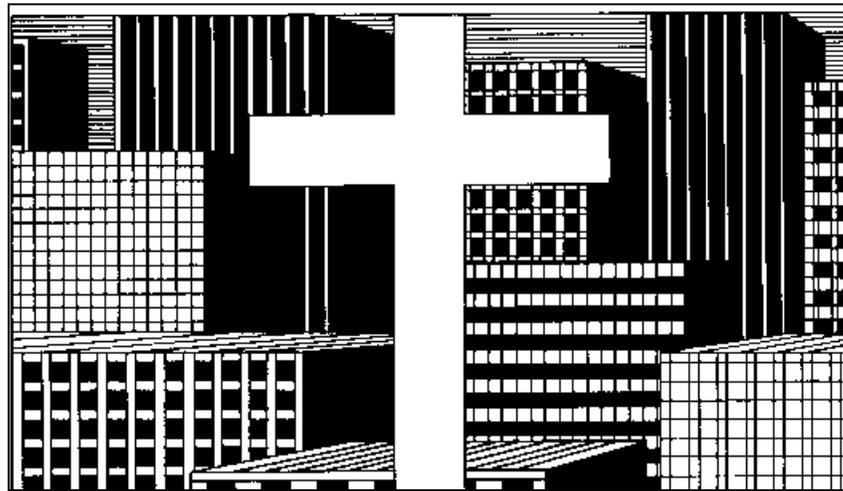


*Urban Christian Outreach
(Ottawa)*



*2005 Year in Review
(issued April 2006)*

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa) Incorporated
is a registered charitable organization founded in 1993.
Charitable Registration # 13776 1938 RR0001

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

The main purposes of Urban Christian Outreach are: to establish contact with those in the city of Ottawa who are struggling to survive spiritually, physically, or psychologically; and to mitigate the effects of urban isolation on the life of the individual.

We do this by pointing people towards a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ; and offering ongoing pastoral and practical care, including Christian education, street literacy and life-skills tutoring.

Staff engage in mobile outreach on the streets, and in the coffee shops, parks and other communal places of the city. We especially (but not exclusively) develop ongoing relationships with those whose fragilities make it difficult for them to function in group settings. We seek to be present to their need, even when there are no apparent solutions, thereby offering hope, respect and dignity to the individual.

Urban Christian Outreach works in co-operation with other agencies by referring clients to social, medical, shelter, educational, employment and Christian organizations that will further expand the individual's personal network within the community, and will serve his/her various needs.

The heart of the work is relational. However, from time to time Urban Christian Outreach may develop structured programs and projects that are in keeping with the central focus of enhancing the well-being of those who are experiencing urban isolation and deprivation. This will be done according to the needs of the clients and the qualifications of current staff.

The geographical area of outreach and projects is within a five-mile radius of Parliament Hill (Ontario only). Follow-up may take us into other areas of the city, for home, hospital and jail visits.

We engage in dialogue and speaking engagements with individuals and groups, to promote a wider understanding of existing needs, and to search out possible solutions.

ADDRESS:

Urban Christian Outreach (Ottawa)
PO Box 23071
2121 Carling Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K2A 4E2
PHONE: (613) 233-6633

Website: www.uco-ottawa.ca

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Recognizing Our Riches

by Allen Macartney

It's really comfortable for me living at the top of the world's economic pyramid. Of course, I don't *feel* as if I'm there. I've never owned a new car, and probably never will. I can't afford southern cruises in winter. Club Med? Nope. "Club Algonquin Park" fits our family budget much better.

I don't feel rich, yet well-known statistics testify otherwise. We've all heard them.... "If you have any money in your pocket, a bank account, and a dish at home with spare change, you're richer than 92% of the rest of the world's population." Wow!

But why don't I, and millions of other Canadians, feel rich? Why can't so many people rid themselves of a sense that everyone else is slightly, or far, ahead of them economically? Could it be a result of the constant diet of advertisements that PR firms feed us from billboards, posters, TV, and radio? According to news reports, Canadians see about 2,500 advertisements *each day*. They all have two common messages: (1) your life isn't as happy or fulfilling or exciting as it could be, and (2) buy our product and you'll take a giant step closer to earthly heaven.

Ottawa's poor see and hear these advertisements as they live their lives surrounded by other people's luxury and wealth that is far beyond their means. Caught in a poverty trap, the effect is often predictable: a sense of hopelessness, envy, and loneliness. That's where UCO comes in, sharing the hope of God's great love for them as individuals, and bringing the encouragements of pastoral and spiritual care to many who have lost all hope. Living in a city of great wealth – as Ottawa is – can emotionally wear some poor people down.

UCO also plays a critical role by teaching adults in the Royal Ottawa Hospital, offering a classroom for adult basic literacy, GED studies and English as a Second Language. These students yearn for a verifiable achievement. They get to taste real victory – sometimes for the first time in their entire life.

Katrine Barton-Coward, our Executive Director, has a compassionate heart committed to Jesus. Her almost 20 years experience working with the poor

makes her ideally suited to the many tasks that require Christian compassion and discretion. She continues to build long-term and respectful relationships with clients, churches and fellow workers in sister agencies. UCO is very lucky and blessed to have her on staff. Please continue to pray for her work, and her safety.

The Past and Future

During the past year UCO's Board handled many issues, including those dealing with insurance, incorporation, by-law updates, as well as brainstorming for the future. Board members also provided ongoing guidance, support and direction to Katrine. Last May we held a very productive, half-day retreat during which UCO's Spiritual Advisor (Anthony Bailey) spoke to us about his vision for UCO and various needs related to poverty.

As I finish my term as President, I'd like to thank Clint Curle for taking over the President's responsibilities. Not only a dedicated Christian with lots of experience working with the poor, Clint brings to the work a great sense of humour and a dynamically creative mind. I'd also like to thank Sui Wai Seto (UCO's Treasurer, and Board member for six years) for her single-minded devotion to the Kingdom's work through UCO. As she leaves the Board we will miss her quick wit and smile, not to mention her patience as she has guided Board members through complex financial statements each month. David Wice, another committed Christian and Board member, will be taking over the Treasurer's tasks. In addition to Katrine, your other Board members include Diane Moyer, me and Barbara Faught.

Thank you for your continued financial support and prayers. The role you play in this Christ-centred ministry is vital! May Christ our Saviour bless you and keep you in his work forever. And may He show all of us the true depth and height of our real and immediate riches in Him.

In His service,
Allen Macartney
President



Executive Director's Report

"...If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday ... you shall raise up the foundations of many generations, you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in." (Isaiah 58:10-12, RSV)

The work of UCO is rooted in ongoing, caring relationships. Many of Ottawa's poor have been deprived of life-giving, steady relationships. Alongside the vital work of agencies that must necessarily focus on processing large numbers of people through 'the system' of supports, UCO takes the liberty to linger alongside the lives of some of the individuals who seek out our care. And in lingering, we rejoice at the healing work of God in a person's life over the months and years; in lingering, we preserve that person's life-line that may be needed in the future; and in lingering, I personally learn how to serve these people better as I discover more about the redemptive ways of God in the complexities of our urban poverty scene.

We have a Saviour who chose to come among us in simplicity and poverty, a Saviour who was fully at home amongst the rich and the poor, a Saviour who spoke and acted boldly against entrenched power that serves its own ends at the expense of the poor. This is the One who soiled his hands with the healing of sick people. This is the One who dirtied his feet with the dust of the city, and lived out his own life sharing many of the limitations of the poor. This is the One who gave his life for the salvation of the world, one by one.

As a Christian outreach ministry, how do we measure up?

Sidewalk outreach, client appointment work and community links (names changed):

"Hi, Teach!" said a lively voice from the back of a crowded city bus – and there was Mo, eager to catch up on news. Mo is a young man who was in UCO's care briefly for English as a Second Language. He proudly told me the good news about his new job in a restaurant.

An unknown woman approached me on a downtown street. "Can you help me find a place to stay for the night?" she asked. As I walked with her to an agency that has an experienced emergency housing worker, she told me some of her very complex and heart-breaking story as a newcomer to this country. She was delighted to discover that we were both Christians and these moments became moments of faith-sharing and prayer, as well as practical help. There was no hint of self-pity in her demeanour.

Peter met me coming out of a community centre. He had been a client of UCO in the past. His eyes lit up as he told me about the new opportunities that have opened up for him in volunteer work.

Jane meets with me regularly in the coffee shops and in a downtown church room, for Bible Study, prayer and sharing. She has experienced radical change in her life during this past year, changes that threatened the stability of her mental health. But God has developed deep roots of faith in Jane, and within the framework of her mental illness she has found spiritual resources in Christ to sustain her. She is much stronger than she was three years ago.

During 2005, once again scores of people welcomed intermittent contact with UCO on the sidewalks. Some meet by appointment for regular and specific pastoral or educational care, but many are not able to keep appointments. Some are not able to manage within the community life of drop-in centres. Long-term worker presence on the downtown sidewalks is especially important for these people.

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

Also, I was the invited speaker for gospel teaching on five occasions at another ministry's street level coffee house.

In 2005 I continued to meet semi-monthly with the directors of three other Christian agencies that work with the poor, for mutual prayerful support and dialogue on issues of our work.

For many years in our education work, UCO has been positioned on a bridge between mental health workers and literacy instructors in the Ottawa area, without seeing much communication between the two professional fields. (Our teamwork experience with the ROH being a notable exception).

Eighteen months ago UCO was delighted to share in the landmark formation of a dialogue forum between key groups in the two fields. Through this committee, mental health workers and literacy instructors are pooling their expertise to serve their mutual clients even more effectively. Nadia Behmann continued to represent UCO on this committee. During 2005, the committee organized two day-long workshops for staff from each field in the Ottawa area.

In May, I participated in a cross-country colloquium on *Criminalization and Mental Illness*. This was a rare three-day event drawing together 230 social workers, service providers, police and mental health workers for information-sharing and cross -connecting with regard to perspectives on these issues. There was a special emphasis on the court diversion programme. The event was funded by a government grant and held at the University of Western Ontario under the auspices of CAREMH (The Consortium for Applied Research and Evaluation in Mental Health).

UCO/ROH Adult Education Class

UCO continues its formal partnership with the Royal Ottawa Hospital (psychiatric), to provide a classroom setting within the psychiatric hospital for adults to study Math and English etc., two afternoons a week. Our students are clients of the hospital, in-patient or out-patient, and are referred by doctors and professional staff of the hospital.

At the end of December 2005, we had sixteen students registered, some for one afternoon, some for both – with usual attendance per class from 9 - 11. We offer continuous enrolment as space permits, and others were waiting to be interviewed when space becomes available.

As UCO instructor, I am responsible for determining individualized courses of study to fit each student's needs. We continue to receive adult students enrolling at basic literacy levels. Others are studying for their General Education Diploma (GED); this may take several years to complete. Yet others are attending for bridging purposes as they seek to re-gain academic skills after a period of mental illness. This year we have seen an increased number of ESL students at early stages of English language skills. Students get excited about learning. Visiting professionals are astonished at the concentration and hard work of our students. They are a wonderful group.

A distinctive feature of the classroom is the on-site, active partnership between the student, the instructor and the occupational therapists. We are especially grateful to Lucy-Ann Kubina, ROH Occupational Therapist, who coordinates referrals, partners with me in the classroom as she looks after any therapeutic needs, and works on behalf of student needs at other times of the week when UCO is not present in the hospital. Without her commitment and energy this classroom could not happen.

Nadia Behmann taught the class four times in my absence, as UCO assistant to me in the classroom.. Nadia also volunteered on a regular basis. It is wonderful to have her support in this task. And we could not have managed this style of semi-tutorial teaching without the ROH volunteers and OT students from the University of Ottawa. (See *volunteers*).

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

Preaching, speaking engagements and mentoring

Profiling the needs of the poor within a Biblical framework, and sharing UCO's expertise – these are both vital parts of my task.

In addition to Coffee House speaking, in 2005 I spoke twelve times in the church community. Most of these events were Sunday preaching, with some speaking in church groups, mission festival presentations, and lecturing to adult students in Dr. Bailey's course with the Ottawa Lay School of Theology.

During 2005 I received calls from church ministers and lay leaders for purposes of dialogue with regard to available poverty supports, and for informal partnership to assist people one by one. In addition, I personally met with individual young adults who wanted to know about poverty issues on the Ottawa scene. I also kept contact with previous short term staff and volunteers who are now working, travelling and serving God in various parts of the world.

Prayer

The constraints of confidentiality seem to be no deterrent to UCO's praying community. Many UCO supporters pray faithfully for our staff, clients and Board, with necessarily limited information. Church mission groups pray for us. Some churches

pray for Urban Christian Outreach by name from their pulpits. Prayer is not an optional extra. It's the breath of life for this work.

Volunteers

Many thanks to our volunteers who worked directly with the clients:

Cara Stewart continued to share her skills and good cheer, in tutoring English writing for UCO. She is currently travelling the world and she still keeps in touch with us. We look forward to her return later in 2006.

Nadia Behmann continued to represent UCO on the committee for instructors and mental health workers. In addition to teaching the UCO/ROH class occasionally in my absence, she also volunteers her time in the classroom. Nadia brings faith, commitment and much teaching experience to this task. I very much appreciate her partnership in these aspects of UCO's work.

ROH volunteers are not UCO's volunteers, but I share in the responsibility for screening potential classroom volunteers, and it is my task to train them 'on the job' and to coordinate their teamwork within the UCO/ROH classroom. What a fine, dedicated group of people! They offer dignity, humour and new skills to our students.

Every year UCO depends on **hidden volunteers** – those who represent UCO's interests within their own church. Those who pray. Those who provide just the right thing at just the right moment. **Monique Choquette** continues to sew beautiful scarves and drawstring bags as gifts for people in need. **John Wice** looks after our web page. Thank you, to all of you.

UCO Board members are all volunteers and there is much work that needs to be done to keep a registered charity in good order. I am most grateful for the kind of dedication that works faithfully behind the scenes on essential Board related tasks.

I would especially like to thank **Sui Wai Seto**, our outgoing treasure after six years of service (UCO Constitution requires that Board members take a break after six years). Sui Wai has been more than a wonderful treasurer. She has become a friend and colleague to me alongside the UCO work, anticipating my needs, connecting with UCO student interns, and in past years coming amongst the clients with me. I am bold enough to believe that we are not really 'losing' her.

Also, I reserve a unique 'thank you' for **Allen Macartney**, who saw UCO's need and stepped into the position of President of the Board despite the strategically important and high pressure demands of his own career. Allen served UCO faithfully for two years as President and we are glad he plans to remain on the Board as **Clint Curle** takes on that role.

All board members have played a vital role, often in the midst of health and career stresses. Thank you.

Once again, I am indebted to **the Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey** (Senior Minister of Parkdale United Church) for sharing with me his time, insight and commitment to Christ in his role as Spiritual Advisor to me and to Urban Christian Outreach. He is engaged with us in helping us discern the future path of UCO's development. There is no-one who has encouraged me more in this current era of ministry. Thank you.

Staff and clients of UCO are most grateful to all these people, and to our **supporting churches and individuals**.

The future

January 2006 marks UCO's thirteenth birthday. These years represent more than two thirds of my time amongst Ottawa's poor. There's deep gratitude in my heart for the privilege of serving Christ, the churches, and Christ's poor in this way. Whilst remaining open to God's direction and re-direction at any time, my calling is still to this city and its poor.

UCO is now a 'teenager'. Teenage years are full of opportunity, turbulence, pitfalls and potential. UCO has had a good 'childhood', nurtured by the faith, finances and hard work of the Christian community. Those who are close to this organization are excited and vigilant for the future adult. This young teenager has already achieved successes that are valuable to Christ and to society. Her strengths are beginning to clarify, areas of speciality are becoming focused and choices are being made -- choices that will determine the organization's future shape, in the hands of God.

Teenage years should not be short-circuited. Teenagers need these transition years to become stable, well-balanced adults. Likewise, Urban Christian Outreach is looking towards change and maturity in the coming years. We value your prayers for these demanding transitions. And some

of you who are our core supporters may be needed to assist us with your counsel and business skills. We know you will be there for us. Thank you for your support.

“You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us in answer to many prayers.” (Paul, 2 Corinthians 1:12, RSV)

Katrine Barton-Coward



Spiritual Advisor's Annual Report 2005

Dear UCO Friends and Supporters

I greet you in the name of Christ. There is a wonderful hymn by Sylvia Dunstan called *“Through the Heart of Every City”* that speaks in cogent ways about the city.

Through the heart of every city runs the flow of human need.

... smoldering wick and bruised reed.

... Jesus sows the Word as seed.

... Jesus planted Word has grown.

I share some of the words of this hymn with you because I believe that the ministry of UCO constitutes one of the ways in which God is sowing seed in the city of Ottawa. Through the emboldened ministry of Katrine, supported and buoyed by the Board and all the prayer and financial partners, UCO is compassionately engaging the “bruised reeds” and urgent manifestations of “human need”. By God’s grace the planted seed of God’s word in action and proclaimed has indeed grown.

It has been an esteemed privilege again this year to have met nearly monthly with Katrine to reflect, discern, pray and discuss. These have been precious and holy times. I believe that our times of discernment this year have been particularly attentive to what may be considered “risky” horizons of a vision for UCO.

During the year, in a memo to the Board members speaking of one of the meetings I had with Katrine, I wrote in part:

In one of our recent meetings, it seemed good to us and, as we discerned, good to the Spirit, to offer forth an emerging vision for your faithful consideration and discussion...I continue to believe that Katrine is being called to bear witness to her ministry among the poor, by giving prophetic utterance, through preaching and other ways, to the gospel’s call on the Christian community to minister authentically and comprehensively, to and with the poor and vulnerable in the city of Ottawa...I am wondering if God is not calling Katrine to be released into the full exercising of her gifts of ministry.

In light of this discernment, I went on to invite the Board to prayerfully ponder and consider if one of the next changes in UCO might be the adding of another staff person. That is, someone who would work collegially with Katrine and whose primary ministry would be to undertake the important tasks as would be outlined by the considered wisdom of the Board. This would all be with the view to releasing Katrine fully into her Spirit-given giftedness of teaching, preaching and one-on-one client support and ministry.

Could this be the next maturing step in God’s dream for UCO?

Please continue uphold UCO, Katrine, Clint, and all the Board in your prayers. Continue to be generous also in your financial commitment to this ministry. To God be the glory!

Anthony Bailey
Spiritual Advisor



Treasurer's Report

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. (Mat 25:14-15 NIV)

To be treasurer of a faith-based organization requires a mix of pragmatism and faith. Pragmatism – since I am the one watching the bank balance and writing the cheques. Thankfully, during my tenure, we have always been able to pay the bills and salaries. Faith – to remember that this work is God's work and ultimately its success or failure rests in His hands. The trick is to find the balance, to be pragmatic enough to be responsible and faithful enough to go forth boldly in His Name.

This report marks my last duty as Treasurer of UCO. It has been six years and in the wisdom established in the bylaws, it is time for new challenges for me and new perspectives for UCO. In the scripture above, I feel like the servant both at the end and at the beginning of the master's journey. I pray that I have faithfully tended to the charge of UCO's finances that the Master gave to me six years ago and that I have given a good account of my service. I also feel like I have just been entrusted with the knowledge and experience acquired over those six years and now the Master is charging me to faithfully use these 'talents' in the tasks that will now open before me.

Highlights over the past six years:

- Experiencing the downtown scene with Katrine including lunch at the soup kitchen.
- Being regularly surprised by God's provision and the varied ways He would provide for our needs.
- Improving my computer skills, especially database, accounting and desktop publishing software.
- Developing my relationship with Katrine from acquaintance to friend.
- Over the years meeting and/or working with many dedicated, faithful and insightful Christians both on the board and amongst UCO's supporters.

Though I am stepping down from a position on the board, I expect I will remain in touch. David Wice is the new Treasurer and I would ask your prayers and support to him as I have been supported. I want to thank Katrine and the various board members, past and present, for sharing this journey with me.

Some 2005 Financial details:

(more available on request)

Income:

- Total Income for 2005 was \$43,157, a increase of \$564 from 2004 income.
- Donations from churches increased by \$75. In both 2003 & 2004, we received an extraordinary donation from a couple of churches. In 2005, since we did not receive any extraordinary amount, this modest increase actually represents a significant increase in regular support.
- Donations from individual supporters increased by \$754.
- More than 99 percent of income was donations from individuals and churches in the Christian community. The remainder was bank interest.

Expenses:

- Total Expenses for 2005 were \$44,586, an increase of \$863 from 2004.
- Expenses directly related to clients were \$41,745. This accounts for 93.6 percent of total expenditures.
 - Client Services = \$2,506
 - Payroll Costs = \$36,666
 - Staff Benefits = \$1,653
 - Transportation = \$920
- Administrative Expenses not directly related to clients were \$2,844 or 6.4 percent of total expenditures.

At End of Year: We finished 2005 with a net deficit of \$1,429.

Projection for 2006: The UCO Board of Directors has approved a working budget for 2006 with income of \$45,600 and expenses of \$46,756.

In His Service
Sui Wai Seto, Treasurer



Incoming President's Message

After having served as a Director for the past two years, I am honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to UCO in a new way as President of the Board of Directors. I've enjoyed working with Allen Maccartney, and I hope to continue in his example of diligence and Christian charity.

For me, UCO is distinguished by two equally strong qualities. The first is UCO's tireless commitment to those in our city who are living lives marked by struggle and isolation. The second is UCO's steady

and gentle insistence that the fullness of life is found in Jesus Christ. The great North African theologian, St. Augustine, wrote that God has made us for Himself, and because of this our hearts are restless until they find their home in God.

This is true for us all, but it is especially poignant in the context of urban alienation. What UCO does is bring restless hearts back to their proper homes. I am delighted to be a part of this adventure in grace.

Clint Curle



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(As of March 21, 2006)

President	The Rev. Dr. Clinton Curle
Past-President	Allen Macartney
Secretary	Diane Moyer
Treasurer	David Wice
Director	Barbara Faught
Ex-Officio	Katrine Barton-Coward (Staff)
Ex-Officio	The Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey (Spiritual Advisor)