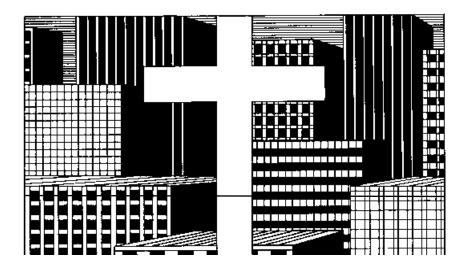
Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)



2016 Year in Review (Issued May 2017)

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.

ADDRESS:

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Annual Report from the President of UCO for 2016

Dear Friends,

How deeply grateful we are for the open caring hearts you show to those in need of love! Your prayers and support of our UCO ministry allows God's love to thrive in downtown Ottawa.

Lately, my thoughts seem to linger on the idea of 'compassion'. Canadians have been enthusiastic in offering safety and a new life for refugees fleeing from the current ravages in Syria. And my heart warms when I see signs (in Arabic) posted on neighbour's lawns expressing their welcome, "No matter where you are from, we are glad that you are our neighbour". I am wondering though, can we truly with our human limitations, love those who are different from us? It does not seem natural. In fact back in Victorian times, most held a hard-line belief that 'down-and-outs' had made bad choices, and just needed to pull up their boot-straps to regain the respect of society. Tough, yes! Regretfully it revives memories for me when during my young adult days, incidents occurred several times when friends betrayed me. I resolved to develop a crust of protection so others could not cause such hurt. It seemed so easy to harden my heart. Is it at this time that pride flourishes, giving us the self-satisfaction of dealing with the rigours of life?

Christian compassion means to suffer for and with others, and to take action. Jesus certainly did that within his short life here. He taught, "Love each other in the same way I have loved you." John 15:12 (NLT), and he invites us, "Come to me, all of you who are weary, and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble, and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." (Matt. 11: 28-30) His miracles of feeding the hungry masses, healing the blind, the lame, and the sick, reflect his Father's power and love, and show us what real compassion looks like!

As my term is ending, I am exceedingly grateful to have served on the Board of UCO. We are on a journey as God does his work in us and through us. I have gained confidence in praying out loud in varied settings, and have learned much from my friendship with Jill Wilson, an amazing spirit-filled woman of God! Shadowing her on the sidewalk helped me to overcome any fear and judgment I had held previously. It was so good to realize through praying with our friends, just how many are experiencing real hope. Recently, too, at our Alpha Retreat, I had offered to help out in the kitchen, but as individuals dropped by to chat, we shared our stories of disappointments, and some of the injustices of life. Yet there was JOY and a calming PEACE in our hearts in receiving the love of Jesus! My eyes are being opened! God had me serving, but I have received so much more. I finally see that yes, we can be and do far more in offering compassion. Let us remember Paul's words, "Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your creator, and become like him.....Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience...." (Colossians 3:10-15).

Urban Christian Outreach will soon be celebrating 25 years (spring 2018) of serving the poor and marginalized here. We are ever thankful for your commitment in the work set before us. I encourage you though, to take one small step more. God does have a plan for your growth. Based on my experience, be assured that He will provide whatever is necessary to make it happen. There are varied opportunities to serve, whether on the Board, volunteering in the Literacy programme at The Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre, or shadowing Jill for a morning on the sidewalk; I know you will see God at work!

May the Peace of our Lord be with You!

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Appleton President, UCO

<u>Urban Christian Outreach</u> <u>Spiritual Advisor's Report 2016</u>

There is a prayer that I have taped to the monitor of my office computer. I pray this prayer regularly. It catches my eye at various times in the day when I happen to be using my computer; I do not tire of praying this prayer. It goes like this:

Lover of the unlovable, we are captives of the world. Recapture our loyalties, not by defeating our will but by drawing it to yours. Seize our spirits, not by forcing us into your grasp but by freeing us from sin. Adore us, love us, desire and seek us. Our ears strain for the sound of you, our eyes for the sight of you; our hearts tremble in anticipation of your presence. Come into our midst, Lord, and make us your captives.

It is a prayer that soberly and honestly recognizes the discontinuity between our deepest longings and our too-often lived reality. There is so much in the world, in the headlines, in the self-centredness of our own hearts, that bend us out of shape and cause us to forget who we are, and whose we are. We need first to realize this captivity and this 'misshapenness'. We need God's grace to guide us back home.

This prayer is about yearning for God's authentic, passionate embrace; about wanting to come home....again and again. I also like that it is a prayer offered in the plural...it is offered on behalf of the community. Our home is meant to be in God, but things like busyness, misplaced priorities, grief, compassion fatigue, indifference and the like, cause us at times to forget where we 'live'. "In him we live, move and have our being..." (Acts 17:28)

Do you remember the famous painter Rembrandt? He had great tragedy in his life. He lost his wife, three sons, two daughters and the two women with whom he lived. After that early rise to fame, his notoriety evaporated, he squandered his fortune and even had to sell his house and art collection to survive. He became very despondent.

However, shortly before his death, Rembrandt, in the words of one author, would "shed his vanity and pride as he came to know the heart of God". The result of this shedding, this reconnection with God, would be the painting of his famous Prodigal Son. I say reconnection because at an early age, Rembrandt was enthralled by the human drama and pathos of the Bible stories his mother used to read to him.



Rembrandt came home to God, and in essence, to himself. Commenting on this painting in his own book titled Return of the Prodigal Son (1992), Henri Nouwen wrote,

"As I look at the prodigal son kneeling before his father and pressing his face against his chest, I cannot but see there the once so confident artist who has come to the painful realization that all the glory he had gathered for himself proved to be vain. Instead of rich garments...he now wears only a torn undergarment covering his emaciated body." Nouwen is in part referring to the fact that Rembrandt regularly painted his likeness into his paintings. In the Prodigal Son, the father is a self-portrait. Nouwen goes on to say,

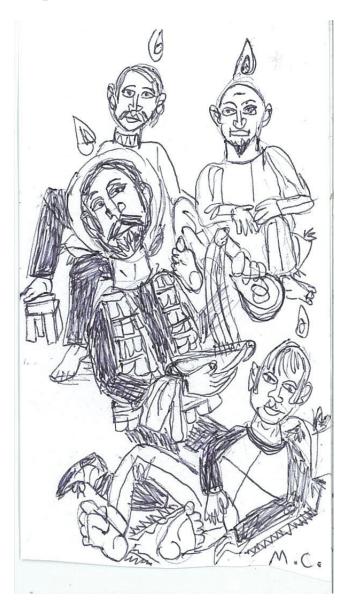
"Created in the image of God, Rembrandt had come to discover through his long, painful struggle the true nature of that image...Everything comes together here: Rembrandt's story, humanity's story, and God's story. Time and eternity intersect; approaching death and everlasting life touch each other."

The work that Jill – supported by the Board of UCO - is undertaking with those seeking faith, experiencing poverty, struggling with mental health and addictions, as well as other challenges, is about helping folks come home to God and health and sobriety and love. Could it be that God is also seeking to call the wider community of Christians and Churches to be made captives of God and of God's will? Are we indeed living where God lives, or do we also need to come home. God does not only want us to come home to faith and intimacy with God through Christ, but also to live out what that means to not "turn away from your own flesh and blood." Isaiah 58:7

When we are at home in the heart of God and the will of God, we tend to love what God loves, help those whom God helps, and want what God wants. The scriptures and the testimony of Jesus' life, words, and actions declares God's plan to rescue the world; particularly those who are vulnerable, poor and suffering. UCO needs people who are steadfast in prayer, open to volunteer and serve in this ministry and financially generous. May our longing for God match our longing for what God commands.

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded (i.e. generous) toward those who are poor and needy in your land. Deut. 15:11

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



2016 Annual Report from the Executive Director

(Based on a 28 – hour salaried week)

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. Jeremiah 29:14 ESV

I recently had the privilege of studying the Bible with a UCO friend in a coffee shop. Reflecting on a verse from the Book of Job, she said, "He lost everything, but he didn't lose God."

At Urban Christian Outreach, we are blessed to be called to sit with Jesus among the poor, the homeless and the marginalized. In the midst of their suffering, in the midst of their pain, in the midst of their enormous losses, God is ever at work in the ministry of restoration. During our Bible study, our friend reminded me that no matter what we lose – spouses, siblings, children, homes, money, reputations - God is with us – Emmanuel, and he is compelled to restore us, just as he restored his servant, Job. Not just in the midst of 'their' pain, but in the midst of 'our' pain. Whether we are called to be the homeless one, or the helper sent; the drug addict or the supporter, we are all in need of our Lord's restoring and redemptive love.

Recently, during a telephone conversation with a UCO supporter, I was moved by her stories of loss, and how through God's amazing love, she had been restored. It caused me to think of my own journey, and to be grateful for the peace that Jesus left for me and for you, and how His peace, his mercy, and his grace have been more than sufficient in my own recovery from loss. Each one of us has suffered loss.

I'm sure that if we took the time to hear one another's testimonies, we would be amazed, and we would grow in compassion for one another. By the grace of God, and through our own experiences of suffering and restoration, can we offer others the compassion that Jesus has shown to us.

Nothing is too difficult for our Lord to heal: mental illness, the disease of addiction, poverty, physical illness, broken hearts, broken relationships; he gently heals us, restores us, redeems us, reconciles us, to Him, and to one another. This is our calling at UCO: to be the hands and feet of Jesus – to preach the Gospel message of hope and salvation to those who are struggling in our midst. And what a privilege and blessing it is, that The Father would entrust us with the care of the hearts of his people.

Sidewalk Outreach and Pastoral Care

I met Eric (not his real name) at a soup kitchen last year. Recently divorced and grieving, Eric had lost hope in the God he once knew. He had prayed for his marriage and struggled to understand why it had failed. Feeling rejected and alone, Eric turned to alcohol and drugs to find comfort. His life spiralled downward from there. He quit his job, and struggled to maintain housing. He made some decisions that he now regrets, and he is working to get his life back on track. Through prayer, Christian fellowship, and professional help, Eric is finding his way back to God, one day at a time.

Jane (not her real name) is a single mom whom we recently started to meet with. She doesn't know Jesus, but she is open to our prayers. We have referred her to an agency for help with furniture and household items, and we are helping her to write a resume in hopes of finding part-time employment.

Jane often calls us in a panic, reacting to her circumstances out of fear. Please pray for Jane's faith to increase, and for her fear to decrease, as she learns to put her trust in God. She says that she doesn't know how she would cope without us. I offered to lend her some of my faith until she gets her own, and she gratefully accepted.

Martin (not his real name) was recently evicted again. He is angry and confused. His mental illness caused him to make some poor choices, including forgetting to take his medications. He is back living in a shelter, and we are working with him to rebuild his life, by building up a support network around him, and by meeting with him regularly for a meal, for prayer, and to offer encouragement and practical help.

The StreetAlpha Course

Thank you, dear supporters, for your faithfulness in helping us to run another Alpha Course in 2016. What an enormous blessing it was, not only for our guests, but for our leadership team, as well. We thank God for all the wonderful volunteers to helped us to experience God's love first-hand. We are so grateful to Elanor Nigh, Donna Appleton, Mary-Anne Zwicker, Richard and Karen Gilman, Fran and Mike Rushton, and to the Staff and Clergy of St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican Church. We all became a family during this course, as we drew nearer to Jesus and to one another.

We have recently had a kind offer from a church who are willing to prepare and deliver a meal for our Alpha guests this coming fall, and we are asking God to raise up more church groups or individuals who may be able to help us in this way. It is our hope and prayer to be able to offer another course this fall.

Bible Study

Jesus joins us in urban areas as we open our Bibles to study God's Word written. Bible study with our UCO friends continues to be a highlight of my week. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Luke 6:20 ESV

How true this is, as we see God's kingdom come during this time. Words leap off the pages, and our Lord reveals his truth in ways that we couldn't imagine. He imparts beautiful wisdom to our UCO friends; even they are amazed at how God speaks to them through Scripture.



UCO/ROMHC Adult Education Classroom

Our partnership with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre continues to be a blessing, where we work alongside Occupational Therapists (OT's) and volunteers to deliver an Adult Education Program in a classroom setting. Enrolment was down at the beginning of the school year, but increased as the months went on. Many new students joined returning students; they worked on a variety of subjects including math, history, science, English reading and writing, food safety, and G.E.D. (High school equivalency) and I.L.C. (Independent Learning Centre) credits. Students are welcome to join our classroom anytime between September and June, as enrolment is ongoing. They can access our classroom as an inpatient or outpatient by referral from their doctor or OT.

Speaking Engagements, Advocacy, and Community Networking

We are giving thanks to God for the churches and organizations who supported us last year through their Missions tithes and offerings, by inviting us to speak to their congregation or small group, by printing our quarterly newsletters, through their prayer support, by offering us rooms in which to meet as a Board, and for gifts of clothing and toiletries for the poor. We give thanks to God for:

Parkdale United Church
St. Peter & St. Paul Anglican Church,
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Dominion Chalmers United Church
The Metropolitan Bible Church
Kanata United Church
The United Way
Trinity Presbyterian Church
St. Vincent de Paul
Canadian Bible Society
Tucker House Retreat Centre

So as to keep our costs to a minimum, Urban Christian Outreach doesn't rent office space. Instead, Board members, staff and volunteers work from their homes and out of borrowed rooms in downtown churches and businesses, etc. We give thanks to God for St. Peter & St. Paul's Anglican Church (ANIC) for their faithfulness and generosity in providing us with a room in which to hold our Board meetings.

Once again, we are praising God for **Monique Choquette**, whose beautiful art graces the pages of our reports. Monique has been gifted to interpret Scripture in the form of art, and after many years of faithful service to UCO, we have been able to self-publish a beautiful book of Monique's work. This book will on display next year at our 25th Anniversary celebration event. We extend our sincere gratitude to Monique for her beautiful faithfulness.

UCO's Financial Supporters

Through your faithfulness and generosity, Urban Christian Outreach has been able to minister for another year on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. By God's Grace, we hope to celebrate 25 Years of ministry to the poor in 2018. We endeavour to keep our expenses to a minimum, and to be good stewards of your donated dollars. We thank God for you and remember you in our prayers. He knows our needs, and we are in awe each time a donation appears in our little mailbox, or electronically through PayPal, via your United Way donations, or through our PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program. Often, a donation will arrive just in time to pay a bill. We are learning to trust God no matter what our circumstances are. We are praying that God will bless UCO in extra ways this coming year, that we might not fall behind on our financial commitments, and that we might be able to reach even more people in need.

We are in need of donations to cover sidewalk ministry expenses, such as food, coffee, bus tickets, skills development expenses, and basic classroom and sidewalk literacy supplies. We need donations in order to cover my salary, payroll deductions, liability insurance, through Robertson Hall Insurance Company, Workman's Compensation fees, telephone and internet fees, photocopying and printing fees, stamps and envelopes, etc.

We have been encouraged this past year by your generosity. How faith-building and encouraging it has been for me when my prayers to our Lord for a specific amount to cover specific expenses has been answered with a donation of the same amount. He knows our needs before we ask, but still I am always amazed when I pray, "Lord, we need \$750 to cover some expenses", and a cheque will arrive in the mail.

I thank God for you each time this happens, because I know that when I ask him, he puts our needs on your hearts, and you hear him and respond. What a witness! Thank you, dear friends. Thank you for praying. Thank you for having faith. Thank you for responding. Thank you for trusting our Lord to provide for all of your needs. Thank you for your sacrifices.

"For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of is great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his

right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." Ephesians 1:15-23

UCO Volunteers

We are also giving thanks to God for our faithful volunteers who enrich our ministry and help us to reach out to more people. They have given so freely of their time and money, and we give thanks to God. Elanor Nigh, blessed us once again with her gifts of Worship as she so beautifully led us to the foot of the Cross each week at our Street Alpha Course, as well as during our Holy Spirit Retreat. She worked tirelessly, also helping to set up and clean up! We give glory to God for Elanor! Pamela Lawes, continued to work one on one with one of our UCO friends, meeting bi-weekly, to support her and to help her with literacy, math, knitting and sewing. Pamela also supported our friends downtown during my 3-month Sabbatical last summer, Her gifts of teaching, encouragement and faithfulness have been a blessing to us all. We are also grateful for the beautiful, knitted hats and scarves that Pamela knits. We give thanks to God for Hazel Buckingham, for her faithfulness as a volunteer teacher in our classroom at the Royal Ottawa. Hazel's calm presence and gifts of encouragement and teaching helped our students to achieve their goals.

UCO Board Members

UCO is so blessed to have a small group of very dedicated and faithful Board members. They have offered such enormous support to me over the years, and particularly last year. The gifts of The Holy Spirit are clearly at work in and through them. They oversee the work of UCO, and bring gifts of wisdom, discernment, encouragement and faith to our ministry. I am so humbly grateful to each one of them, for their guidance, friendship and love. I thank God for Donna Appleton, our Board President, who has so faithfully and beautifully served UCO for the past 6 years. Her faith is as strong as it gets – she is a woman of God with a servant heart, who demonstrates all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. I have grown as a Christian under her leadership in so many ways, and I am tearing up as I write this, as Donna will be stepping down as President this spring, having fulfilled a 6-year term. Please join me as we give praise to God for Donna, and as we wish her all of God's blessings on the next chapter of her walk with Him. His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' Matthew 25:21 We are also giving thanks to God for Mary-Anne Zwicker, who has also given 6 years of faithful ministry to UCO, as Board member, and for many years as Treasurer. Mary-Anne has so generously offered to step into the role of UCO President, and we are so grateful to her for extending her commitment on the Board to see us into our 25th year of ministry to the poor. Mary-Anne has worked tirelessly to keep our books in order, and her calm and patient spirit have demonstrated her faith and trust in God to provide. We thank God for Mary-Anne. Please pray for her as she is called into her new leadership role. We are also so grateful for Marilyn Rennick, a former UCO Board member and President, for serving an extra two years on our Board as Interim Board Member.

Marilyn's days on the Board during Katrine's era, and her extensive knowledge of Missions work, have been an enormous asset to UCO. We wish Marilyn all of God's blessings. We also give thanks to God for Mike Donison, a practising lawyer, for his knowledge, faithfulness and wisdom, and for his extensive Board experience. Mike has been graciously helping with a new campaign for UCO as we prepare to celebrate 25 years, and we are grateful for his service in this area. We thank our Lord for Mary Hackett, for her contributions to our Board, for her wisdom, prayers, and for her willingness to help. Mary brings leadership skills, having served in the past as CEO of the National Capital YMCA-YWCA. We are grateful for Graeme Watson, our newest Board member, who will be taking over the role of Treasurer for UCO. Graeme brings gifts of faith and administration. We have persevered in prayer for 2 years, asking God to raise up a new Treasurer; we thank God for his faithfulness in answering our prayers.

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

The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Senior Minister at Parkdale United Church has been an enormous blessing to UCO for many years. Anthony's support for our ministry as UCO's Spiritual Advisor and as my personal Spiritual Director, as well as Ex-Officio Member of UCO's Board, has blessed us with a Spiritual covering and has given us a continuity of solid, Biblical oversight. Anthony is a true man of God, who has a heart for the poor and marginalized. Anthony oversees his church's In From the Cold program, in which he and his congregation go the extra mile to serve God's poor among us. His ministry is one of compassion, and we give thanks to God for Anthony, for the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit which are so evident in his life and for his continued, faithful service to Urban Christian Outreach.

UCO's Webmaster

We are giving thanks to God for **Josiah Milne**, UCO's faithful Webmaster extraordinaire. Josiah not only designed our new website, but has been so faithful in keeping it up to date. Josiah is a young man with the heart of Jesus, and we are so blessed to have him as a member of UCO's community.

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

I am always in awe, at how God has blessed UCO with **Jean Gallant**, a beautiful woman of God and a faithful prayer warrior! We get together on occasion, but more often either via telephone or text, to pray. I am so grateful to God and to Jean, that no matter where I am, in the midst of drug users downtown, or with a UCO friend in despair on a park bench, I can send a quick prayer-request text to Jean, knowing that she will cover us in prayer, and that help is on the way. The Lord is always near to us.



We thank God for our partnership with the Canadian Bible Society, who provide us with Bibles, and other materials, free-of-charge, for distribution 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 God's grace, I was able to take a 3-month Sabbatical rest at home, last summer.

UCO's 25th Anniversary Committee

Would you like to join our 25th Anniversary planning committee? We will have our first meeting in September, and will meet once a month until the spring (weather permitting) to plan our 25th Anniversary Celebration. Please leave a message for Jill at 613-233-6633.

Friends, you are part of our UCO family, partnering with us in prayer, with your time, and with your sacrificial offerings, to serve our Lord and his friends on the sidewalks of downtown Ottawa. We give thanks and praise to God for you; because of you, we are able to share the hope that we have in Christ Jesus.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Respectfully Submitted, Jill Wilson, Executive Director, UCO

UCO Treasurer's Report for 2016

Total income for the year 2016 was \$41,344.61. Our budget target was \$55,000.00.

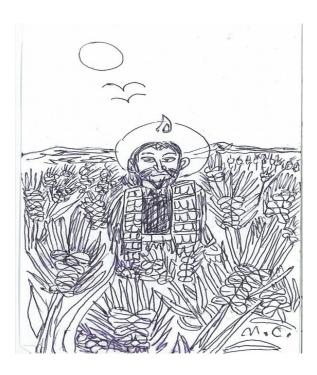
Total expenses were \$42,131.98. Our budgeted expenses \$46,565.00.

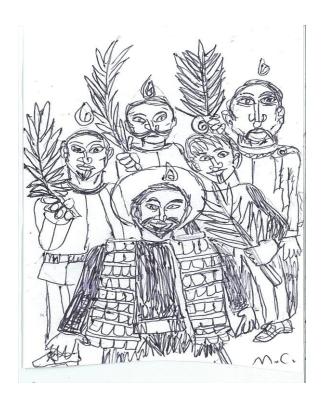
Income was below budget by \$13,655.39 and expenses were below budget by \$4,433.02.

Budgeted surplus was \$8,435.00 but the end of year loss was \$787.37.

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

- · Individuals 65.6%
- · Churches & Organizations 34.4%





The breakdown of year 2016 expenses is as follows:

- · Payroll costs/programming 78.4%
- · Administration 14.6%
- · Client Services 7.0%

Respectfully submitted, Mary-Anne Zwicker, UCO Treasurer

UCO Board of Directors

As of May 31, 2017:

Donna Appleton Mary-Anne Zwicker Mike Donison Mary Hackett Graeme Watson The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (Ex-officio) Jill Wilson (Ex-officio)