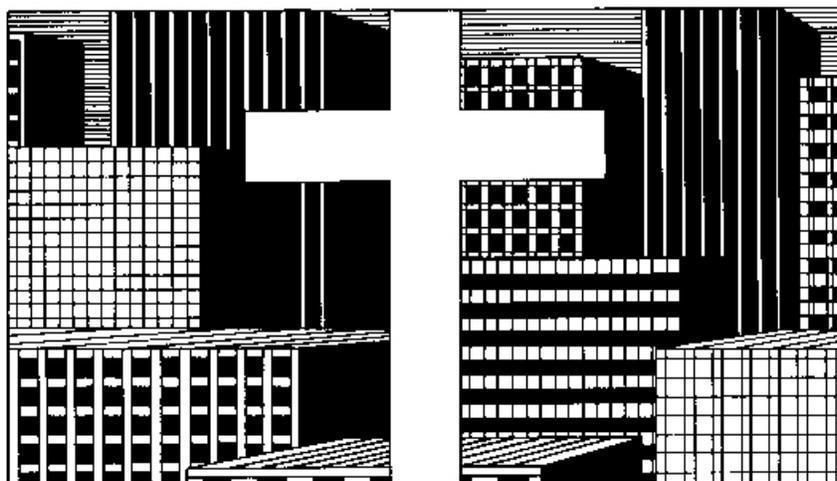


Urban Christian Outreach
(Ottawa)



2007 Year in Review
(issued April 2008)

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.

ADDRESS:

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

PHONE:

(613) 233-6633

© 2008 by Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Inc.

Interim President's Report UCO Annual Meeting 2007

It was in the early 1980's that we first heard the phrase, "God's preferential option for the poor".

It was used by theologians working among the people in Christian Base Communities in South and Central America. We might not have agreed with their politics but they did remind the church of what we seemed to have neglected – the concern of the Old Testament prophets for justice for the poor, the attention Jesus gave throughout his ministry to those on the margins of society and the "upside down" nature of the kingdom of God where "the last shall be first and the first shall be last" and the poor will be blessed.

My perception is that our churches are more aware of the presence and needs of the poor than they used to be. We give to support projects and programs through our denominational missions' funding. We are aware of and often contribute both money and time to local initiatives such as drop-in centres, shelters, clothing depots and hot meals. These types of initiatives deserve our support.

Urban Christian Outreach (UCO) however, has a unique intention – to have a ministry of presence on the streets of downtown Ottawa among poor and marginalized adults, to befriend, to share the gospel and to introduce them to other helping agencies where appropriate and welcomed. It is about building relationships so that our clients know they are loved by God and that they are not alone.

Katrine Barton Coward, the Executive Director since UCO's beginning in 1993 has always exhibited a compassion and love for God and Ottawa's poor and complete discretion as she has hosted the stories of those who have been the recipients of this ministry. Countless lives have been changed in large and small ways through Katrine's faithful one-on-one service and friendship.

Since Katrine informed the Board in late 2006 that she would be stepping down from her position as Executive Director in May 2008, we have been working toward and praying about the future shape of this ministry. The planning process that has occupied us for the past several months is well underway and we are launched into the transition phase. As I write in March 2008, we are currently interviewing candidates for the Executive Director position.



Most of you who read this report are, like me, people who have stable incomes, supportive families and comfortable homes, so unlike the recipients of the ministry we support. We know ourselves to be those of whom Jesus said, "*From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*" (Luke 12:48)

There are many worthy ministries designed to be in service to the poor of our city. From my vantage point as a Board member with UCO for the past six years, seeing the careful and prayerful use of our always frugal resources, observing the example for the ministry that Katrine has set by her simple lifestyle and faithful, quiet but persistent advocacy for those in poverty, I urge you to continue your support with your money and your prayers.

***Barbara Faught,
Interim President***

2007 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(based on a 28 hr. salaried week)

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care *(names changed):*

This is a core aspect of UCO work. Because our task takes us onto the downtown sidewalks, UCO is one of the first to experience the effects of front-line changes and we have become adept at flexing our task around evolving conditions in downtown Ottawa. During the second half of 2007 new policing policies were implemented, resulting in safer sidewalks for everyone, including the poor. One result, whether positive or negative, is that fewer panhandlers remain on the sidewalks.

However, since 2002 UCO's task has not been primarily with the panhandling poor or the radically homeless. Our primary task on the sidewalks is with the quieter adult poor who spend much of their time in the downtown public places. Of course, we continue friendly contact with panhandlers who have known us for many years, and we make contact with similar new people for purposes of referral. But our main task on the sidewalks continues to be building relationships with marginalized adults who do not catch the main attention of the media and the general public, nor do they wish to. They do not want to be considered 'street'; people such as:

- ❖ Bert, who is disabled from the working scene and living in low-rental accommodation with many on-site problems. He gains his own sense of well-being by leaving his room and socializing with people in the public places of downtown, where he shares his life experiences and builds a small network of people around him whom he trusts and can turn to in times of need. UCO is part of that essential network.
- ❖ Sean, who has never been able to work for reasons of mental health. Sean, likewise, spends most of his days on the sidewalks but he prefers not to socialize. I consider it a privilege that he appreciates contact with me as a UCO worker, along with pastoral and prayerful affirmation of his quiet faith in Jesus Christ. This trust took months to build.

- ❖ Juanita, who is able to study part time to gain the education that she missed in her teen years. Juanita started this adult adventure with UCO, and is now able to manage within some of the regular educational programmes of the city.

Because I have chosen to live simply in the downtown core, these sidewalk relationships fill nooks and crannies of my own outdoor life, as well as regular working hours. For many years now, the UCO Board has boldly embraced the operating principle of presence over programme for its sidewalk outreach.

During 2007 I also continued to give individualized Bible study and spiritual care, (ongoing, bi-weekly), for two people who have different learning abilities and therefore do not feel at ease in regular church Bible study groups. I also made pastoral visits to clients who have moved into group homes.

UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom:

This classroom is for education, not for pastoral care. UCO's partnership classroom with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre takes place in the ROMHC facility on Carling Avenue, two afternoons a week. UCO provides the instructor (Katrine B.C.) and the instructor's salary, as well as the assistant instructor (Nadia Behmann) who generously donates her volunteer time. The ROMHC provides the Occupational Therapist (Lucy-Ann Kubina in 2007) and that salary, as well as the classroom space and ROMHC volunteers. UCO and ROMHC share the cost of workbooks and student supplies. This is the background structure of the partnership.

This is one of the few (perhaps the only) classrooms in the city where adult students may receive education with therapeutic supports within the classroom. That is why some of our students find success for the first time. All clients/students are referred by professional staff of the hospital. We offer continuous enrolment. Some plan to stay only a few weeks, for reasons of treatment, court or housing placement, or moving on to other classrooms. Some stay with us for a number of years.

During 2007 we served twenty-seven clients/students. Seven were with us throughout the year. Seventeen were with us for part of the year; three of these graduated with GED or to other classrooms of the city. In December of 2007, usual attendance each afternoon was eight to ten students. Throughout the year attendance fluctuated between five and twelve. (The low seasons are Sept/Oct. and June. Classroom closes for July/Aug.)

Clients/students worked on individualized programmes of study designed by myself (instructor) and the client, to fit their particular needs. Areas of study included basic literacy and numeracy skills, ESL, GED studies, and math upgrading for outside courses.

During 2007 I had five occupational therapy students from the University of Ottawa assigned to my classroom through the ROMHC, each for a period of six weeks. It was part of my task to mentor these students in the ways of our distinctive classroom. This interface with OT university students is a contribution that UCO makes to the bigger picture and to the next generation of care-givers.

Speaking engagements, advocacy and community networking

In 2007 I took twelve speaking engagements. Most of these were for Sunday preaching in various churches. Each time I preach the sermons are different, based on the lectionary readings for the day. I have found these Scriptures almost always speak of God's care for the poor, the disabled and the marginalized. Thus my speaking becomes Biblical advocacy for the poor, authentically based on Scripture selections not chosen by myself. Over the years this has been a measuring point for me, my indicator that I am not just taking those Scriptures that support my calling and ignoring others. UCO's mandate is rooted in Scripture and in the heart of God.

In addition, I have also met bi-monthly with directors of other poverty organizations in the city, and I have responded to requests from local churches for mentoring sessions with regard to their own outreach.

I have accepted dinner invitations at which those present have engaged me in lively conversations on the needs of the poor. I have been approached by random community people in coffee shops who have observed my client interactions and wanted to know more.

This has been a joyful, tough and life-consuming task for many years of my life.

Volunteers;

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

Nadia Behmann continued to be a wonderful support to me and the students in the UCO/ROMHC classroom in her role as UCO Assistant Instructor. I especially want to thank Nadia for stepping in at a moment's notice to cover for me when I was called out of town unexpectedly in June. **Cara Stewart** also continued to tutor one downtown student in English studies.

Behind the scenes there are many hidden volunteers who represent UCO's interests in their own churches, and **John Wice** who looks after our web page. **Sui Wai Seto** continues to graciously produce this *Year in Review* for us, despite March/April being a very busy time of year for her.

Churches and individuals who support us financially, prayerfully or logistically.

Downtown churches who lend us rooms: UCO spends no money on rental of space. All office work is done in the homes of UCO Board and Staff members. Client work is done in public venues or borrowed rooms. UCO has chosen this pathway in keeping with its commitment to 'living simply' as an organization. We thereby conserve your dollars and also keep UCO working authentically *in* the community.

ROMHC volunteers are not UCO's volunteers, but it is my task to train them on the job for the classroom and to coordinate their teamwork within the classroom. This year they have given us excellent assistance in areas of math.

My thanks to all these volunteers and groups who have made UCO's work possible in 2007.

Personally, I wish to thank all **Board Members** of 2007. They also are volunteers. Sadly, we have said goodbye to **Clint Curle**, who stepped down as President of the Board in December to pursue a new career and calling in his own life. In his years on the Board, Clint offered us faith and legal expertise in formatting policies, as well as chairing our monthly meetings in his last year and meeting with me from time to time mid-month. I am most grateful to **Barbara Faught** for stepping into the breach as *Interim President*.

Also, in late 2007 the Board welcomed two new members, **David Hayman** and **Scott Valentine**, who come to us on behalf of a growing relationship between UCO and Dominion Chalmers Church. Within UCO's unchanged and fully inter-church structures, this renewed special relationship is a great delight to all of us and to me personally. Along with **Janice Fiamengo**, **Kerry Kronberg** and **David Wice**, this is your team that is heading up a selection process for a new executive director to lead UCO into its new era.

Spiritual Advisor:

After two decades working with Ottawa's poor, it remains my firm belief that no-one should undertake this task without structured personal supports in place from people who are wise in things spiritual and secular.

For the decade of the '90's I was honoured and greatly blessed to have the wisdom of the Rev. Dr. Allen Churchill alongside me and the organization.

Since 2001 the **Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey** has served as my Spiritual Advisor in this task, and also to UCO as an organization since 2002. Anthony is an ex-officio member of the UCO Board, as I am, but unlike me, he is not required to attend Board meetings. I meet with Anthony almost monthly for in-depth discussion of poverty issues in Ottawa, for spiritual reflection and discernment with regard to Godly perspectives for the work, and for my own personal faith journey.

There have been times in this work when I could not have 'survived' without that life-line. Anthony's faith in Jesus Christ, his prayerful and astute understanding of the social and spiritual dynamics of the poverty scene, and his unwavering advocacy for Christians who choose to live simply – these are things that have helped keep me strong in my task

amongst the poor. If anyone is 'too busy' for such a role, it must surely be Anthony. But, in fact, he has never been too busy for this ongoing support.

I am sincerely grateful to Anthony and it is my urgent hope that the new staff person will find and experience the same quality of support in his/her task amongst the poor.

Up-close and personal:

Many of you, our supporters, are asking me, "What are your plans for your future?" Those of you who are friends and acquaintances, I'm sure you will hear more from me individually in the coming months. However, this is a brief outline:

*At the end of May I complete my UCO task. God willing, at that time I plan to take three months to empty my heart and mind of the wonderful and demanding preoccupations of the last two decades of ministry; three months without employment commitments. I plan to enjoy the presence of God, family and friends. I plan to have fun. I plan to keep connected in the Ottawa community, but also to be out of town sometimes. I plan to discern the first steps on a future path that honours my ongoing calling to love God and love the poor. I plan to be responsible even as I learn how to pray, "Give me **this day** my daily bread", a prayer that places me in the mainstream of New Testament faith and witness. God has blessed me with health and strength. I could have fifteen years of productive working life ahead of me. I plan to welcome input from friends and acquaintances. I plan to ask for the faith to walk this journey with its exciting and scary possibilities.*

These are my plans, but I am aware that God has over-arching plans and the only thing that really matters is to be an authentic part of that bigger picture. I hope that many other people will come to walk in the light of this great mercy and hope that come to us in Jesus Christ.

Katrine Barton-Coward
UCO Executive Director

Spiritual Advisor's Report 2007

Well this has been quite a year indeed for UCO. The Board, Katrine and those with whom Katrine partners in ministry have all been living into a time of transition in the history of UCO.

Katrine's discerned decision to move on from UCO, reported in last year's annual report, has rendered it necessary for the Board and the ministry to imagine and plan for life after Katrine. UCO is grateful for Katrine's help in offering wisdom and a context for grappling with the implications of her departure and the plans to recruit a new suitable executive director.

Meanwhile, the sidewalk ministry, the networking and the partnered work with the ROH continued. What has also continued over the past year was our monthly meetings between the months of January to April, and September to December. The hiatus between the first four months and the last four months of the year was due to my sabbatical absence from my pastoral work at Parkdale United.



In the annual report last year, I wrote of a conversation I had with Katrine's daughter regarding the emerging church movement and new monasticism. This passionate interest of mine regarding new, and yet vintage, expressions of radical Christian ministry in our postmodern times has materialized into a sabbatical experience. My journeys and immersion experiences took me to Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Nashville, Philadelphia and Cambden, New Jersey.

I was particularly interested in how these ministries commingled intentional faith formation with radical and faithful engagement with materially poor and vulnerable persons. I was truly inspired by some of what I witnessed and participated in.

As you can imagine, these learnings and experiences provided great substance for my regular meetings and reflections with Katrine, upon my return from sabbatical. UCO's relational approach to ministry amongst the poor of this city, and its privileging of presence over heavy programme, is very much consonant with the ways in which the intentional neighbourhood-based Christian communities are ministering to and with the poor.

It has been my distinct and esteemed privilege to accompany Katrine for these past seven years. Mutual learning and growth has been one of the blessings received. UCO, the individuals, organizations, and churches that support this ministry, the poor in this city and the network of poverty organizations with whom Katrine partners, have all been profoundly blessed by this servant of the living God. In the way of Jesus, Katrine has embodied and advocated for an unrelentingly seminal dimension of the gospel which we are all called and privileged to bear and to proclaim: justice and care for the poor.

Our prayers go with Katrine as she transitions to the yet to be fully discerned future that God has in store for her. I would urge you all to continue your prayerful and financial support of this ministry, for God is not finished with it yet. Once again, let us continue to discern and commit to ways in which the fulsomeness of the gospel – including our presence with and care for the poor – may be incarnated in our discipleship.

*"...I command you, you shall open wide your hand to...the needy and to the poor, in the land."
Deuteronomy 15:11*

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey
Spiritual Advisor, UCO

Treasurer’s Report

For the year ending December 31, 2007

In 2007 Urban Christian Outreach expenses were \$3,697.23 greater than our income. This left us with a balance of \$7,015.78 to start 2008. With faith we move forward doing God’s work the urban poor.

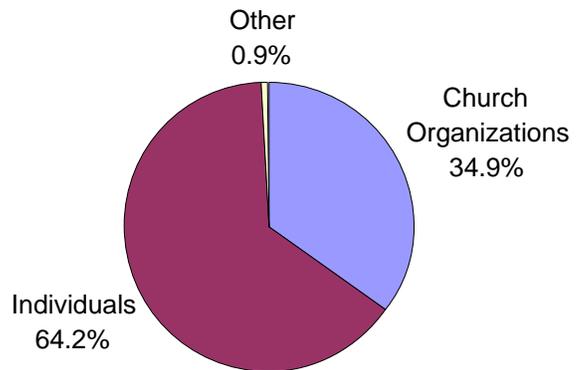
In November, the Board approved a budget of \$58,856 for 2008. This budget is 30% larger than our 2007 budget as it covers a three month employment overlap of Katrine and the new Executive Director to facilitate training. Change is challenging but God will see us through.

Additional financial details are available upon request.

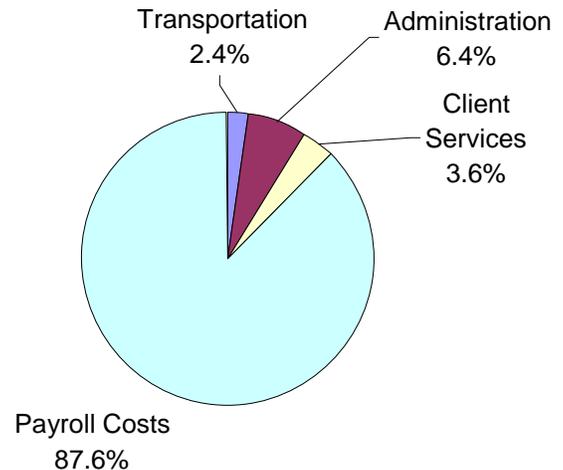
Respectfully Submitted,

David Wice
Treasurer

2007 Income \$42,134.79



2007 Expenses \$45,832.02



UCO Board of Directors

As of 18 March, 2008

Barbara Faught
Janice Fiamengo
David Wice
David Hayman
Kerry Kronberg
Scott Valentine

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (*Ex-officio*)
Katrine Barton-Coward (*Ex-officio*)

Interim President
Secretary
Treasurer
Director
Director
Director

Spiritual Advisor
Executive Director