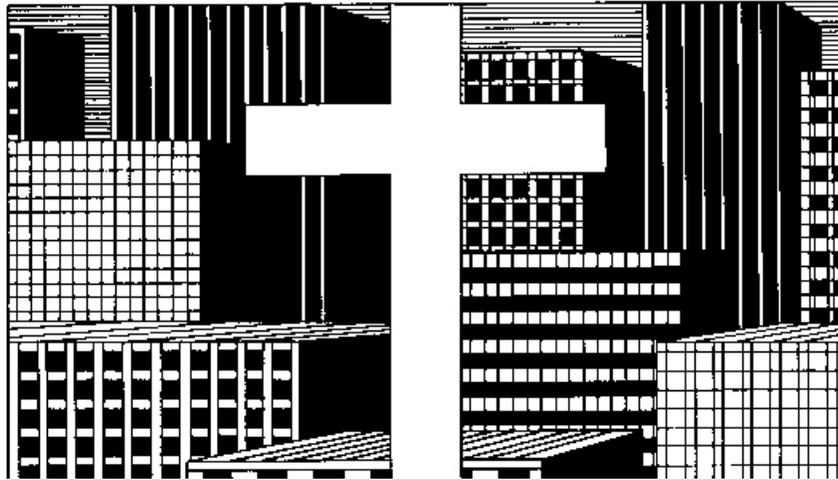


Urban Christian Outreach
(Ottawa)



2008 Year in Review
(issued May 2009)

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 offering ongoing pastoral and practical care, including Christian education, street literacy and life-skills tutoring.

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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2008 Annual Report from the President

We thank you, our faithful supporters of Urban Christian Outreach. Your generosity continues to enable us to walk alongside those who are hurting on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. It has been my great privilege this year to aid Jill in her work, to be a small part of her ministry of caring and outreach. It has been a joy to see how she has flourished in her new role as UCO's Executive-Director. At this time, we look back with gratitude to Katrine Barton-Coward, whose compassionate vision made UCO possible; we look around to all those, known and unknown, who have uplifted us in prayer and through financial gifts; and we look ahead to the rest of 2009 when, with God's help, we hope to do His will.

Janice Fiamengo
UCO President

2008 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 hour salaried week)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

A Year of Change for UCO

I would like to begin my report by paying tribute to our dear sister-in-Christ, Katrine Barton-Coward, missionary and visionary, whose faithful obedience to God has enabled Urban Christian Outreach to minister to God's poor in the city of Ottawa for over 16 years. I thank God for Katrine, and the Scripture verse from the Gospel of Matthew comes to mind when I think of her:

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'" (Matthew 25:21)

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I first stepped out onto the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, under the careful guidance and teaching of Katrine. I am

very grateful to Katrine for sharing her wisdom and knowledge during my early weeks of training, for discerning what I needed to know and what only God could show me. This wonderful training, backed by an excellent Board of Directors, faithful and generous UCO supporters, and the prayers of many, has helped to make my transition to the role of Executive Director a humbling and joyful experience. I praise God for the privilege of working with his poor and for the ministry work of UCO!

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

Ministering to the poor on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa continues to be the core aspect of the work of Urban Christian Outreach. As God leads, we build relationships with

marginalized adults, meeting with them where they are: on the sidewalks, in coffee shops, parks, and drop-in centres. Sometimes our work takes us into prisons, hospitals, shelters and even under bridges. Most of those whom we serve are desperately lonely. Many of our clients have housing; some live in apartments, others in shelters and rooming houses, and yet I often hear the words: “it doesn’t feel like home”. Whether this ‘home’ that is spoken of is a physical dwelling, an emotional place within our hearts, or a longing for a spiritual home, it is a need that we all share. John 14:23 says:

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Mary (not her real name) is elderly and lives alone in a small apartment. She is shy and tends to isolate herself from others. She has family but rarely sees them. She has a distant faith in Christ, and a parish church, but she rarely attends. It is hard for Mary to trust others, and I am grateful that she is beginning to share her pain with me. Please pray that God will help us to build a relationship and that he will raise up loving Christians to welcome Mary back into her home church.



Sam (not his real name), spends most of his time in drop-in centres and coffee shops,

struggling to return to his former way of life. He used to work fulltime, but the disease of alcoholism took over his life, and he lost his family, his home, and his job. Praise God that Sam is now sober. He credits God with his sobriety and has a strong faith in Jesus Christ; however he is not interested in joining a church. He lives with friends, and for personal reasons, refuses to accept government help. Sam would like to work again, but lacks the confidence to step out on his own, and so together we have volunteered at a helping agency in the city. Sam is now able to volunteer on his own sometimes. As he spends more time volunteering and less time in drop-in centres and coffee shops, his self-esteem is improving and he is gaining the necessary skills to help him to re-enter the workforce. He sees this as his second chance to rebuild his life. Please pray for Sam, that God will provide monthly bus passes for him, and open new doors of opportunity. Please pray that Sam will find a place that he can feel at home.

With our help, Adam (not his real name) has now returned to school to finish his High school degree. He is beginning to ask questions about Jesus, and is wondering if God is playing a role in his new life. Please pray that God will open Adam’s heart to receive the good news of Jesus Christ, and that Adam’s faith will grow. Please pray that God will raise up a new male Christian friend for Adam at his school. God is doing a new thing in Adam’s life and I am so grateful to be witness to this, and excited to see what God will do next.

During the last six months of 2008, I also continued to meet bi-weekly with two of UCO’s longstanding clients for individualized Bible Study and Pastoral Care. These are clients who are not comfortable attending group Bible Studies. In the Fall, with our clients’ full consent, we began to meet together for an Alpha Bible Study. This meeting, attended by two clients, a UCO volunteer, and myself, consisted

of a bi-weekly luncheon, followed by an Alpha video and time of Bible Study and discussion. This has proven to be a wonderful blessing, as our two clients have now become friends. God is doing a new thing, and we give him the praise! Recently, we have also added a cooking class to the beginning of our bi-weekly meetings, to accommodate the changing dietary needs of one of our clients, and this has been a blessing to this individual.

UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

UCO partners with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, two afternoons per week, to offer an adult education and literacy program. Our classroom is located in the ROMHC on Carling Avenue and is offered for the purpose of education and not for pastoral care. Urban Christian Outreach provides the instructor (myself), and my salary, as well as the assistant instructor (Nadia Behmann), who has faithfully donated her time for many years.

The ROMHC provides an Occupational Therapist (Anne Raudoy in 2008), an Occupational Therapy Technician (Paula Osborne) and their salaries, as well as ROMHC volunteers and the classroom space. We share the cost of supplies and workbooks.

Our classroom is unique in that it is the only classroom that we are aware of that has occupational therapists working right in the classroom, alongside teachers. Students are provided with therapeutic support as necessary, and this support contributes to their success. Students are referred by professional staff of the hospital. Enrolment is continuous; students may start or finish at anytime throughout the school year. Some of our students have been with us for many years; others plan to stay for only a short period of time for personal reasons or reasons of housing, court placements, or treatment.

Our classroom comfortably holds 12 students, and students work independently on individualized programmes of study, including GED studies (General Education Development), ESL (English as a Second Language), basic literacy and numeric skills development, and math upgrading.

During 2008, we were blessed with 28 students. Seven students remained with us throughout the year; 21 were with us for part of the year; one student graduated and plans to write his GED exams this spring. Average attendance was 7 students. Attendance in December was low due to the OC Transpo bus strike. The classroom was closed for July and August.

During 2008, occupational therapy students from the University of Ottawa were assigned to the classroom for training purposes. Through the mentoring of these students, UCO contributes to the ongoing training of future Occupational Therapists in this unique classroom.

Speaking engagements, advocacy and community networking

After launching into my new role with UCO on June 01, 2008, I concentrated mostly on serving our clients' needs, and making connections within our community, reserving the concentration of speaking engagements until 2009. I took four speaking engagements, though, including a Sunday preaching engagement, an English Tea and presentations to two church congregations about the ministry work of UCO. So far this year, I have preached or presented 8 times, with 16 more speaking engagements confirmed.

I attended a series of lectures at the ROMHC in the Care and Treatment of Schizophrenia and

a Robertson/Hall Insurance Conference. I participated in a four-day 'Wholeness Through Christ' prayer ministry school and attended a Mission 'O' Christian Leaders' prayer retreat. I have met monthly with directors of other poverty organizations in Ottawa, and have attended a four-day 'Streetlevel' conference on the topic of poverty and justice. I have visited dozens of community resource centres and social service agencies to introduce myself and build working relationships and have also met one-to-one with prospective supporters to talk about the ministry work of UCO.

Volunteers

The ministry work of UCO would not be possible without the help of our faithful volunteers and it is my privilege to acknowledge those who have blessed our ministry with their time and talents.

Nadia Behmann continued to be a blessing in her role as UCO Assistant Instructor in the ROMHC classroom. Her expertise as a professional Teacher, and her heart for the ministry work of UCO have helped to make our classroom a wonderful place of learning. Nadia has also graciously overseen a couple of classes when I was out of town. Cara Stewart has also been a blessing to UCO, as she continued to tutor one student in English studies and also took on an assistant leadership role in our small Alpha Course Bible Study.

John Wice, our faithful Webmaster, has completely re-designed our website and continues to maintain this site very efficiently. Sui Wai Seto has faithfully given of her time and creative gifts to produce our Year in Review for us.

Downtown churches who lend us rooms: UCO is very grateful to a few downtown churches that have provided the use of rooms

for our Bible studies and pastoral care. We especially want to thank Dominion Chalmers United Church for providing us with the occasional use of office space including access to a telephone and computer. We are very grateful for their generosity in providing paper and photocopying services as well. In addition, they continue to provide us with meeting space for UCO's Board of Directors' meetings. Because of their generosity, we have been able to continue with our commitment to 'living simply' as a ministry. UCO spends no money on rental space; UCO Board and staff members do most of their office work out of their homes, thereby making good use of your donated dollars.

ROMHC volunteers have been a blessing to UCO as well, even though they are not UCO volunteers. It is my responsibility and pleasure to train them for their work in the classroom, and this year we have been blessed with experts in the area of math and science.

I continue to meet with prospective UCO volunteers to discern their calling to this ministry and to train them. I am currently meeting with a gentleman who hopes to become a part-time UCO volunteer on the downtown sidewalks.

My sincere thank you to all of our volunteers who have assisted Urban Christian Outreach in 2008. May God bless you all for your dedication and faithfulness.

UCO Board Members

I would like to personally thank all UCO Board Members of 2008, who have unselfishly given of their time and wisdom to support our ministry. Katrine Barton-Coward, Founder of UCO, and Executive Director since January 1993, who stepped down from her position in June of 2007 to pursue a new calling in her life; for her many years of ministering to the poor,

for her gifts of compassion, leadership and faith, and for her valued insights shared while training me for this task, thank you. Katrine touched many lives in her years with UCO and she will forever be regarded with great respect and love.

We have also said goodbye to Barbara Faught, a long-serving member of UCO's Board of Directors, who stepped down at the end of her term in 2008. Barbara brought gifts of faith and leadership to UCO, and took on the role of Interim President of the Board in 2008. Barbara's talents were invaluable during our time of transition in 2008. Thank you, Barbara for your faithfulness in service.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to David Wice, whose six-year term as a UCO Board member has come to an end. David has blessed us with gifts of organization and wisdom and as UCO's Treasurer for the past three years, he has tirelessly kept us on track and informed of all matters relating to finances. Thank you, David for your faithfulness in serving UCO and God.

A special thanks to UCO Board members continuing in their calling to UCO: to Janice Fiamengo who beautifully stepped into the role of President of the Board for UCO. I am especially grateful to Janice for her wisdom and ongoing help to me, assisting me in my tasks with UCO. To David Hayman, who skillfully provides us with our meeting minutes as Secretary for UCO; to Scott Valentine, Kerry Kronberg, and Karen Bergenstien, our newest member of the Board of Directors, I wish to thank you all for heeding the call to minister on the Board of UCO. I thank God for all of you and for the many gifts that you bring to your task.

Spiritual Advisor

Since 2002, the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey has faithfully served as Spiritual Advisor to UCO. He has also served as my personal Spiritual Advisor. I have been blessed by his

wisdom and insights, meeting with him almost monthly to discuss UCO's ministry to the poor. Anthony's insights have been invaluable to me during this time of transition. He has also offered Spiritual Direction for my own faith walk, and I have been amazed by his gifts of discernment. Thank you, Anthony for your support of UCO and for your faithfulness in service. We thank God for you.

Up-close and personal

I thank God for all of you, for your prayerful and financial support of UCO and for your faithfulness in ministry. Praise God for answering our appeal for financial provision.

We need your help to continue to minister to the poor on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa, and we are trusting God in advance, to provide for all of our needs. I thank God for the opportunity to serve him by ministering to the poor. It is both a privilege and a blessing to be invited into the lives of those whom we serve, to be a small part of what God is doing in each of their lives. May God bless you all.

Isaiah 61:1-3

*The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion--
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.*

UCO Executive Director

Jill Wilson

Spiritual Advisor's Report 2008

This year has truly been a significant one in the life of the sixteen year ministry of UCO. Founded and faithfully served by the committed, astute and prophetic Katrine Barton-Coward, the UCO community formally bid farewell to her this past year. Until that time, I continued to meet regularly with her. Together we prayed for discernment and discussed how to embrace the as yet undefined new chapter of life and ministry into which God was calling her. Katrine also joined me on a Sunday in February in leading worship at Parkdale as our guest preacher. We were all well blessed by God, through her challenging witness. Indeed, the clients of UCO, and the broader Ottawa community has been deeply impacted by the powerful servant witness of Katrine. We thank God for her.

I must commend the UCO Board, now under the able presidency of Janice Fiamengo, for the way in which it shepherded the time of transition from Katrine to our present executive director Jill Wilson. After a time of apprenticeship with Katrine, Jill has brought her experience, her faith, her accessible personality and her professional acuity to the continuing work of partnering with and supporting those experiencing poverty, homelessness and other challenges in life.

I now meet regularly with Jill to reflect theologically and biblically on the ministry and policies of UCO, and to discern God's leading. I am impressed with the way in which Jill has carved out her own style of ministry and by God's grace is learning to navigate the challenges of the ministry of "sidewalk accompaniment", and of presence and relational support to the clients of UCO and others. I continue to esteem that this special way of incarnating the living Christ in the spiritual and material life of those UCO is privileged to serve, gladdens the heart of God.

Friends and supporters of UCO, please remember how blessed you are to be prayerfully and financially involved in this ministry. This is one of the ways in which the community of followers of

Jesus has been known down through the centuries. Justin Martyr, a second century Christian theologian wrote of the appeal of the Christian community in this way:

"we who once took most pleasure in accumulating wealth and property now share with everyone in need..."

Tertullian, another of the early Church Fathers, wrote similarly about how the followers of Jesus demonstrate their distinctive life. "Our care for the derelict, and our active love have become our distinctive sign before the enemy...See they say how they love one another and how ready they are to die for each other."

Even the ruthless Roman Emperor Julian the Apostate (4th century) who persecuted Christians and stripped them of their rights, had to acknowledge what was unmistakable about the way they followed the teachings of Jesus. "The godless Galileans feed not only their poor but ours also. Those who belong to us look in vain for the help we should render them."

Down through the ages, followers of Jesus have practiced what Jesus demonstrated and taught and have come alongside the poor and vulnerable with the good news of spiritual hope in Christ, of material sufficiency and of "active love" in relationships of respect and grace.

Please know that your support contributes substantively to this testimony. Please continue to pray for and give to this ministry, and may God continue to wholly bless you.

"There will be no poor among you...if only you will obey the voice of the Lord." Deut. 15: 4,5

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey
Spiritual Advisor, UCO

Treasurer's Report

For the year ending December 31, 2008

In 2008 Urban Christian Outreach expenses were \$1,828.93 greater than our income. This left us with a balance of \$4,971.85 to start 2008. Your support enabled us to continue to work with the urban poor.

In November, the Board approved a budget of \$47,890 for 2009. This budget is 19% smaller than our 2008 budget. The 2008 budget included a three month employment overlap of Katrine Coward and Jill Wilson.

Additional financial details are available upon request.

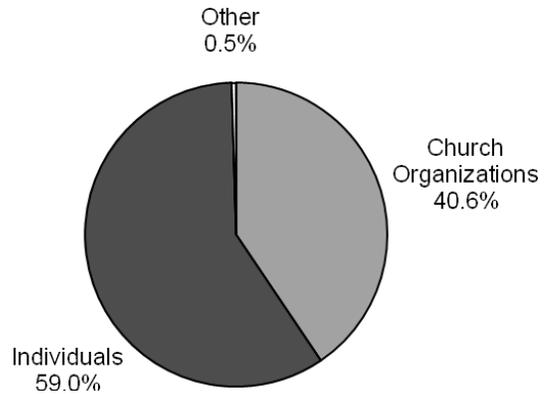
My term on the board of directors of Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) ends at this year's annual meeting. It has been an inspiration for me to get to know you, the supporters of Urban Christian Outreach.

Note: The figures shown above do not include the non-tax deductible directed contributions that you made to Katrine's retirement gift. These gifts of \$3,265.00 flowed through the books.

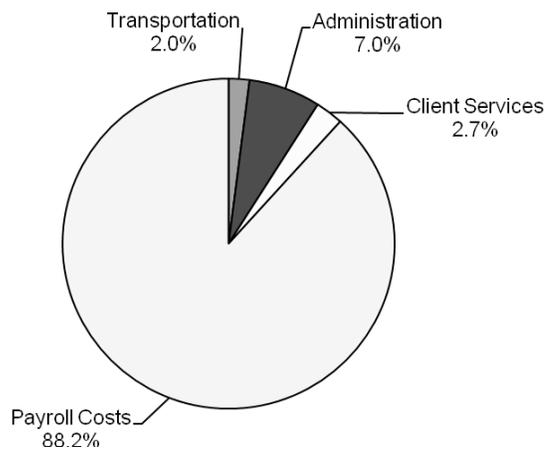
Respectfully Submitted,

David Wice
Treasurer

2008 Income \$47,295.19



2008 Expenses \$49,124.12



UCO Board of Directors

As of 18 March, 2009

- Janice Fiamengo
- David Hayman
- Scott Valentine
- Kerry Kronberg
- Karen Bergenstein
- The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (*Ex-officio*)
- Jill Wilson (*Ex-officio*)

- President
- Secretary
- Interim Treasurer
- Director
- Director
- Spiritual Advisor
- Executive Director

