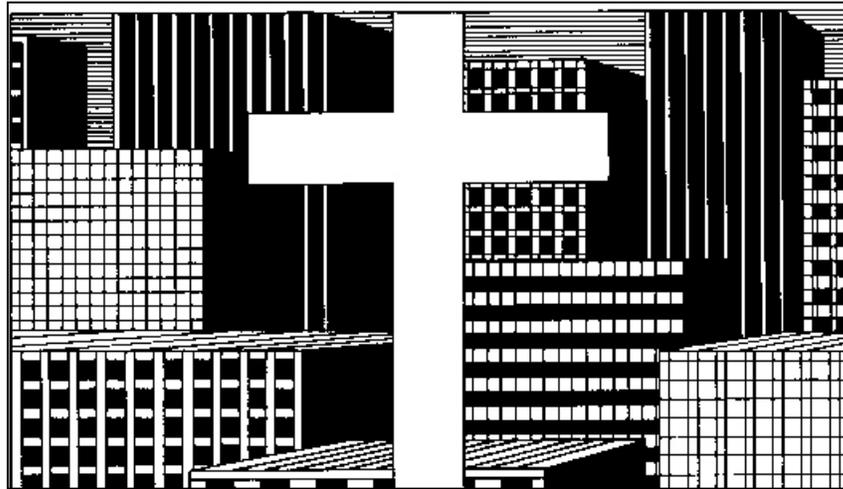


Urban Christian Outreach
(Ottawa)



2006 Year in Review
(issued March 2007)

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 engage 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.

ADDRESS:

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)
PO Box 23071
2121 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K2A 4E2

PHONE:

(613) 233-6633

© 2007 by Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Inc.

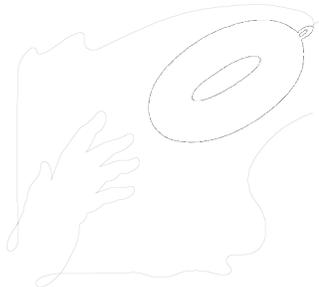
President's Message

Jesus once said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." One of the most famous preachers in the early church, St. John Chrysostom, saw in these words of Christ an invitation for the churches to open their hearts to the poor in their midst. "Stretch out your hand," Chrysostom urged his congregation, "let it not be closed up. We have not been constituted examiners into others' lives, for then we should have compassion on no one."

Chrysostom maintained that the greatest impediment interrupting the Christian churches' love for the poor is judgmentalism. Christians in all ages have been tempted to regard themselves as "examiners into others' lives." The cost of surrendering to this temptation is high: we exchange compassion for judgment, humility for a sense of power, and true righteousness for self-righteousness. In the end, the absence of compassion for the poor impoverishes our lives and our churches, for in our practical love for the poor, the kingdom of heaven draws near.

For two decades, Urban Christian Outreach has provided a way for the Christian community in Ottawa to show compassion toward the poor in our midst, in the name of Jesus. As president, I would like to thank you for your faithful partnership with us in this blessed endeavour.

Clint Curle
President, UCO



Executive Director's Report 2006

(Based on a 28 hr. working week)

I am writing this report on one of the coldest days of winter, constantly aware that not all of UCO's friends have a safe and warm place to sleep tonight. Many of you will be reading this in the comfort of your own homes with several rooms at your disposal. Perhaps you will be reading it after a challenging day's work looking after your professional responsibilities. Some of you may be reading to the accompaniment of the sights and sounds of family life in the background. You may need to skim these pages in haste because you don't want to be late for your evening social event or committee meeting.

I wonder, how often do we stop to consider the pathway of privilege that has carried us to this place? Do we linger with the question "What moments of grace have brought me to this point in life?" Our own choices help shape our destiny, but so do the choices of others.

Poverty work is complex. There are no simple solutions. However, UCO believes that a strong life is built on strong relationships. Many of Ottawa's poor and disabled have been deprived of life-giving, steady relationships. Some have no-one in their life this year who was also in their life last year. UCO work is rooted in ongoing relationships appropriate to the need and it is rooted in a personal relationship with God-in-Christ. We attempt to bridge people into new and helpful relationships, especially within the church. This is the kind of 'wealth' that we have to offer our clients, along with practical support in the field of adult literacy. In our task amongst Ottawa's downtown poor, *presence* is as important as *programme*.

Our mandate is to work with adults, not youth.

Continued...

...Executive continued**Sidewalk outreach, client appointment work and community links** (*names changed*)

“Lady, can you spare a minute?” This was different from the usual request on Rideau St. Can you spare a dollar? He said, “I heard you speak in a church.” (I never discovered which one. He couldn’t remember). Our friend was obviously in need, and as we talked more about Jesus Christ I was also able to connect him with some of the vital services for body as well as soul. An outreach worker never knows when a new relationship will ignite.

I was preaching in a church one Sunday, and afterwards a bright young woman in her twenties engaged me in conversation. “Do you remember me?” she asked. The name jogged my memory, but what a difference! (She told me she was not a ‘regular’ in that church.) In the past, UCO had spent long months in literacy work with Maeve. She told me she had gone on to achieve her High School Diploma. These are wonderful moments of discovery for a literacy instructor.

Standing at a bus stop on Bank St., I found myself alongside a man who was vaguely familiar. He was excited to see me. As Paul identified himself, I realized I had worked with him more than a decade ago when he was in grave need. He told me about a church fellowship he now attends. He said he wanted me to come and speak to his church group. I rejoiced in that moment of re-connection and the ways of God in a person’s life. Many months went by and I thought no more of it. Then I received an unexpected phone call from a pastor whom I did not know. Paul was our link. Imagine my delight when I went into that church group and found a number of people who had been past clients of UCO on the sidewalks – struggling people now surrounded by a gracious fellowship of believing Christians. This is life-giving.



It is no accident that this year I am sharing vignettes that connect the sidewalks with the church. That connection is very close to my heart and it is

my wish to do everything to strengthen it. However, some of our friends in poverty find no warm reception within the churches or for various reasons are unable to handle group activities. For these people, I spend time on the sidewalks in ongoing pastoral care, on a city bench, in a coffee shop, or walking a few blocks of the city with them. UCO serves solitary people who love Christ, and solitary people who do not yet know that Christ loves them.

Many dozens are in relationship with UCO in these various ways.

UCO also meets by individual appointment with those who are able to keep appointments and who wish to improve reading and writing skills, or do Bible study with prayer. At the end of 2006 I was serving 4 such people from a basic roster of 7.

As we are able, UCO purchases books, bus tickets, fresh fruit and occasional meals for people in our care.

Also, I was the invited speaker for gospel teaching on two occasions at another ministry’s street level Coffee House.

In 2006 I continued to meet regularly with the directors of three other Christian agencies that work with the poor, for mutual prayerful support and dialogue on shared issues of our work. In addition, I am constantly engaged in conversations in the community relating to the needs of Ottawa’s poor.

In 2006 Nadia Behmann continued to represent UCO on the Ottawa Committee of Literacy Instructors and Mental Health Workers. This year saw an exciting turn in the road, as the Committee received funding to conduct research into the literacy needs of adults with mental illness. At the end of 2006 both Nadia and I were delighted to make input into this research. The research document is currently in the process of being completed, under the auspices of the Committee and the Ottawa Carleton Coalition for Literacy. Many local groups have made input into this research on an issue that is close to the heart of UCO.

Preaching and speaking engagements

In addition to client coffee house speaking, in 2006 I spoke in churches on thirteen occasions. Eight of these were Sunday preaching. Please see my report’s opening glimpses of client work for a fuller sense of the significance of UCO’s link with the churches.

Continued...

...Executive continued

UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Class

A new name and a new facility! What was previously the *Royal Ottawa Hospital* is now the *Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre*. This brand new facility on the same Carling Ave. site has become the new home for UCO's partnership programme with the ROMHC, for adults to study Math and English etc., two afternoons a week. Our students are clients of the Mental Health Centre and are referred by doctors and professionals of the Centre. This classroom is for education, not for pastoral care.

At the peak point of 2006 we had 18 students registered – some for one afternoon, some for both – with usual attendance per class from 9-11. From September onwards things were in upheaval due to the move. Change is difficult for our students, and professional staff had many things to think about apart from referrals. Though we are proud to say we only closed our doors for the move's mandated minimum time (two weeks) in November, nevertheless numbers dropped dramatically at year-end, with 3 - 6 in attendance. However, things are very active again as I write in early Feb. 2007, with 7-9 students in attendance each class and potential students waiting to be interviewed.

In all of these changes, our classroom owes a big *thank you* to **Lucy-Ann Kubina**, ROMHC Occupational Therapist, who partners with me in running the classroom. It was Lucy-Ann who kept UCO informed of necessary protocols at every stage of transitions and who facilitated many large and small matters for students, staff and volunteers. We could not have managed without her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. As in every year, Lucy-Ann also looks after referrals, all in-class therapeutic needs and behind-the-scenes educational tasks at other times of the week. Thank you, Lucy-Ann!

As UCO Instructor, I am responsible for determining individualized courses of study to fit each student's needs. We continue to serve adults at basic literacy levels right through to General Education Diploma (GED), including a strong English as a Second language (ESL) component. One student graduated with his GED in 2006, another applied to write the tests and others went on

to Algonquin College. After a few weeks in this classroom students develop a remarkable ability to concentrate; I am delighted and astonished on frequent occasions when I have to remind the whole group that it is mid-afternoon break time!

In 2006 Nadia Behmann continued to be a wonderful support to me and the classroom as UCO Assistant Teacher, volunteering her academic skills and time most weeks and being available to substitute for me as needed. Her willing partnership gave added strength to the programme. Nadia also continued to represent UCO on the community committee (*see previously*). Also, this semi-tutorial style of teaching depends heavily on our fine team of ROMHC volunteers and OT students from the University of Ottawa. (See *Volunteers*).

UCO made funds available to purchase individual workbooks for students. ROMHC provided supplies and classroom text books.

Volunteers

Each year it is my privilege to acknowledge with thanks the various volunteers whose work and faith make UCO possible.

As already mentioned, **Nadia Behmann** continued to give invaluable assistance in the field of education. At the end of 2006 we were happy to reconnect with **Cara Stewart** after her year of travels. Cara gives assistance with tutoring a downtown client.

ROMHC volunteers are not UCO's volunteers, but it is my task to train them 'on the job' for their specific classroom task and to coordinate their teamwork within the UCO/ROMHC classroom. Our students love them and I do, too.

Behind the scenes there are many hidden volunteers who represent UCO's interests in their own churches, those who pray, churches who lend rooms, and especially **John Wice** who looks after our web page. Once again, **Monique Choquette** enlivened our summer newsletter with her original artwork on a Biblical theme. **Sui Wai Seto** continues to produce this *Year in Review* for UCO. Our thanks to them all.

Continued...

...Executive continued

For myself, I want to say a sincere *thank you* to all UCO's Board members. Those completing their time on the Board: **Diane Moyer**, our secretary, who served with dedication in a vital role; **Allen Macartney**, Past President, who stood with UCO over many years and shared his support and wisdom. Those newly joining the Board in 2006: **Kerry Kronberg** and **Janice Fiamengo**, who have both already given generously of their time and skills. And those continuing with the Board: **Barbara Faught**, who has stayed the course for five years and who offers generous hospitality for Board events; **David Wice** who does more work for UCO Board than I can possibly mention; and **Clint Curle** (UCO President) who is assuming a faith task of unexpected dimensions with the future UCO transitions. To each one of you, my sincere thanks.

In 2006 I truly appreciated prayerful conversations with the **Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey** in his capacity as Spiritual Advisor to UCO and to me. These times enrich my life. As you will read in the last section of this report, I made a big decision in 2006. You should know that this was entirely my own decision and perhaps a bit of a surprise to Anthony, but very much in keeping with our shared discernment in the previous months. Anthony continues to be a great encouragement to me as I take this leap of faith for the future. Poverty workers need people of faith and wisdom to surround them, and I am so grateful to God that my path has crossed with Dr. Bailey's for these recent years of my mission journey.

Last but not least, I want to say how important you are to us, those of you who are a supporting **church or individual**. Thank you for being willing to pray and to give in ways that bring you very little attention. This work depends on people like you.

Prayer

Prayer is the breath of life for this work. It really doesn't fit into a section on its own. It is woven through all aspects of this work. It shapes the lives of many of our supporters. It is vividly real to many of our clients. As you read my closing comments, you will know even better how to pray for UCO.

Up-close and personal – A decision for the future

In September of 2006 I informed the Board of UCO that, God willing and the Board willing, I plan to complete my task with UCO at the end of May 2008. (You will note that this is still fifteen months in the future). My decision has been made slowly and prayerfully. What is the main reason? I realize I must heed the constant nudging of the Spirit to off-load the administrative responsibilities of running an organization.

I do not yet know what the future holds, but I am excited about it – excited and scared. I have, indeed, recently passed a landmark birthday; and I have, indeed, spent two decades serving Ottawa's poor through the Christian churches. But I cannot emphasize enough that this is not a *retirement*, it is a *re-focusing*. I do not have the luxury of the retirement option, nor do I wish for it yet! God has blessed me with health and strength, with a measure of faith and calling, and with a somewhat unconventional package of gifts and skills in relation to the poverty scene. This is a point in my life to offer all into God's hands for whatever new directions God may have in mind. But I'm still with UCO for the next fifteen months.

I am happy to be working closely with UCO Board members as they discern UCO's future path. Please pray for the UCO Board (especially Clint Curle, our President), for UCO clients and for myself as we move towards travelling on different tracks. God has always provided for our needs. God is utterly dependable.

Thank you for all your continuing support.

*Consider the birds of the air.... your heavenly father feeds them ... Are you not of more value than they?Consider the lilies of the field.....even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these... Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.
(Jesus. Excerpts from Matthew 6:25-33, RSV)*

Katrine Barton-Coward
UCO Executive Director



Spiritual Advisor's Report

At one of our scheduled meetings in the fall, Katrine was accompanied by one of her daughters, whom I was thrilled to meet again. We excitedly shared some thoughts, reflections and questions about new forms of being church in the 21st century. We spoke of the emerging church conversation that is taking hold around the world. Followers of Jesus involved in this "movement" are seeking to worship, pray, live, testify, risk, and serve in such a way as to re-present daily the simple, yet provocative message of Jesus. This form of being and living faithfully in the world often involves forming intentional worshipping/serving communities of faith, unencumbered with heavy structure and bureaucracy, and lovingly, prophetically, and 'committedly' immersed in the world, usually in a desperate corner of some inner city. Taking Jesus' message seriously the impoverished, the oppressed and the destitute are often quite literally their neighbours. They are committed to ensuring that "make poverty history" is much more than a trendy slogan.



I share this with you because I believe that in its own gentle, simple and prophetic way, UCO has the capacity to add its voice and witness to this counter-cultural challenge to the churches and the people of this city, as it stands in solidarity with the vulnerable. Graced by God, the prayerful leadership

and courageous dedication of Katrine, in large measure makes this possible. Your prayerful and financial support of her and UCO, helps to support this radical intrusion into the complacency of too much of our church, social and missional living.

Over the year, I have continued to welcome our near monthly meetings in which prayer, support, discernment and some planning are undertaken. Katrine shares that in some way this helped her to make a discerned decision to move on from UCO in 2008, and forward into the yet-to-be-discovered future God has in store for her.

I am grateful and pleased to continue supporting Katrine and UCO. As well, I am proud that our congregation here at Parkdale United continues to respond to God's call to prayerfully and financially support UCO's mission in this city.

Our congregation, other congregations, UCO, the ROH and this city of Ottawa are truly blessed to be touched by the ministry, vision and commitment of Katrine.

I continue to give thanks for Clint Curle and all the Board members who help to give direction and counsel to this important ministry.

I urge all of you who read this report to be steadfast in your prayerful and financial support of UCO. In addition, perhaps this year you may be able to take further steps towards loving the city, and particularly its poor, in other practical ways.

"But seek the welfare of the city..."
(Jeremiah 29:7)

**Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey**

Treasurer's Report

For the year ending December 31, 2006

Unbelievably, you can find blessings around every corner. I found you around one of my corners.

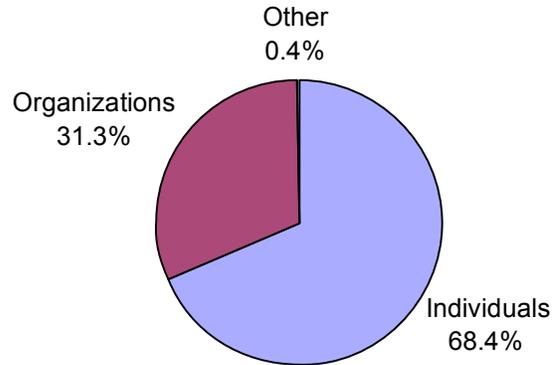
After six faithful years Sui Wai's term as treasurer was complete. I volunteered to be the new treasurer; I was certain I would make a valuable contribution to UCO in this role. I understood the books, but did not appreciate how your prayers, gifts and notes would be a profound blessing to me. When our bank account dwindled down to \$156.13 at the end of September, I worried, but you came through with faithful givings. By year end, we had about \$900 more in the bank than when we started the year. Thanks be to God.

In November, the Board approved a balanced budget of \$45,629.36 for 2007. This budget is similar to those of the recent past. But next year's budget will be different as Katrine is retiring. This is a year of preparation for UCO after Katrine, including the finances. Change is challenging but God will see us through.

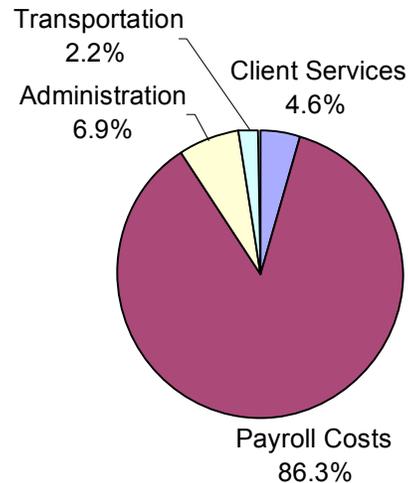
Respectfully Submitted,

David Wice
Treasurer

2006 Income: \$46,125.50



2006 Expenses: \$45,171.63



UCO Board of Directors (As of February 20, 2007)

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Director
Director
Ex-Officio
Ex-Officio

Clinton Curle
Janice Fiamengo
David Wice
Barbara Faught
Kerry Kronberg
Katrine Barton-Coward (Staff)
The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (Spiritual Advisor)