



Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Update #71

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Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

It is very early in the morning on a Sunday, as I write to you now. Awakened by God at 5:00 a.m., and after a time of praying for others, for UCO and myself, and saying everything that I needed to say to Him, he quietened my heart and brought me to a place of peaceful stillness before Him. He gave me ears to hear, and these words to type: Christ in me; Christian.

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33

Unless the Holy Spirit goes before us on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, we can do little good other than to socialize and to offer practical help. I never know what God wants me to do in a day, or where he will send me. It is always a mystery. By God's grace, he gives me the power to be obedient to the best of my fleshly ability, and together we embark on one adventure after another. A few days ago, after praying to get myself out of the way so as not to hinder our Lord's

mission that day, I found myself taking a path that would lead me to the Cenotaph. I felt compelled to sit, and to ponder the lives lost, including that of my 19 year-old uncle whom I would never have the chance to meet on this earth. I thought about my Grandfather, who fought in both World Wars, and of my father, and another dear man I would call 'Dad'; I thought of my father-in-law, and of the young father recently gunned down while standing guard. I thought about their enormous sacrifices in order that we would have peace. Peace. What a precious gift. I thought about Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the One who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us. Only in Him can we find perfect Peace.

I thought about the poor, and how many continue to live without peace. I thought about Urban Christian Outreach, and about our mission – to bring the Prince of Peace – Christ himself – Christ in me – the Peace which passes all understanding, to those who are struggling to survive. I thought about the Grace given to me to do just that. Without Christ in me, I can bring nothing lasting.

I wouldn't even know where to begin. Without Christ, our work would be social. With Christ, our work becomes Spiritual – divine really.

We have learned that we must surrender to the Holy Spirit. Only He knows whom God is calling. He leads us to those whom God wants to minister to. We could never know this on our own. I know, because there have been moments when in my own worldliness, I have forgotten about Jesus, and have attempted to carry on the work without him. It is impossible. But with Him, all things are possible. Those who have shadowed us on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa understand.

After I left the Cenotaph that day, en route to the Rideau Centre, the Holy Spirit led me to walk by an outdoor display depicting some soldiers and medical workers of World War I and II. One other person was looking at the photos as well, and we began to chat about our gratitude for their service, when the gentleman told me that he too was a vet, and that he continues to struggle with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). I invited him to lunch, and to share his story. He shared his feelings of frustration and anger, and of his inability to find peace. An anti-war protest earlier in the day had caused him to consider committing an act of violence. He shared that he was a Catholic, and so I asked him about his relationship with Jesus. It had been a long time since he had prayed, and so we prayed together in the restaurant, spontaneous short prayers interwoven throughout the meal. He confessed that he had

forgotten about Jesus, and had turned to alcohol instead. God allowed me to see this man's heart and it was good and kind. Our Lord put Scripture upon Scripture on my heart and I was able to share some of God's promises with him. His hope was renewed as he remembered Jesus, and he was filled with Peace.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, we are giving thanks for you and for the kindness that you have shown to the poor by partnering with us in this vital ministry. Our faith grows when we receive a small envelope in our mailbox, and we always pause to give thanks to God for you. Would you prayerfully consider becoming a monthly supporter to help us continue our work? Or, if you already give to the United Way through payroll deduction, did you know that it is possible to make your donation to UCO? Thank you, dear friends-in-Christ.

***'Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name!'
Psalm 100:4***

On behalf of our UCO family, I wish you a joyful Thanksgiving.

In Christ,
Jill Wilson

UCO's Quarterly Update:

2015 Year to Date:

Actual Income: \$22,836.96

Actual Expenses: \$27,869.63

Deficit: \$ 5,032.67

'Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.