

**Update #47**

**June 2008**

### **A Message from the Board of Directors**

During the past year, the Board of Directors of Urban Christian Outreach began searching for a new Executive-Director, and it is my pleasure to introduce Jill Wilson as the person who will carry the work of UCO forward into its new era. When the Board interviewed Jill, we were impressed by her abundant faith, her varied experience with Christian and other helping organizations, and her evident heart for the poor in urban Ottawa. Jill is genuine, compassionate, and wise: she means what she says, and she takes joy in the opportunities that God has given her to embody His unconditional love. We hope that you will be prompted to support Jill with your prayers and your financial contributions as she embarks on her task of outreach and compassion.

**Janice Fiamengo,  
Secretary of UCO Ottawa**

### **A Word from the Incoming Executive Director**

Dear UCO Supporters,

I am excited and honoured to be joining the wonderful ministry of Urban Christian Outreach as your new Executive Director. During this time of transition, I have had the privilege of 'shadowing' Katrine Barton-Coward, ministering to the needs of the poor and marginalized on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, as well as in the coffee shops, drop-in centres, and soup kitchens where our clients frequent. I have observed and worked in the UCO/ROMHC classroom, teaching literacy skills and GED programmes to students, and have also participated in leading Bible studies in borrowed rooms in downtown churches.

My life thus far, both personal and professional, has prepared me for this task that Christ has put before me. I am an active member of a downtown church and the mother of four grown children. My volunteer and work experiences have provided me with opportunities in a variety of areas, including business management, education, health care and lay ministry. On a personal level, I have experienced great loss in my life, and have come to know the presence of God in the midst of my own suffering. Having received God's healing, I have grown in faith and compassion for people, particularly those who are marginalized. I have a passion to do the work of Christ, by offering encouragement, hope, joy and practical support to our UCO clients.

Over the past several weeks, I have witnessed the work that is being done through the ministry of UCO, and how lives are being changed. I am humbled to have this opportunity to be the new Executive Director of Urban Christian Outreach. With God's help, the wisdom of our Board of Directors, and your faithful financial and prayer support, I will continue the work of serving the poor in Ottawa. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and months.

In Christ's Service,  
**Jill Wilson**