

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

P.O. Box 77033, Ottawa, ON K1S 5N2

Tel: (613) 233-6633

www.uco-ottawa.ca

Update #61

September 2012

Dear Faithful,

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. And without faith, it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists, and that he rewards those who seek him.”
Hebrews 11: 1, 6 ESV

We are so humbly grateful for your faithfulness and we give thanks to our Father for your beautiful acts of kindness. You are every bit as vital to our ministry work to the poor, as are those who serve on the Board, in our prayer group, in our classroom, and on the downtown sidewalks. Without you we would not exist. You have responded to our needs, with the heart of Christ Jesus, and have partnered with us. We are a team! As a result, God is having his way and touching so many lives. We are praying for you, dear faithful, trusting our Lord to provide for you all, in abundance, so that we may continue to partner and walk the sidewalks for Jesus, together. How faithful is our God!

This Thanksgiving, we are particularly thankful for God's blessings of a 'street' choir! UCO's Praise & Worship Choir meets weekly in a downtown church for an hour and a half to sing Christian hymns, and to have fellowship and a sandwich. What a blessing this time has been. We are

'borrowing' space in a beautifully-simple, downtown church, which houses only a few tables, Bibles, hymn books and a Cross; how fitting.

As UCO volunteer, Elanor, leads us in a time of worship, we are transformed, and experience sweet relief from the many troubles of this world. We move into the beautiful presence of God, and he blesses our humble efforts. We experience the magnificence of his peace. Problems melt away, and we find refuge in our Lord.

Some of our clients can't read lyrics or music, but God is able to transcend this. Unpolished, we simply come. Today, one of our choir members laughed and commented on how 'out of tune we were', and another member poignantly said, "That's the point!" How true is that? It is the point. We do sing out of tune! Isn't that wonderful? Our lives are out of tune. We fall so short of God's glory! We come before our Father broken, wounded, and humbled; not trying to prove anything to anyone; unable to manage, we surrender control over our lives, over others and over circumstances to the One who has been waiting patiently. Is this not what is required of us? And, in due time, and by the Grace of God, heavenly angels will fill in the gaps of our out-of-tune singing and our songs will be transformed. And so will our hearts. We are a work in progress.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."
John 21: 15-17 ESV

God has intentionally called us to work one on one with people, and from time to time, in small groups. Our choir is small, by God's design! Many of our clients could not manage in a large gathering. If the numbers grew, we would lose them. We thank God for other ministries that cater to large groups, for there is a need and we thank God for the ministry work of UCO, which is called to seek out the lonely, the isolated, and the marginalized.

UCO is a poor ministry serving the poor. Like Jesus, and like many of our clients, we are homeless. Like Jesus, our ministry has no excess of money. Like Jesus, we trust our Heavenly Father, our 'Abba' to provide. How fitting it is that we are poor. As members and supporters of UCO, God is stretching us to grow in faith and to put our trust in Him. How can we identify with the struggles of our clients if, as a ministry, we are rich? There would be a 'disconnect', or a hypocrisy. And so, we give thanks to God for our poverty which provides us with an opportunity to grow in our

understanding of the plight of the poor, and challenges us to respond by sharing all that we have, as we move from self-reliance, to dependence upon God.

Thank you, dearest supporters for your partnership in our calling to serve the poor. We are praying and asking God for His provision, that with His help, we might continue to shine His light and to be a church to the poor and homeless. May God bless you in abundance this Thanksgiving, and may He fill your hearts and homes with love and joy!

By His Grace,
Jill Wilson, ED

Please mark your calendars: Urban Christian Outreach's 20th Anniversary Celebration Service: Saturday, May 11, 2013

As we continue to make preparations to celebrate 20 years of faithful ministry to the poor on May 11, 2013, in the afternoon, we would like to invite you to be part of a planning committee. Please feel free to email me at jill@uco-ottawa.ca or to leave a message on UCO's answering machine at 613-233-6633. Praise God for his faithfulness!