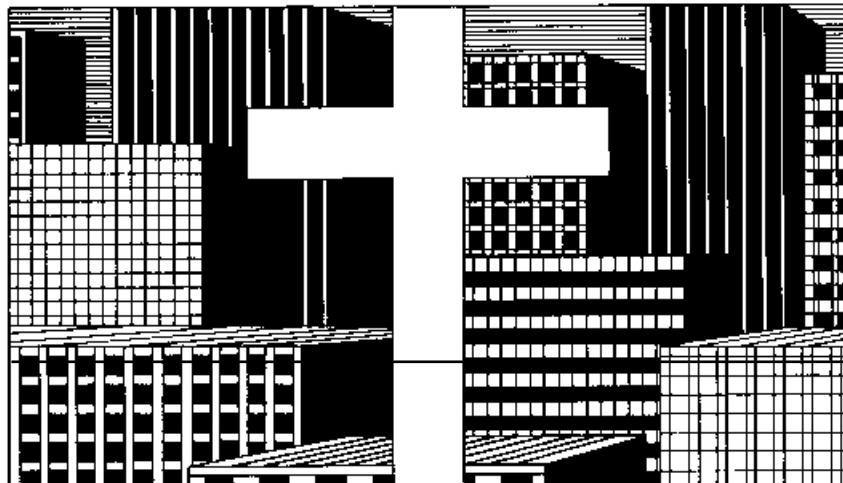


Urban Christian Outreach
(Ottawa)



2013 Year in Review
(Issued April 2014)

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.

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 2013**

Dear Faithful Friends,

We are so thankful for your generous and obedient hearts in working with UCO to provide hope to many in need here in downtown Ottawa. Your prayers and financial support have shown God's spirit ministering to the sick, the poor, and all who suffer during times of uncertainty. Thinking back over this long, hard winter, and the despair that many have expressed, I have come to understand how much our spirits rely on our Lord's constancy!

Perhaps it is this stage of aging (mid 60's) and the fact that I had a few health concerns that made me doubt my ability to survive, even in circumstances that were not so dire. Listening to weather reports day after day, visualizing the impact of daily collisions on our roads, and learning of serious accidents of many who fell on slippery surfaces, produced worry. Fear always seems to be near at hand, doesn't it? In Joshua 1; 9, we are instructed, ***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"***. In Romans 8:38,39, the apostle Paul reminds us, ***"For I am sure that neither death nor life,nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor anything else in all creation will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus."*** He is ever a model for us, as we know well the persecution and pain he encountered. Yet, in his own sense of living in Christ, he confessed the secret of contentment in all situations, and the strength to handle anything. (Philippians 4:11-12).

Recently, I discovered and now recommend a book, by Ann Voskamp, entitled One Thousand Gifts. This is a touching piece of writing based solidly on

scripture. She herself, as a child, had experienced a family tragedy, which sorely impacted her spiritual growth well into adulthood. Only as she hungered for more life, and more holy joy, did she investigate the meaning of "Eucharisteo". First thanksgiving, then grace, and deep joy! The author comes to realize that the fullness of the life planned for us is based on expressing thanks every day, and so she begins a Gratitude Journal. A few examples were: "Morning shadows across the old floor", and "jam piled high on toast". By listing his gifts, we come to appreciate the simple, but rich moments. I love the idea that by thanking God in faith, regardless of the circumstances, it shows our acceptance of whatever he gives-all of this by grace. And we are transformed...!

I often ask myself, "How do the poor, the sick and marginalized face the extreme struggles of their lives? In its twenty-second year, UCO continues to send Jill onto the sidewalks to develop relationships with clients, compassionately extending the love of Jesus. She is directed by His voice, encouraging, accompanying, investigating, advising, and acting on behalf of each one. They spend time studying the Bible and above all, in praying together. Knowing Jesus and his beautiful compassion for the vulnerable must provide a softening of their hearts, and enable them to draw closer to Him. May their hearts be filled with thanksgiving too, and above all HOPE.

"Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him." Psalm 62

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Appleton
President, UCO

Spiritual Advisor's Annual Report 2013

We have still not learned sufficiently well the lessons God was trying to teach the Israelites in the wilderness after having liberated them from enslavement in Egypt. This tutoring from God took place in what is often referred to as the “manna” story; but even this reference betrays the fact that the abundance and abounding of God is often overlooked or taken for granted. God supplied the people with Quail meat in the evening and manna in the morning...so it is really the story of Quail and Manna.

You may remember in Exodus chapter 16 that Moses and Aaron led the Israelites into the wilderness: “The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin...in the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.” Exodus 16: 1, 2

It was there that God sought to teach the Israelites how to live in deep relationship with God and in loving and just relationship with each other. To do this God needed to challenge and help the people unlearn the mentality of the Empire of Egypt where they basically built structures, including storehouses, for the excess of Egyptian wealth. They were now to be tutored in the life of faith, faithfulness, communal justice and Sabbath-observing worship of God.

Moses conveyed to the people that God would feed them and that this feeding came with lessons attached.

Lesson 1. In the morning they were to gather only enough for everyone in their tent. Everyone was to have enough; not too little, not too much. It is the lesson of “enough”.

- The challenge with this however, is that they, like us, had trouble defining enough. Most of us never think we have enough. The merchandizing and marketing industries are committed to convincing us that we do not have or are not enough. The messages include: ‘You are not thin enough; rich enough; smart enough; beautiful enough’.
- In trying to determine whether or not we have enough, we usually compare ourselves to those who have more. But God’s wilderness lesson doesn’t seek to answer the question: How much is enough for me? But rather the question: *How much is enough for everyone?* Does everyone have enough food, clothing, shelter, opportunity, love, health care, and safety?

Lesson 2. Moses instructed the people that no one is to keep anything back until the next morning, but that all was to be consumed and none hoarded. Of course some disobeyed and gathered more than they should, however the excess became smelly and rotten.

- God was trying to teach them and is trying to teach us that God’s good gifts are blessings and they are not to be hoarded but are to keep circulating. They are to satisfy the needs that are all around us and present this day...”Give us this day our daily bread....” We will be more inclined to do this if we learn the first lesson that there is enough being provided by God’s abundance and abounding. There is enough love to go around; there is enough compassion to go around; there is enough forgiveness to go around; there is enough food to go around; there is enough justice to go around; there is enough mercy to go around; there is enough shelter to go around.

- God is constantly telling us: “There’s more where that came from.” If this is not being experienced as the case in the world, it is because too many are hoarding and not circulating the blessings, and thus some have too much while others do not have enough. This ends up causing “rot” in people’s souls, in relationships, in the environment, in social relations, etc. Only on the sixth day did the people gather double portions of manna in preparation for the seventh day of Sabbath. That double portion did not rot for this was the commandment of God.

Lesson 3. Moses conveys God’s command that the people are to keep the Sabbath. This is the very first commandment given to the people of Israel. This is a command to cease and desist from our striving so that we can concentrate on worship, celebrating and trusting God.

- Sabbath also teaches us self-limitation and the realization that things indeed will go on without us...God’s provision makes it so. This creates space in our prayers, faith, worship and life to reset our selfishness, our penchant for hoarding and seeking after way, way more than enough. The more we trust God the more apt we are to be generous, to be available to God’s Spirit’s direction...so let us regularly get “Lost in wonder, awe and praise” as the hymn writer says.

Though facing many challenges, financial and otherwise, UCO has been, in its own modest way trying to live out its mission in lights of these Quail and Manna lessons. In the advocacy and speaking work that Jill has been undertaking she is inviting people to open more deeply to God and to release the generosity of their prayers, time and money for the sake of the unhoused; those experiencing poverty and mental illness; those not receiving enough of the blessings of God because of others’ hoarding, injustice and the failure to circulate what God intends to be shared.

Again this year I met occasionally with Jill to pray and to support and encourage her. As well, we would be in touch about these matters by telephone and email. We also prayed for the people UCO serves at the ROH, on the sidewalks and coffee shops, as well as those connected with Alpha and other faith-forming communities. We prayed for the UCO Board as it seeks to undertake its responsibilities, as well as for the ongoing financial, material and prayerful support of the ministry. Jill is committed to those she serves and to discerning God’s will for this ministry.

Please continue to pray for and support generously this ministry. Pray for God’s leading in ascertaining the future direction of the UCO ministry. Invite Jill to come to you group, or Church to speak and share stories of God’s blessings in the lives that UCO touches through Jill.

**Grace, Peace and Joy to you all,
*Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey***

Spiritual Advisor, UCO

2013 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 hour salaried week)

Dear Friends in Christ,

‘Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favourable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger, by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right and for the left, through honour and dishonour, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true, as unknown, and yet well known, as dying, and behold, we live’ as punished, and yet not killed, as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing, as poor, yet making many rich’ as having nothing, yet possessing everything.’ 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

As we rejoice in this season of Pentecost, and celebrate the birth of the Church, I am brought to my knees, once again, to meditate upon the Cross, to remember that it was my sin that put Christ there. What new sin have I brought before my Lord since Easter? What sin of commission do I need to surrender this very day? What sin of omission has he placed upon my heart? Have I loved my neighbour with the same heart that Jesus loves me? I think of the poor, whom God has called us to love and I am reminded of my own poverty and limitations. How can I love those who may appear difficult to love, unless I am willing to allow Christ to love through me? I cannot, no matter how much I will it, love with the heart of Christ, unless He, who sends me, first loves me. The Cross reminds me of His love and my need to seek Him moment by moment, to be filled with His love, so that I may learn to love others and so that I may represent Jesus as the Church.

The need for his Grace is unending. It is by the power of The Holy Spirit, our Helper and our Comforter, who enables me, and by Grace, that I can love and minister the love of Christ to those He brings before me.

Sometimes loving others means having to speak truth into their lives, just as Jesus speaks truth into ours. As stinging as that can be, we know that it is for our own good. We are called to admonish. God never leaves us the way that we are. He takes us, and cleanses us, shapes us, teaches us, and ever-so-gently begins to mould us into His likeness, and then when we think that we are squeaky clean, he humbles us once again, and peels off yet another layer of our brokenness and pride, refining us in the fire.

‘Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:16, 17

Loving others must be our daily liturgy. Jesus’ torture and death upon the Cross is our greatest example of divine love. It was torturous to death, and how could it not be, because of the magnitude of our sin and wretchedness? I am reminded that there is no person on this Earth unworthy to receive the love of Christ, no matter what sin has been committed, and no matter how messy or dangerous our work can be at times. People often ask me how we can do the work that we do, knowing that many whom we befriend carry weapons and volatile tempers, and I say that it is only by Grace, and through the power of The Holy Spirit. Not by our power, but by the power of God so lovingly given to us for a particular task at a particular time. We depend upon Him. It is the power of God that heals; it is the Word of God that heals.

And so, putting on the ‘whole armour of God’, we head out onto the sidewalks to do the work that God has called and equipped us to do since 1993, knowing that we are supported and upheld in prayer by an army of faithful Christians. Thank you, dear reader, for being part of His army!

‘Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the Gospel of peace. In all circumstances, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.’
Ephesians 6:10-20

UCO Celebrated 20 Years of Faithful Ministry in 2013!

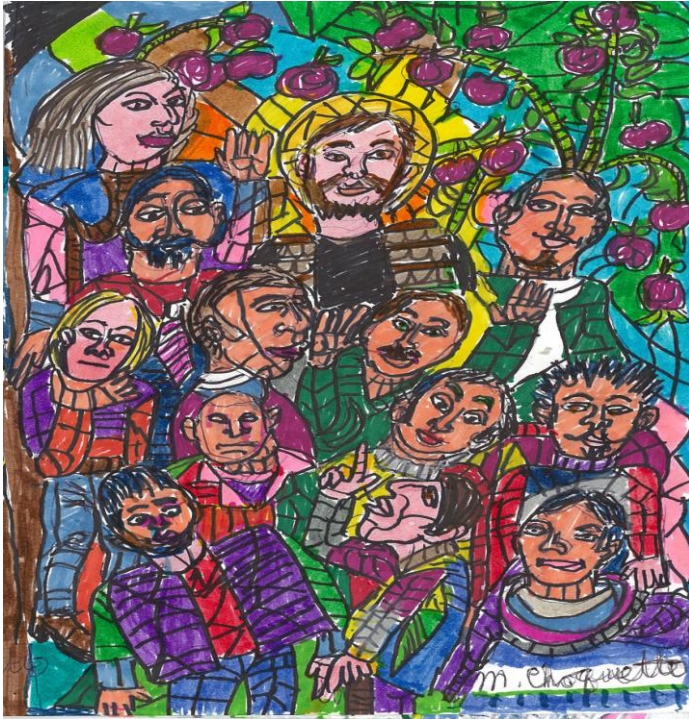
To God alone goes the Glory for his Grace and Mercy in blessing 20 years of faithfulness on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. However, much gratitude goes out to Katrine Barton-Coward- visionary; faithful one; obedient, even in adversary; a woman with the very heart of our Lord Jesus. Surrounded by a crowd of witnesses, supported by many faithful Board members, and led by the Holy Spirit, Katrine carved out this ministry. She walked the pavements and walked the walk of a humble, true and faithful daughter of Christ. She left a legacy that continues to

this day. Our dear clients and friends continue to ask about her, and many continue to remember her in prayer. I consider it a privilege and a joy to have learned from her, to have witnessed her in faithful action, and to try, as I may, to continue to do the work that she so faithfully began. We thank God for Katrine and wish her sweet rest and joy in her retirement years. I say ‘retirement’ lightly; I know that she continues to carry the light of Christ with her. I know that many of you will join me in saying to Katrine, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

We celebrated 20 Years of ministry to the poor, by gathering last May for a joyful service of thanksgiving, followed by a time of fellowship and food! It was a day to remember, and we were blessed to have Ms. Katrine Barton-Coward, the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, and the Rev. Dr. Allen Churchill, as our honoured speakers. All three spoke eloquently and insightfully, sharing their expertise, experience and insight into God’s heart for the poor. They allowed God to speak through them, and we are very grateful for their faithfulness and obedience.

Many volunteers made this wonderful celebration of God’s faithfulness happen, and I would like to thank them for their dedication, time and friendship. Thank you to Ms. Katrine Barton-Coward, for her direction as we initiated a planning committee; to the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, for composing a thoughtful and prayerful liturgy; to Mr. Don Findlay who led us in worship; to Donna Appleton for her leadership, and tireless hours of planning and food preparation; to Nadia Behmann for her musical direction and committee work; to Mme. Jacqueline Choquette, for upholding us in prayer, and committee and kitchen work; to Judy McMillan, for her administrative work and for her many hours working behind the scenes; for Mary-Anne Zwicker for managing our finances and for keeping us within our budget; to Craig Macartney, for his quiet work behind the scenes to ensure that our event unfolded smoothly; to Allen Macartney, who photographed the event, and to Julie and Rachel for their help in setting up, and in food preparation. We give thanks for the generosity of St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, in providing us with photocopying services and for the Rev. James Murray and the congregation of Dominion Chalmers United

Church for their kindness and hospitality in providing us with a beautiful venue in which to celebrate. Thank you to all who attended: it truly was a joyful celebration of God's faithfulness!



Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

Dozens of lives have been changed because of your prayers and your faithful support of our ministry work to the poor.

Matthew (not his real name) a senior citizen, is off the streets after 35 years of homelessness, and now lives in a warm and safe environment. It was a tough transition, but by the grace of God, who poured out his mercy over and over again, this loving man is beginning to adjust. He is now living out his senior years with a warm bed, nutritious meals, healthcare and new friends. Surrounded by Christians who have put God's commands into actions, he is beginning to put his faith in Christ! Please pray for him, as he still struggles with adjusting to his new life. As wonderful as it appears to us, Matthew misses his homeless friends, and sometimes has thoughts of returning to the familiarity of homelessness.

Many of our clients struggled last year with bedbugs. Having spent months on couches and floors, Bea (not

her real name) and Tom (not his real name) have been given mattresses and beds, and are grateful for a good night's sleep. However, unless their entire community housing apartment building is sprayed, both Tom and Bea know that it is only a matter of time before they become re-infested. The library, often a refuge for the homeless, and one of the few places that offers free internet, has proven to be another source of bedbugs, as bed bugs like to eat paper and nest between the pages of books. Those who borrow books often unknowingly bring bedbugs home with them.

Paul (not his real name) was recently released from prison. He wants to work, but employers are reluctant to hire him because of his record. He became sober while in prison and he worries that he might drink again. With our encouragement, Paul is attending Celebrate Recovery, a Christian 12-Step Recovery Group. We don't judge Paul because we too have fallen short of God's glory, and like Paul, we need the Grace of God, and his healing forgiveness. Paul is grateful for our friendship and ongoing support, and regularly expresses his gratitude for our ministry of compassion.

The Poor Choir

Our street choir gathered weekly during the winter and spring months to make a joyful noise to the Lord. This was a refreshing time for all, as we gathered with no agenda, other than to sing praises to God, to pray, and to share in refreshments.

Bible Study

Having received wise Bible teaching from mentors and Theologians over the years, I continue to be amazed and humbled by the power of the Holy Spirit to speak wisdom through the poor. As Christians, we have never 'arrived', but can be blessed if we remain humble and open to God speaking new life into a Scripture verse which we thought we had fully understood. How our Lord delights in giving great gifts to all of his children! What a delight it is to open up our Bibles in coffee shops and on park benches, and watch the power of God transform us!

UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

UCO partners with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre to provide Adult Education in a classroom setting. Some students graduated with their High School Diplomas, while others worked on various areas of interest. We were blessed to be able to help 27 students in the classroom this year, with an average attendance of 12 students per class, up from previous years. Our partnership with the Royal Ottawa was further cemented when we were given authority to bring in new volunteers, as we discerned. We are especially grateful to Nadia Behmann, who returned to the classroom in 2013, to bless us with her gifts of compassion and teaching. We are also grateful to Paula Osborne, OT Tech and Program Coordinator, and to the RO volunteers who faithfully offered much-needed assistance to our students: John, Carol, Mike and Amanda.

Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking

We are grateful for 5 invitations to speak in 2013, and for the opportunity to share the good works that Christ is doing on the downtown sidewalks of Ottawa. We are also grateful to the churches and ministry organizations that have supported us in 2013:

First Fruits Foundation

The Bible House

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

Church of the Messiah

Dominion Chalmers United Church

Highland Park Wesleyan Church

St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church

St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church

Parkdale United Church

Salvation Army Gladstone Church

Parkwood Presbyterian Church

Rothwell United Church Women

St. Andrew's United Church, Rockland

Grace Presbyterian Church, Orleans

We are especially grateful to **The Rev. Ginny Chrestenson of The Salvation Army Church and to her congregation**, for their kindness in providing a venue for our Worship choir and for their faithful

support of our ministry work. We sincerely thank **Mr. Rob Kupe and The Bible House** for providing rooms for us to study the Bible and to meet as a Board. In order to be good stewards of our donated dollars, UCO doesn't rent any office space; UCO Board and staff members do their work out of their homes, and borrowed rooms in downtown churches and businesses. We also give thanks to God for our local freelance artist, **Monique Choquette**, who interprets Scripture in the form of drawings for our newsletters and reports.

In our commitment to seek justice for the poor, to grow in my understanding of the poverty scene and of mental illness, and to remain informed of legislation as it pertains to charities, I attended lectures, workshops and retreats.

UCO Newsletter via Email and UCO Website

As postage costs have risen sharply, many charities are relying more and more on the internet to share their message. 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@uco-ottawa.ca. We are in the process of switching servers and webmasters, and will have our website updated soon.

UCO Volunteers

We are very grateful to our volunteers, without whom we could not effectively minister. We give our thanks and praise to God for **Mrs. Nadia Behmann**, UCO Instructor in the ROMHC classroom since 2003! For over ten years, Nadia has faithfully volunteered her time to help those in need. As a professional teacher, gifted in many areas, including English and French, she has been a constant present in our classroom. In my absence, Nadia was always willing to lead. We wish Nadia God's blessings as she retires from volunteer work with UCO. She will be missed very much. We also give thanks to God for **Ms. Elanor Nigh**, who faithfully led our street Worship Choir. Her gifts of music and leadership blessed us all. We also thank God for all those who volunteered on the Anniversary Committee, as well as those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

UCO Board Members

We have come to appreciate the dedication of our gifted Board members, as we face the many challenges that come with being a 'front-line' ministry. Board members are called to step out in faith, to minister in the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and to faithfully discern what God is doing in our midst! Without their faithfulness and obedience, the work of UCO simply could not survive. I am so grateful for the support of **Ms. Donna Appleton**, UCO Board President, whose wisdom and discernment have been paramount to our work, for **Ms. Mary-Anne Zwicker** (Treasurer), for her Godly direction concerning our finances, which enabled UCO to end the year with a balanced budget, for **Mr. Allen Macartney**, Interim Board member, for his guidance, wisdom and experience, and for **Mr. Craig Macartney**, whose enthusiasm and generosity of spirit were a blessing to us all. We thank God for **Ms. Marilyn Rennick**, Interim Board member, for her faithfulness and dedication to UCO, and for the **Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey**, Ex-Officio Board member.

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

We are very grateful to **The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey**, who has served as UCO's Spiritual Advisor for almost twelve years and as my personal Spiritual Director for six of those years. Dr. Bailey's own ministry to the poor as Senior Pastor at Parkdale United Church is impressive, where he and his church open their hearts and doors to the poor. His is a ministry of compassion, demonstrating the love of Christ to those most hurting. Rev. Bailey offered his time and Godly gifts freely to oversee all spiritual aspects of our work, to teach us and to direct us. We are very grateful to him for his service in love, and for sharing his wisdom and insights of the poverty scene.

UCO Prayer Group

We are truly grateful for **Ms. Jean Gallant** and **Ms. Annie Burt**, who so faithfully volunteered their time and gifts to pray for the ministry work of UCO. We bring all aspects of our work before God, praying for the poor among us, for our faithful supporters, our

volunteers and Board members, for those behind the scenes, and for the perfect will of God to be done in our lives. Often, we prayed by telephone and by email for urgent needs, and I thank God for their faithfulness in ministry.

"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere." Psalm 84:10 (a)

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Wilson,
Executive Director, UCO

UCO Treasurer's Report for 2013

For the year 2013, UCO was able to end the year with a small operating surplus. In September, at the suggestion of The Board of Directors, Jill agreed to accept a payroll reduction of 20% for the last four months of the year. By doing so, we were able to end the year without a deficit.

Total income for the year 2013 was \$46,013.47. Our budgeted target was \$49,000.00.

Total expenses for the year were \$45,726.35. Our budgeted expenses were \$48,953.15. Income was short by \$2,986.53 from budgeted amount, but expenses were also lower by an amount of \$3,226.80, which is fairly close to the amount of the income shortage. This left an operating surplus of \$287.12.

The ratio of donations from individuals to churches has returned close to the ratio it was back in the year 2010, with 10% more donations coming from individuals and 10% less from churches:

- Individuals 68%
- Churches 32%

The breakdown of UCO's 2013 expenses is as follows:

- Payroll /Client Services 87%
- Administration 13%

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Anne Zwicker,
UCO Treasurer

