Thank you for the success of UCO's adult students who are newly able to manage in Algonquin College classrooms.

Thank you for those business people who make starter jobs available to adults with no work history, and for the courage of struggling people who are willing to risk failure as they take that step in later years of life.

Thank you for a baby who was not aborted and is now an active youngster with a very happy mother.

Thank you for friendly churches who invite me to preach and speak in the name of Christ and the poor. What a privilege!

Thank you for hidden people who faithfully support UCO with prayers and funds.

Thank you for a salvation that is wider and deeper and stronger than any of us fully realize.

Thank you, God.

It's my prayer that *Thanksgiving* will stay alive in our hearts all through Winter and into Spring.

Katrine Barton-Coward , UCO Executive Director

President's message

St. John Chrysostom, the eloquent fourth-century preacher and theologian, taught that for a household to be a truly Christian home, there must always be an extra mattress, a loaf of bread and a candle set aside for the needy stranger who might knock at the door. By Chrysostom's time, there were already institutions set up to help the poor. Yet Chrysostom insisted that following Christ is impossible without a sustained personal openness toward the poor. To wall ourselves off from the needy is to wall ourselves off from Christ Himself.

Our great temptation is to become overwhelmed by the needs and hide from them. Supporting UCO through prayers and finances is one of the ways God has given us to resist this temptation. UCO provides a way for average, busy people to begin to open our lives toward the poor strangers in our midst.

Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry. May your households be truly Christian homes.

Clinton Curle

President of the Board

Two things I request of you [God] Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches – Feed me with the food You prescribe for me; lest I be full and deny You, and say “Who is the Lord?” Or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:7- 9 (New King James version)
