

# ***Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)***

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**Update #41**

**July 2006**

## **President's Message**

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to spend a morning walking the streets of downtown Ottawa with Katrine and spending some time with the poor in our midst. Reflecting on this experience later, one of the things that stood out was how much I shared in common with the people I met that morning. We all shared the same basic fears, hopes and needs, and as friendly talk overcame the external differences, these similarities came to the forefront. It was a tremendously human experience for me, and in the mutual exchange of warm regard, I felt that I had received as much as I had given.

This willingness to relate to the poor as fully human, not merely as recipients of our charity but as friends, is at the heart of Urban Christian Outreach. It is the all-pervasive tone which governs all of UCO's activities. I see in this a reflection of the way that Jesus viewed the poor.

Thank you for your continued support of UCO's ministries.

Sincerely

Clint Curle  
President

## **Executive Director's Report**

Our students in the UCO/ROH Adult Education Programme have excelled once again in the hospital classroom. This year some have studied basic English grammar and basic math. Others continued to work towards their GED exam (General Education Development). Some students worked on their skills as ESL students (English as a Second Language). Yet others have attended the class briefly to brush up their academic skills, and are now successfully enrolled in college or Board of Education courses.

My thanks to Nadia Behmann, UCO's Assistant teacher and frequent volunteer in the classroom. And our joint thanks to all hospital staff and volunteers who team with us. Week by week we are delighted with the determination and achievements of the hospital students. Nadia and I are privileged to be teaching them. And now the class takes a break till after Labour Day.

Of course, other ongoing aspects of UCO work accelerate to fill the space available. There is always more work to be done. City sidewalks are alive, though sometimes sober as in the hours following the murder on Rideau Street. Group home visiting gains more of my attention. Often we think that once people are housed in a group home their needs are met, little realizing how bleak life can be even in the best-run facility. These friends of UCO need continuity of relationships from the previous years and ongoing connections with people outside the home. This is part of UCO's task.

Also this summer I am preaching in various churches of the city. The church of Jesus Christ is diverse, struggling, frustrating and wonderful. We have a God who never gives up saving us from our *lostness*, and a God who roots us in *hope*. Let's humbly and respectfully share this hope. The poor need the churches and the churches need the poor.

Janice Fiamengo and Kerry Kronberg have recently joined us on the Board of Urban Christian Outreach. This is very *good news* for UCO and we are already enjoying working together. My sincere thanks to all of you who support this work with your prayers, skills, time and finances.

Katrine Barton-Coward

July 2006

***During these summer weeks please offer thanksgiving and prayer for these situations. Each one is a specific person known to UCO. Each one also represents dozens of others in similar need. Let's ask God to multiply the effects of our prayers for many such people in Ottawa.***

*A fragile woman whose family is in disarray.*

*A woman who is starting a new job.*

*A student who writes public exams in the summer.*

*A man who remains rooted in his faith and stable, in unstable circumstances.*

*A man who has found new life in Christ and new beginnings.*

*A woman whose addictions destroy her life and the lives of those around her.*

*A UCO man who is frequently hospitalized and needs stable housing.*

*Those who are falsely accused.*

*Those who live by a code of violence and intimidation.*

***Also, please pray for:***

*Safe streets in Ottawa. No more murders.*

*Katrine's discernment in UCO client work, and in preaching and teaching.*

*Wisdom for UCO Staff and Board in charting UCO's future path of development.*

