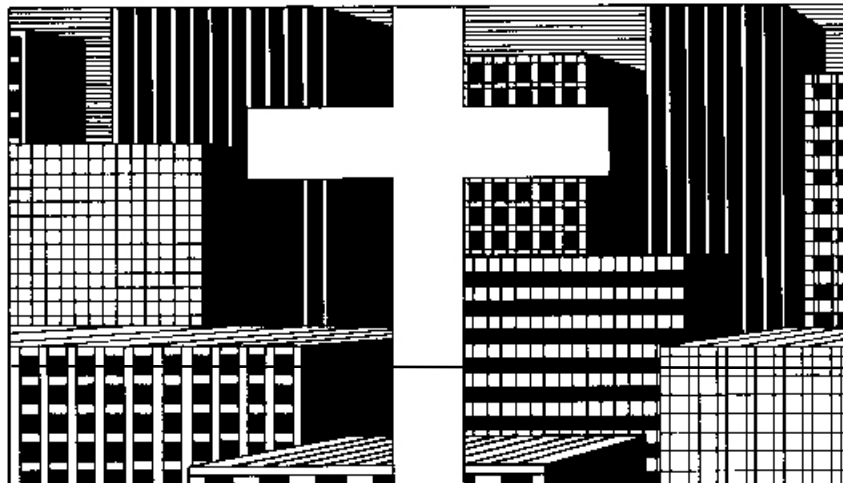


Urban Christian Outreach *(Ottawa)*



2015 Year in Review *(Issued June 2016)*

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 2015

Dear Friends,

Everyday we love to see people in general, practicing kindness, and compassion. I like to think that most try to show goodwill to others. In fact, the word “grace” is becoming more commonly used in secular society. We are all granted a grace period in paying our monthly bills, and so many baby girls are called “Grace” by parents hoping a daughter will grow to be gracious and full of grace. When I think about the Pay It Forward movement, grace is viewed as a simple courtesy flowing outward. Yes, there is indeed a ripple effect allowing the giver and the receiver to share a smile, and a boost of friendly goodness!

On the other hand, God's Grace is vastly greater, and it is based on our acceptance of Jesus, as God's Son, and the mission for which He came into the world. When this happens, His loving Spirit is freely given to us, and His Grace of undeserved favour, flows. It covers the hurts, the mistakes, and injustices-the pain of daily life! Max Lucado in his book, GRACE-More Than We Deserve; Greater Than We Imagine, reminds us that our God is a God who stoops. Jesus stooped to wash feet, and to embrace children; he stooped to write in the dust, while taking the part of the woman condemned by the world for adultery. The world can be very critical and harsh, and yet I find that as we trust our loving Father, I am assured that He will always rise to our defence!! Doesn't that thought make your spirit soar? What other security do we humans need? The receiving of forgiveness is exhilarating! Our mistakes are gone! And we are filled with a love that takes the form of a compassion where hearts are called to put something of ourselves on the line.

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well, and sees a brother or sister in need, but shows no compassion-how can God's love be in that person?” 1 John 3:16-17 (NLT)

This “real love” flowing through us allows us to be conduits of grace. We, who are forgiven, can pass this on, and be forgiving of others. Grace is a gift like no other!! Thank you dear faithful friends for YOU are conduits of God's grace!!! You participate in passing on the joy, your joy, to those needing comfort and the sustenance of our Father!!!

We, the community of Urban Christian Outreach, have been so blessed by our Executive director, Jill Wilson. She is now in her 9th year in serving, and modelling His “divine love” to the poor. Most of you who have been receiving our newsletters have heard her many heart-warming stories of how sidewalk friends in their life journey, are experiencing the love and strength of Jesus. In appreciation, and in honouring God's calling, we are offering Jill a three -month sabbatical (June 15 – September 15). By grace, she will receive a time of rest, renewal, refreshment, and reflection! The Royal Ottawa literacy programme always recesses at this time. Please be assured that we have organized volunteers to continue our ministry work on the sidewalks this summer. We are wondering if you would increase your givings at this time to help provide funds to cover Jill's salary. Thank YOU for your generosity of spirit! Your prayers, and financial donations mean so much!

Respectfully Submitted,

***Donna Appleton
President, UCO***

Urban Christian Outreach Spiritual Advisor's Annual Report 2015

God be praised for God's faithfulness. God has been faithful in keeping alive in Jill, the passion and desire to serve compassionately those experiencing poverty, mental health challenges and other vulnerable life situations. That being said, it has been a very difficult year for the ministry of UCO in terms of financial support.

Over the year, in meeting, speaking and praying with Jill, I have witnessed the tension between the marvelous things that God is accomplishing through Jill and her ministry to clients, and, the ongoing lack of financial support. Together we have asked God: *what is your will for the present and future of UCO?*

Well, as we took stock of the ministry, we were able to acknowledge and thank God for the ongoing work at the ROH, the transformation and material and spiritual blessings conferred on clients, and more recently, the addition of a number of new Board Members. We also acknowledged that invitations to have Jill speak at churches and other groups were down, as was the level of financial donations.

So, friends and supporters of UCO, are you discerning that God intends this ministry to thrive and not merely survive? We at Parkdale United have increased our financial contributions to UCO as well as our prayer support. I have also personally done so. Friends and supporters, please remember how blessed you are to be prayerfully and financially involved in this ministry. This ministry to the vulnerable people, beloved by God, is one of the significant ways the community of followers of Jesus has been known down through the

centuries. Following the command and example of Jesus himself, we have always cared creatively and compassionately for those who are poor and in need.

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 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. *(He referred to Christians as godless Galileans) "The godless Galileans feed not only their poor but ours also. Whilst the pagan priests neglect the poor the hated Galileans devote themselves to works of charity. 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 in prayer and with the good news of spiritual hope in Christ, of material sufficiency and of "active love" in relationships of dignity, respect and grace.

Please know that your prayerful and financial support contributes substantively to UCO's testimony to the love of Jesus and the well-being of those who need help and support.

Also, get in touch with Jill and invite her to speak at your church, fellowship group, outreach ministry committee or department. As well, whether as an individual, a family, or a church, please prayerfully discern what more you can give to the ministry of UCO. May God continue to fully bless you all.

Once again, here are some suggestions on how to live into God's commands to care for the poor in our local setting:

- Pray every day for those experiencing grinding poverty
- Give generously to UCO, and consider how you might volunteer
- Regularly make lunch bags with fruit, drink, sandwich and/or granola bar, some chocolate, and gum. Take them along with you in your car, bag, or purse...so that you can give them to folks begging on the street, or at the off ramps; and look the person in the eye, talk with them and wish them the blessings of God
- Make time and plans to invite a person experiencing poverty to lunch,
- Get involved with initiatives around the city that are trying to challenge the various levels of government to change the laws that "make misery for the poor" and replace them with God-honouring laws that bring justice and relief for the poor.
- Meet with Jill one-on-one and find out more about what is really going on in the streets of our city regarding poor and vulnerable persons



Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey
Spiritual Advisor, UCO

2015 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 – hour salaried week)

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

“The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 29:19 ESV

It is my humble privilege and joy to be in relationship with those who suffer because this is where we find our Lord – the One who became poor for our sake – who lived for awhile as a refugee – who tasted homelessness. And this is where we find ourselves – where we come face to face with our own brokenness, and our own need of a Saviour. Is it not in these special moments – set aside and ordained by the Holy One himself – that we experience true authenticity? Away from the chatter and noise of the world – away from our computers and phones – away from busyness – and into a place where we are transformed by the beautiful Holiness of Jesus – transformed in the alleyways – blessed in the prisons – filled with a 'Peace that passes all understanding' in the shelters. Our Lord meets us and greets us with intention. He draws near to the lowly. He blesses us with his presence.

“How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God!” Psalm 84: 1-2 ESV

“Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed!” Psalm 84:9 ESV

“For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.” Psalm 84:10a ESV

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

Urban Christian Outreach has been blessed with a unique ministry, in that we are called to listen to the One who leads us into situations that we would not otherwise even imagine. And once there, we are called to be attentive – to step back and to allow God to be God. We strive not to get in the way, but to allow the Holy Spirit to minister to his beloved. Sometimes I want to hold up a sign to tell the lost that Jesus is right here – and to say 'Come; sit with Him awhile and I guarantee that your life as you know it, will never be the same again.'

Adam, (not his real name) met Jesus during our 'Street Alpha' course a few years ago. He has lived in shelters for most of his adult life. We had the honour of baptizing him one day moments after moving him into his new supportive housing unit. He asked us to bless his new home, which we were delighted to do, and then after prayers were said, he asked us to baptise him. What a joy and a privilege it was, as we gathered by his kitchen sink and asked Jesus to bless the water that flowed from the tap, washing him clean. We asked Jesus to bless the oil, and we anointed him as God's own; Praise and Glory to our Lord! We have since lost touch with Adam, but we remember him in our prayers.

Dear friends, thank you for praying for Anne, (not her real name) a young woman who has used drugs for many years, and had sadly turned to prostitution as a way in which to finance her addiction. Anne is now in a rehabilitation program and off of heroin. This is the power of prayer! She is on a maintenance program now, and receives prescribed Methadone. Methadone is known as a synthetic analgesic drug, similar to morphine. It replaces drugs such as heroin.

Sam (not his real name) is out of prison right now, praise God! We were his only visitor during his time incarcerated. Sam has lived most of his adult life imprisoned, at one point doing hard time for murder. But Sam suffers from mental illness, and so we must ask ourselves, 'what justice can be found in locking him up for years on end without the proper supports in place, when medical and spiritual rehabilitation, are in order?' Sam struggles with impulse control. He reacts to all stimulus around him. He takes everything personally and admits that he is paranoid. Sam is asking for medical help, but our challenge is to keep him out of jail long enough in order to get the assessment needed for a referral to a mental health program. Sometimes it feels like his situation is futile, and yet we must look to God and ask, 'Lord, what are you doing in this situation. Why are you allowing Sam to go through this? What does Sam need to learn from this? What do we need to learn from this situation?' Sometimes the answer is found in the waiting – waiting, and sitting with Jesus. Sam 'falls through the cracks' of a system that works for some, but not for Sam. God has brought us to the place where we must recognize that Jesus is the answer – the one and only way to Peace.

Please pray that we will be financially able to run another Street Alpha program this fall, and that Sam will be able to attend. We have registered a course, in faith. Please also pray, asking God if he might be calling you to help in some way.

Bible Study

To share a Bible study with one who is poor, homeless, or marginalized is to enter into a Bible study with Jesus himself – Jesus was all these things. He pushed the buttons of society and made its members uncomfortable. Recently, during a Bible study with a gentleman who suffers from a dual disorder (mental illness and developmental illness), in which we were studying 1st Peter, the question in our study guide asked, "Which of the previous list of events do you consider to be the most important?" Without hesitation, he said, "The Resurrection." "Yes!", I said, and gave him a 'high-five'. The Spirit of God within him had broken through in the spirit, which the mind and body could not possibly conceive. The Spirit of God had given this man divine wisdom. The Holy Spirit had 'lifted the veil from his eyes!- lifted the veil from one who was seen or labeled by society as 'unable' or 'not knowing- not understanding! This is where we find Jesus: in spirit. Not in the flesh, not in our minds or by our intellect! Our spirits when joined by the Holy Spirit, rise far above the intellect, and this is the greatest calling – the greatest of miracles! How perfect is our God; not only did he enter this world in a way in which man could not possibly comprehend in the intellect – he entered by way of poverty, humility; he experienced rejection by the so-called 'elite', the most 'powerful' leaders, rejection unto death upon a cross, and yet how perfect His plan that some who hold the power of a PHD cannot find Jesus and yet one who struggles with a disease of mind, emotion or intellect, can find him. Come and join us, and be blessed!



UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

We have continued to enjoy a wonderful partnership with The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, where we work together to deliver a program of study to many students in a classroom setting. Our numbers were down slightly this year, but this allowed us to work with some ESL (English as a Second Language) students, and with others who were illiterate. One student read her very first book in our classroom and I'm not sure who was more excited: the student or us! Urban Christian Outreach receives no financial compensation from The Royal at all; UCO donates its time to provide students with an individualized program. UCO provides an instructor (me) as well as a volunteer (Hazel Buckingham). We work alongside Occupational Therapists. This allows students to work at their own pace, in a safe environment. If there are behavioural issues, the OT can deal with it while the instructor and volunteers continue to work with students. Some students worked on ILC

(Independent Learning Centre) credits, which are high school courses accredited by the Ministry of Education; others worked on specially-designed programs for adult learners. Some learned how to read, while others improved upon their reading and writing skills, including punctuation, grammar, sentence structure and spelling. A number of students worked on basic math skills. Some worked on the G.E.D. (General Education Development) program, which offers high school-equivalent courses in English, Math, Science, History, Geography, and Civics and Careers. Some students worked to earn their Food Safety Certificate, which offers those already at a disadvantage in the workplace, an opportunity to be considered for employment. While our numbers have declined in our classes on Mondays, our numbers are good for Wednesday classes. Please pray that enrollment will increase for the Monday class in the fall.

Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking

We are very grateful to all of the churches and organizations who invited us to speak to their congregations and small groups in 2015. We are also grateful to the churches and organizations that have supported us so faithfully in 2015, through financial tithes and offerings, prayer support, rooms in which to meet as a Board, gifts of clothing and furniture for the poor. We give thanks to God for:

Canadian Bible Society
Parkdale United Church
St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church,
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Dominion Chalmers United Church
Kanata United Church
The United Way
Trinity Presbyterian Church
St. Vincent de Paul
All Saints Lutheran Church

It is our prayer and hope to be faithful stewards of your donated dollars. UCO doesn't rent any office space; UCO Board and staff members do their work from their homes, and from borrowed rooms in downtown churches, drop-in centres, shelters, shopping centres and businesses. We are very grateful to St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican Network Church for their continued provision of a room in which to hold our Board meetings.

We give thanks to God for our local, freelance artist, **Monique Choquette**, who beautifully and prayerfully interprets Scripture and translates it into drawings, which have adorned the pages of our quarterly reports and newsletters over the years. We are grateful to her for her gifts to the Glory of God.



UCO's Financial Supporters

I am so humbled each time we receive an envelope in our little mailbox containing a financial donation, and each time we receive donations electronically through our website via PayPal; through your generosity by earmarking your donations via The United Way; as well as through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) monthly donations. No matter how you donate, please know that we truly would have to stop doing the work that we do without you. I cannot express this enough. We need money. We need to be able to pay my salary, to pay our share of payroll deductions, to pay for our liability insurance and Workman's Compensation, to pay for our telephone expenses, bus tickets, to provide coffee and an occasional meal for our poor friends, to provide opportunities for skills development to those whom we serve, and to provide some basic supplies for our classroom. Thank you, dearest supporters who enable us to serve Jesus on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa and in the classroom. We are praying and asking God to bless you for your faithfulness, and to raise up more donors and churches who might help us to honour God through faithfully paying our bills on time, and provide for our clients' needs as well. Would you prayerfully consider an extra gift to UCO to encourage us at this time? We really do need your help. Thank you on behalf of UCO, and especially on behalf of our poor friends on the sidewalks who rely on us for fellowship and Christian teaching.

UCO Volunteers

We thank God for our faithful volunteers who give themselves to Christ, in service, to boldly and courageously come alongside our clients and students: for **Pamela Lawes**, who works one on one using her gifts of teaching to work with clients in the areas of literacy and math.

Pamela has also been patiently teaching a client (and me!) how to knit; for **Hazel Buckingham**, who has so faithfully volunteered her time teaching in our classroom at the Royal Ottawa. A retired professional teacher, Hazel has shown great patience and skill in the classroom, gifts that are much needed. We are currently in the process of training a young woman for sidewalk ministry, and look forward to begin the training process with a gentleman, as well.

UCO Board Members

It is because of the support, faith, encouragement and wise counsel of our dedicated Board members that I am able to do the work that I do. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they direct and oversee the ministry work of UCO. I have learned so much from each one of them, and give praise and thanks to God. I love to wait on the Lord and to watch and witness just how he moves among us as a Board, beautifully developing Board relationships, equipping members with every needed gift and producing the fruit that is vital to our ministry. I thank God for the direction and faithfulness of our Board President, **Donna Appleton**, who has lead us for many years, with joy, grace and wisdom; her trust in God and her ability to hear him and to wait on him is a blessing; for **Mary-Anne Zwicker**, who has so generously given of her time and accounting skills for many years, including continuing in this role long after her term. Her gentle spirit and gifts of grace and mercy have offered a steady rudder to the often challenging juggling of UCO's finances. Mary-Anne remains as a member of UCO's Board, serving now in other capacities; for **Marilyn Rennick**, former UCO Board member and President, who graciously returned as an Interim Board member, as we waited on God to raise up new members. Marilyn's gifts of wisdom and discernment, along with her many years of experience in Missions work, particularly with

UCO, working with Katrine Barton-Coward in the earlier days of UCO, have blessed us and have provided us with a connection to UCO's roots. We are also grateful for 2 new Board members: **Mike Donsion**, and **Mary Hackett**, both dedicated and faithful Christians who bring their love for Jesus and for the poor, along with their gifts to serve Christ. Our Lord is breathing new life into UCO!

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

We are thankful for the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Senior Minister at Parkdale United Church, whose faithfulness to God as UCO's Spiritual Advisor, and as a member of our Board of Directors, has inspired, equipped and encouraged us over many years. His knowledge of, and actions on behalf of many poverty missions here in Ottawa have served our community so faithfully. Anthony has received a number of awards for his service, and rightly so. We are blessed by his spiritual oversight of UCO, and by his faith in action. Anthony has continued to provide me with personal Spiritual Direction, and I am so grateful for the times that we meet to chat, to pray and to discern the will of God.

UCO's Webmaster

Josiah Milne has been a blessing to UCO, as he so graciously serves God and the poor by keeping our website up to date and interesting. Having designed our new website so beautifully, he continues to use his gifts of technology to the Glory of God!

Our website address is: www.uco-ottawa.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@uco-ottawa.ca or jill@urbanchristianoutreach.ca

UCO Prayer Group

Jean Gallant, faithful prayer warrior and friend is UCO's prayer team! I thank God for her, and I am very much aware of her prayer covering as I walk the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. Her faithfulness to God is an inspiration to me.

Canadian Bible Society

We continue to give thanks to God for the Canadian Bible Society, and for their partnership with UCO in distributing Bibles, free-of-charge, to the poor.

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15 ESV

Sabbatical

By the grace of God, I am looking forward to a time away on Sabbatical, which I believe, and which the Board has discerned, is the will of God. I am not sure where the Holy Spirit is leading me yet, or how He will provide for finances, accommodation and expenses, but I am putting my trust in him. Whether I am provided with a cottage-sitting opportunity, or perhaps a Christian community, I am willing to work and to serve where I am called. I am also looking forward to a time of refreshment, and to spending sweet hours in prayer and God's Word, and to returning to Ottawa with a renewed vision and energy to serve God. Please let me know if you can help practically with ideas, or perhaps financially. I am also hoping to sublet my apartment while I am away.

Thank you, dear friends, for your loving support of our ministry work. We need you so much, more than you can imagine, and we are so grateful for your generosity and sacrifice. We consider it a privilege and joy to partner with you in ministry, and invite you to join us on the sidewalks one morning 'to taste and to see that the Lord is good.' We put our trust in Jesus. Praise and Glory to God!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Wilson,
Executive Director, UCO



UCO Treasurer's Report for 2015

Total income for the year 2015 was **\$37,785.00**.

Our budget target was **\$55,000.00**.

Total expenses were **\$39,978.21**. Our budgeted expenses were **\$46,330.00**.

Income was below the budget by **\$17,215.00**

and expenses were below the budget by **\$6,351.79**. The **net loss** for the year was **\$2,193.21**.

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

- Individuals
64.0 %
- Churches & Organizations
36.0 %

The breakdown of year 2015 expenses is as follows:

- Payroll costs/programming
84.3 %
- Administration
11.7 %
- Client Services
4 %

Since no new treasurer came on the UCO Board for the year 2015, I continued in that position until the end of the year 2015. However, two new Board members have since come on the Board in the year 2016 and while donations for the beginning of the year 2016 had improved over other years, we are currently in a deficit position and praying that God will provide us with 3 months of expenses to bring us up to date, and to help carry us through the summer months.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Anne Zwicker,
UCO Treasurer



M.A.