

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)

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Update #64

August, 2013

Dear Friends in Christ,

“God wants us to give thanks with our faith, not just [with] our minds!”

These poignant words were recently spoken by a UCO client during a one-on-one Bible study, when she was asked to reflect on a passage from Matthew’s Gospel.

Having just emerged from my morning time in worship and praise, I am humbled by the memory of her insight, and feel challenged to put my faith into action. God is worth it. He is worthy of my faith in action, not just the deeds that He will call upon me to do today, but in the very way that I act and behave.

When I speak today of God’s amazing love, will I exercise my God-given faith to speak boldly without doubt? Will I remember Esther and the courage she displayed when she went before the King? Will I remember that our Lord has already prepared a banquet before me? How can I possibly doubt that He can do ‘infinitely more than we could ask or imagine’ this very day in the lives of the broken on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa? And so, with God being my helper, I will step out with a quiet spirit of boldness and trust, anticipating what God will do today in

His mighty, mighty power! This will be a day of intentionality, one of amazement. This I know, because when by the Grace of God, and by the power of The Holy Spirit, I am able to walk in obedience, and allow the Lord to lead, everything works out so perfectly. And how can it not? Who is this most amazing Father that we serve? Is He not perfect? Is He not supernatural?

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalm 27: 1 ESV

Despite my own shortcomings, God continues to bless the poor through our ministry work. When I am able to walk in obedience, filled to overflowing with the very Spirit of God, the blessings turn into miracles, and mountain upon mountain is moved. Some days I find it most difficult not to break forth dancing in the public areas in which Jesus leads us. If only! If only the people could understand how magnificent our Lord Jesus is, and the remarkable significance of what He has done for us, there would be REVIVAL in the downtown core.

This is my prayer: that we would worship Him in humility and bow down before him in the marketplace. How fitting this would be, would it not? Jesus came into this world through the womb of an impoverished young girl. How like Jesus to reveal Himself to those who are most likely to know their need for Him! And isn't this how we ourselves find the Lord, out of our own desperate seeking? Wasn't it from our *own* poverty of spirit that we first called out to the Lord, and tend to continue to do so in times of trouble?

As a ministry, UCO cannot boast of riches, praise God! We can only cry out to our Lord, asking for mercy and for the grace to serve him another day. Praise God that he has seen fit to keep us in a constant state of dependence upon Him. Praise God that we are poor because I'm convinced that we would cry out to Him with less zeal were we not. Praise God for his faithfulness; we have come to depend upon Him for our daily bread.

God's commandment to us is that we go into the world making disciples of all nations, and this includes the poor. We cannot do this unless we are anointed with the balm of the One who sends us, and so please pray for us, that we will be found faithful and humble before Jesus.

***“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
John 7:38 ESV***

Please pray that we will have the heart of Christ as we seek to bring His love and the Gospel message of Salvation to the broken and weary on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. If provision allows, we hope to offer ‘Christianity Explored’, a 7-week program which include a hot meal and a Bible study of the Gospel of Mark. By the grace of God, and through your kindness and generosity, we will continue to serve Him, thanks be to God.

May our Lord bless you in abundance.
By Grace,
Jill

***Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!
Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21NRSV***

UCO Treasurer's Update:

Our year-to-date expenses for the end of July, 2013 have exceeded our offerings, which have left us with a shortfall of \$3,000. May we humbly ask for your prayers and financial offerings as we prepare for a busy season of working among the poor this fall? Thank you for your continued support and generosity.