

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Summer on the sidewalks was both endured and enjoyed this year, as the poor and workers alike escaped into coffee shops and libraries to cool off.

Our friends in poverty have stories of faith and courage. Ed is compelled to give up his independence and move into a group home; he keeps in touch with UCO for continuity of care during this challenging transition. Samantha shares open witness to the goodness of God and the power of prayer during her journey through major illness and recovery. After years of semi-homelessness, Sean is delighted to have a simple apartment in his senior years. In his depression, Dwayne is open to hearing about the God who loves him very much; Dwayne hasn't known that kind of love in his life. (Names changed)

....I've really enjoyed this class.... These are good people here. ... I'm learning so much! This is a place of hopeIt's inspiring me. ... These are some of the spontaneous comments from adults involved in UCO's literacy programmes. We are so proud of our students who chose to continue studying in downtown tutorials for literacy or Bible study during the fierce heat of the summer. And with the arrival of September, our adult education partnership class with the Royal Ottawa Hospital is already in high gear with students who are eager to learn.

It's a wondrous thing to see the stories of UCO's clients unfold over the years. I have discovered that to journey with the poor is to journey with Christ, finding Him in many unexpected places.

It's my task and great privilege to preach from Scripture in various churches of the city, four since our June newsletter. No-one is a greater advocate for the poor and oppressed than Jesus. No one challenges and encourages me on this faith journey more than Jesus. No-one else offers such a wondrous redemption and hope. That's something to speak about.

You are part of this work, with your gifts and prayers. A very important part of this work. We have many reasons to say *Thank you* at this season of the year. Gratefully and with all good wishes to you, our supporters, for a blessed Thanksgiving,

Katrine Barton-Coward
UCO Executive Director

From the President of the Board

Like a lifeboat sent to help the drowning, UCO works among the less fortunate, offering Christian guidance, education, and ongoing relationships—priceless gifts for those struggling alone in personal crisis. The Lord has given Katrine Barton-Coward (our Executive Director) an incredible gift of wisdom when she works with Ottawa's poor. Her many years experience has trained her how to speak to each person's needs, and when to refer to professional help.

Many of UCO's clients survive day-to-day, struggling with problems that will never entirely be resolved on earth. Jesus said that the poor would always be with us, and so Katrine and UCO continue to light candles of hope in the darkness of urban poverty.

Thank you so much for being a part of this vital work for the Lord's Kingdom. Much of UCO's efforts are invisible and behind the scenes. But like love (which is also invisible) its labour brings healing, and points people to the Father's arms.

Please continue to pray for UCO, for the aching poor, and for Katrine. Your financial help and prayers make this ministry possible.

Allen Macartney
President of UCO

