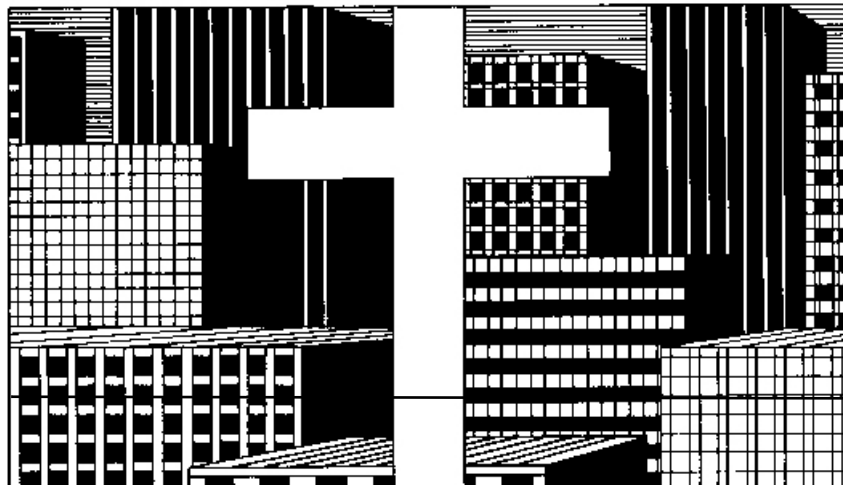


Urban Christian Outreach *(Ottawa)*



2021 Year in Review *(Issued June 2022)*

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Incorporated
is a registered charitable organization founded in 1993.
Charitable Registration # 13776 1938 RR0001

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The main purposes of Urban Christian Outreach are: to establish contact with those in the city of Ottawa who are struggling to survive spiritually, physically, or psychologically; and to mitigate the effects of urban isolation on the life of the individual.

We do this by pointing people towards a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, and by offering ongoing pastoral and practical care, including Christian education, street literacy and life-skills tutoring.

Urban Christian Outreach staff engages in mobile outreach on the streets, and in the coffee shops, parks and other communal places of the city. We especially (but not exclusively) develop ongoing relationships with those whose fragilities make it difficult for them to function in group settings. We seek to be present to their need, even when there are no apparent solutions, thereby offering hope, respect and dignity to the individual.

Urban Christian Outreach works in co-operation with other agencies by referring clients to social, medical, shelter, educational, employment and Christian organizations that will further expand the individual's personal network within the community, and will serve his/her various needs.

The heart of the work is relational. However, from time to time Urban Christian Outreach may develop structured programs and projects that are in keeping with the central focus of enhancing the well-being of those who are experiencing urban isolation and deprivation. This will be done according to the needs of the clients and the qualifications of current staff.

The geographical area of outreach and projects is within a five-mile radius of Parliament Hill (Ontario only). Follow-up may take us into other areas of the city, for home, hospital and jail visits.

We engage in dialogue and speaking engagements with individuals and groups, to promote a wider understanding of existing needs, and to search out possible solutions.

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Annual Report from the President of UCO for 2021

***“He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk
humbly with your God?”
Micah 6:8 NKJV***

It's certain that none of us would have thought that the challenges due to Covid in 2020 would have only increased in this past year. For those whom Urban Christian Outreach serves, the poor, the homeless, and the marginalized, their lives have become even more difficult.

Our dedicated Executive Director, Jill Wilson, has been working tirelessly to try to relieve their suffering. In her report, Jill will fill you in on what she has been doing on our behalf. After more than 14 years of continuing service, Jill will be taking a well deserved Sabbatical beginning mid-February of 2022 to mid-February of 2023. We will hold her in our prayers, and expect her to have a restful and stimulating year away.

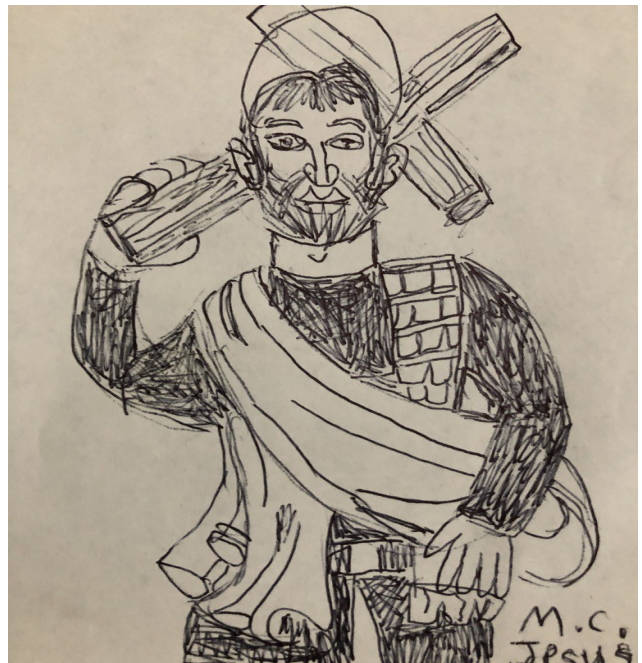
UCO has been very fortunate to have Cheryl Bradley join us to act as Interim Outreach Worker during that period, to continue our mission. When Cheryl learned about UCO in 2019, she approached Jill about volunteering. Cheryl had already been helping out the poor on her own once a week. She began training with Jill as a UCO Volunteer, when COVID hit.

Jill has been doing “double duty” as UCO's Interim Treasurer for some time, so we are very pleased that Mary-Anne Zwicker, our past President and past Treasurer, has agreed to take on this position while Jill is away.

We are so grateful to you, our supporters, and thank you for your ongoing commitment to Urban Christian Outreach. Unfortunately, like many charities right now, we find that we are falling below our donation objectives and ask you to consider increasing your support to UCO.

May God bless you and keep you.

Respectfully Submitted,
***Barbara Konst,
UCO President***



2021 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 – hour salaried week)

'...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to me.

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, My brethren, you did it to Me.' Matthew 25:35-40 NKJV

Dear Friends in Christ,

Peace and Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we soldier on through yet another year of the COVID pandemic, God has been teaching me about suffering – the suffering of those whom we are privileged to share, and also about the suffering of those who appear to have so much. None of us are immune to suffering, and this has become more evident as we venture into our third year of this pandemic. It has become an equalizer, I think, and has caused us to consider just how much alike we are, and that so little really separates us from those whom we are called to come alongside on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. In illness and in death, in poverty and in wealth, in feast and in famine,

there has been a shift, and so when we offer the Peace and Grace of our Lord to one another, it becomes more than a greeting; it becomes our liturgy, where we long to lift one another up before our Lord, and to trust that He alone can be the game changer in our lives, right now, and for all of eternity- in our circumstances, in our comings and our goings. No matter how we suffer, we can now relate to one another in a new way, with compassion and empathy.

I see a change as I walk the sidewalks and enter into relationships with those whom the Holy Spirit brings us to. The poor, while weary from restrictions, seem more at peace with their plight, as they know they are not the only ones suffering. Others who are marginalized, who often fall through the cracks of our society, appear to have this unspoken grief; many have fallen into depression.

In addition to introducing our friends on the sidewalks to Jesus, we try to build up a support network around them, so that they have the supports in place in order to navigate the systems around them. We do this by building relationships with those whom we meet and by introducing them to Jesus, the only One who will save them, comfort them, fill them with Peace, and offer the Grace that only He can give.

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

I met Bob (not his real name), on the sidewalks many years ago, and I have written about him in the past. I thought Bob was a pretty scary guy when I met him. You could barely see his face from his massive beard and long hair. He was a man of few words, and wasn't prone to sitting very long, and so I had to pretty much run to keep up with him if I wanted to spend time with him. He would walk for miles and I would join him.

Bob was homeless, jobless, moneyless, and without friends or a support system. He was suffering from untreated mental illness and it took many years to build a relationship with him, and for him to come to trust us. It took a year and a half for him to let us treat him to a haircut, and years of getting to know him before he would see a doctor. By Grace, we were able to help Bob with a number of legal issues, as Bob was a victim of human and drug trafficking, financial fraud and a home-takeover. The poor are vulnerable in these matters. We visited Bob in prison, accompanied him to many legal, medical, dental and other appointments, and set him up with food banks, etc., and yet I would say that while these very practical helps played a role in helping Bob to be where he is today (he now has supportive living housing, receives his medications regularly as they are administered to him, is provided with 3 cooked meals a day, he is out of the downtown drug scene, and he is actively looking for work), it is by the GRACE of Jesus Christ, and the relationship that Bob has with Him, that has been the biggest factor in Bob's life. What an enormous privilege it has been to walk with Bob, and to introduce him to the only One who can give him Peace and Grace. Jesus, our Provider, our Saviour, our Redeemer, is in the process of Restoring Bob. We don't always get to be the planters, the waterers and the harvesters of our labours, but we have been invited to the Table of our Lord in knowing Bob.

The heart of our work is Jesus, and we strive to build relationships with those in need, to be the hands and the feet of Jesus. We wait on the Lord, and to the best of our ability we try to be obedient to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, our Friend, Advocate, and Helper.

Bible Study

We are so blessed to be able to meet with our downtown friends to study God's Word written. Sometimes we will focus on just one verse, other times a chapter or more. In our study with one client, we have been reading through the Bible from the beginning of the Old Testament, and at the time of this writing, we are at the end of Zecharaia, with just four chapters of Malachi left to read. UCO will continue to read the New Testament with our client. What an enormous blessing this has been to both her and to me. We have learned so much, and pray that God will write His words upon our hearts.

Sunday Online Church Services

During the pandemic, we have continued to connect those without computers, via telephone to an online church service. This has been a blessing.



UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

We have been blessed to have a unique partnership with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, where we work alongside Occupational Therapists (OT's) and volunteers to provide an Adult Education Program in a classroom environment. We are grateful to **Paula Osborne, OT Tech**, and to **Anie Charlebois, OT**. Normally, enrolment is ongoing throughout the school year; students are not restricted to the September to June schedule offered by the school boards. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, since March of 2020, our classroom has been closed to outpatients and all non-staff, which includes UCO, as my salary is covered by Urban Christian Outreach. The classroom has been reduced considerably at this time, and limited to those who are in-patient only.

I miss the students and the staff, and hope that we are in a position to be able to resume our classroom by the fall. In the months prior to being shut down due to the Pandemic, students worked on a variety of subjects including math, history, science, English reading and writing, Food Safety Training, computer skills, and G.E.D. (High school equivalency) as well as I.L.C. (Independent Learning Centre) credits.

Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking

As the pandemic continues, we are challenged to find speaking opportunities in person, but we are so grateful for the opportunities to speak to congregations and small group via Zoom meetings and services.

We are grateful for the many churches and organizations who continued to bless us through their Missions tithes and offerings, especially during these challenging times, by praying for UCO's needs, by their generosity of financial donations and tithes, for providing Zoom service connections in which to meet as a Board, and for gifts of clothing and winter attire for the poor. We give thanks to God for their outstanding faithfulness and generosity:

The Constantine Connection
Parkdale United Church
St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
The United Way
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Phebe Foundation
St. Vincent de Paul

We thank God for Monique Choquette, local artist, who has used her God-given talent to embellish the pages of our reports with her illustrations. We thank God for Monique, and we hope that you are blessed, as we are, to witness how Monique interprets Holy Scripture through art.

UCO's Financial Supporters

Thank you, dear supporters, for your faithfulness year after year, and especially for your generosity and kindness during this past pandemic year. Your sacrificial offerings pay for our sidewalk ministry expenses, such as meals, coffee, bus transportation, skills-development expenses, Bibles, and basic classroom and sidewalk literacy supplies. Your donations also cover my salary, liability insurance, (through Robertson Hall Insurance Company), Workman's Compensation fees, telephone, internet, and website fees, photocopying and printing fees, stamps, paper, labels and envelopes, etc.

UCO Volunteers

We give thanks to God for **Pamela Lawes**, who provides the poor with beautifully-knitted hats, scarves, mittens and socks. We are so grateful to Pamela for her many faithful years as a UCO Volunteer. How great is our God!

We also thank God for **Ted Simard**, who continued to show his love for the poor in 2021, by blessings those on the sidewalks with over one hundred \$10 Tim Horton gift cards. We also give thanks to God for the beautiful generosity of the Christian men who support Ted in his ministry to the poor. My sincere thanks to Ted and his wife Margaret for inviting me to join them again this past Christmas, as they befriended and ministered to those in need. I wasn't able to accompany them for too long, as a broken toe and snowy weather slowed me down. However, it was a privilege to witness their love for the less fortunate, as they listened to their stories.

UCO Board Members

The work of UCO is enhanced greatly by the support and leadership of our Board of Directors, who are called by God from a number of Christian Denominations in Ottawa. We give Praise to God for **Barbara Konst**, UCO Board President, for her gifts of leadership and encouragement, and for her servant heart for the poor. We give thanks to God for **Chris Garnett**, Board Member, for her faithful support as a Board member, and also for her ongoing practical and prayerful support. We are very grateful to **Susan Hahn**, UCO Secretary, for her many years of support, and for her gifts of organization and generosity. Susan's gifts of administration are evident in her Board meeting Minutes, and in her efficiency!

We also give thanks to God for **Denis Bourque**, for his support over the years, his wisdom and guidance and for his technical skills in organizing our Zoom meetings.

God has provided UCO with an outstanding Board of Directors, and has equipped them with the gifts and fruit necessary for our ministry work. I am so grateful to each member of our Board and to God for his faithful provision. I cannot tell you what a blessing they are to me in my day to day work. Praise be to God!

Spiritual Advisor to UCO and Spiritual Director to the E.D.

The **Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey** of Parkdale United Church, is UCO's Spiritual Advisor, and also my personal Spiritual Director. Anthony's prayerful and practical support of our ministry work means so much to us as a Board. We thank God for Anthony, and for his continued faithfulness to UCO, and for the many ways in which he advocates for the poor and marginalized of Ottawa.

UCO's Webmaster

Josiah Milne, UCO's faithful Webmaster continues to look after UCO's website, posting our quarterly updates and keeping our website up to date. We give thanks to God for Josiah, for his beautiful gift of faith, and for the blessing that he is to UCO.

Our website address is:

www.urbanchristianoutreach.ca If you would like to receive your quarterly updates by email, please provide us with your email address, by either writing it on the back of the donor card, or via email at jill@urbanchristianoutreach.ca

UCO Prayer Group

We give thanks to God for Jean Gallant, UCO's faithful prayer partner. We thank God for Jean's gift of faithfulness and encouragement. If you would like to join our small prayer group, please give us a call or drop us a line.

'Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart,'
Jeremiah 29:12-13

An Introduction our Interim Outreach Worker and Returning Treasurer

As mentioned in a previous update, with the approval and blessing of UCO's Board of Directors, I will be taking a Sabbatical Year beginning on Feb. 16, 2022. In anticipation of this, God has so faithfully called Mary-Anne Zwicker, former Treasurer, to take over the role of Treasurer of UCO for the coming year. We thank God for Mary-Anne and for her extraordinary faithfulness and kindness.

God has also raised up Cheryl Bradley, a Spirit-filled Christian woman who has already been working both on her own, and later as a UCO Volunteer, ministering to the poor of downtown Ottawa. Cheryl and I have been ministering downtown together, in preparation for this time that the Lord has set aside, and Cheryl has had the opportunity to meet many of our 'regulars' and to train in the day to day ministry work. We give thanks to God for Cheryl, and we ask that you would cover her in prayer this year, as she continues to seek the Lord, and minister to His poor.

I feel blessed to know that UCO is safe in God's hands, under the wise and faithful direction of our Board of Directors, and that those whom we serve on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa will be well taken care of by our faithful and gifted Outreach Worker, Cheryl. Praise be to God!

Thank you, dear Friends-in-Christ for your kindness and faithfulness. May our Lord bless you and your loved ones.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Wilson,
Executive Director, UCO



UCO's Interim Outreach Worker's Report 2021

***'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.'* Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV**

What a privilege and honour and blessing of opportunity it is to be able to relieve Jill, and to be entrusted with ministering to God's poor with Urban Christian Outreach. It feels like a relay – the baton is being passed to me-and I will pass it back to Jill upon her return.

When God put me on Jill's heart for her replacement, I thought, "There is no way that I can do this!" I was thinking that if after I tell her that I don't have this or that, and she still says, 'yes', then I will know that it is you, God!

Jesus is our navigator. He directs us. We pray, and he leads us. It's like punching in an address on your GPS, which directs you street by street. You don't see what's next, but you just listen and trust that it will get you to where you're going. Jesus is my GPS. I wait on him and listen, and when I am getting closer to the destination, He tells me what to do, step by step. We can be so used to going in a certain direction that we don't even know why we are going that way, and then God comes along and changes our direction! Praise God!

**Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Bradley**



'Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.' Psalm 41:1 NKJV

For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. Psalm 72:12

I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you, for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. Romans 16:1-2

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord; plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preachings of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith – to God alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen Romans 16: 25-27

UCO's Treasurer's Report for 2021

Total income for the year 2021 was \$50,862.00
Our budget target was \$53,000.00

Total expenses were \$50,663.68. Our budgeted expenses were \$52,530.00.

Income was below budget by \$2,138.00 and expenses were below budget by \$1,866.32.

Budgeted surplus was \$470.00 but the end of year surplus was \$198.32

The ratio of donations from individuals as compared to the ratio from churches and organizations is as follows:

- Individuals: 59.74 %
- Churches & Organizations: 40.26 %

The breakdown of year 2021 expenses is as follows:

- Payroll costs/programming/Client Service 86.09 %
- Administration 13.91%

Praise be to God!

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Wilson,
UCO Interim Treasurer**

UCO Board of Directors:

Mrs. Barbara Konst, President
Ms. Christine Garnett
Mrs. Susan Hahn, Secretary
Mr. Denis Bourque
The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Spiritual Advisor
Ms. Jill Wilson, Executive Director