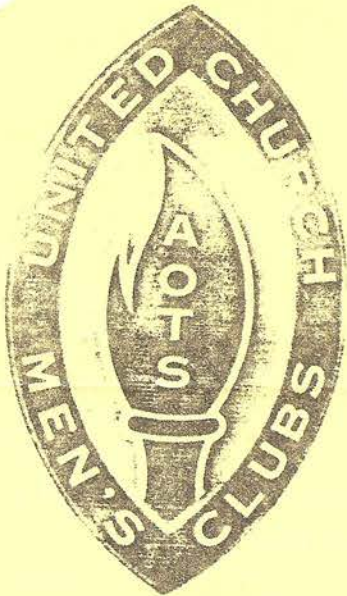


National AOTS Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 2. March 1983.



"Just Waiting For YOU!"

13th Biennial AOTS Convention
St. John's, July 22 to 24



- In this issue:
- Club News, an abundance!
 - 1982 Annual Financial Statement
 - Comment: Men and women in Church leadership
 - Alan Staig tours Manitou; Gordon Hall heads west
 - En route to St. John's: an offer of accommodation
 - Editorial: "The bottom line is People."

Attachments: 13th Biennial Convention - registration form
Newsletter Questionnaire

1923 ---

AOTS 60th Anniversary

--- 1983

AOTS is a movement of United Church men founded in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship, deepening the spiritual life of men, and developing effective programs of Christian service. Clubs are active across Canada, from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland, and in Bermuda, and are united under the National Association. The Newsletter is published by the Communications Committee as an information service to clubs and individual members. It issues three times a year, usually in January, April and October, from the office of the executive secretary: G. Allan Smith, 61 Nordin Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M8Z 2B4. The editor is M. M. Wright. Mr. W. Jack Banks is Editor Emeritus.

National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

The United Church of Canada

"I am among you As One That Serves." Luke 22:27

COMING EVENTS

April 7 - Annual Meeting of Toronto Conference AOTS Men's Council, United Church House, 7:30 PM. Speaker: Cyril Locke, National Eastern Vice President.

April 20 - 10th Annual Niagara Presbytery Men's Spring Rally, Fenwick U. C., Fenwick, Ont., 7 PM. Speaker: Don G. Smith, Mississauga, former National AOTS Executive Secretary. For information: Ralph Graham, (416)682-2126.

April 22 to 24 - Annual Ontario AOTS Round-Up, Geneva Park, Orillia, Ont. Speaker: Dr. Clarke MacDonald, Moderator of the United Church. Hosts: London Conference, Lloyd Richards, chairman: (519)354-4048. Theme: "Men at the Crossroads".

April 29 to May 1 - Coastal Christian Men's Conference, Trinity Western College, Langley, B. C. Theme speaker: Hugh McCullum, Editor of The Observer. Sponsors: men of Surrey U. C. and B. C. Conference Men's Council. Tom Murray: (604)853-7881.

May 6 to 8 - 25th Annual Manitoba Laity Conference, Minaki Lodge, Ont. Theme speaker: Rev. Lois Wilson, "Way of Life; Water of Life; Bread of Life; Birth of Life".

June 3 to 5 - West Newfoundland Men's Rally, Westhaven Camp, Pasadena, Nfld. For information contact Cyril Locke at (709)673-3326.

June 3 to 5, and 10 to 12 - 31st United Church Muskoka Conference. First weekend: Elgin House, Port Carling, Ont. Theme speaker: Rev. Russell Crossley, Zion U. C., Brantford. Second weekend: Delawana Inn, Honey Harbour, Ont. Theme speaker: Dr. John N. Gladstone, "The Optimism of Faith". To register, contact Mr. Paul Moore, 24 Elgin Street West, Norwich, Ont. N0J 1P0.

June 10 to 12 - 18th Annual Riding Mountain Conference of Churchmen, Camp Wannakumbac, Clear Lake, Man. Theme speaker: Dr. James E. Brandt, Dean of Students, State University, Minot, North Dakota, A. Westwood, Box 192, Rapid City, Man. R0K 1W0

xx July 22 to 24 - 13th Biennial Convention of the National Association of U. C. AOTS
xx Men's Clubs, on the campus of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. Plan
xx now for a July vacation in Newfoundland and to attend this meeting. Registration form
xx attached. See January '83 Newsletter, page 9, for information on ferry service.

November 19 - Annual Tri-County Rally, Tilbury U. C., Tilbury, Ont. For information: Al Angood, 354-5908, or Dick Roe, 354-9578, both of Chatham.

* * * * *

New ChartersPresentation

#797	Grace-Cobb's Hill (Methodist Church) AOTS Men's Club, Bermuda	April 8
#798	Wellington U. C. AOTS Men's Club, Wellington, Ont.	March 9
#799	Epworth Charge, Friendship AOTS Men's Club, Epworth, Nfld.	April 30
#800	Campbell River U. C. AOTS Men's Club, Campbell River, B. C.	-

Just wish to say that, again, we are a bit later than planned --- early April instead of early March. However, estimates are seldom close in this business. There will be a final issue before summer, about mid May (if you are on your summer break by then please make a special effort to distribute your copies). Please note the Newsletter Questionnaire, attached, and reply soon. Be frank about it! Hope to see you in St. John's in July.

Maurice Wright

CLUB NEWS

A report on the work of AOTS men's clubs throughout the Church and across this land. As you read about it imagine the void there would be if it were not there.

British Columbia Conference

Fairfield U. C., Victoria (#685), the November, January, and March issues of Ted Belt's now bimonthly newsletter. Some highlights: fund-raising 9th Annual Strawberry Tea in June, Ladies Night in September, a talk on redevelopment of the Victoria waterfront in November, \$170 raised in the Christmas Candy Cane Tea, and Captain Rev. Oliver Howard of the Thomas Crosby V speaking about this mission activity in January. Nut sales produced a profit of \$180. Donations included \$50 to Scouts, \$100 to Crosby V.

Duncan U. C., Duncan (#016), an abundance of notes and clippings from Don Morton (including some on other Island clubs). The club continues with a very active program. May - 28th Annual Spring Tea, raising \$440 (including a plant sale and bake table), 40 men participating (even to flower arranging?!) to make it the best ever. 42 men turn out for a two-hour work party at Camp Pringle.

June - annual garage sale nets \$1925 (was \$3000 in '81); club tours local water and sewage works; 30th Annual Fun Fair at Owen's Farm, sponsored by AOTS for the whole congregation: 250 people, auction sale (raised \$3000 for church projects), club nets \$262.

October - Laity Sunday on the 17th, the club taking two morning services; annual father-and-son dinner, magician Ernie Crawford mystifying everyone.

November - at the regular monthly meeting, a showing of the film on disarmament: "War Has No Winners"; 18th Annual Variety Night, "biggest and best yet", three hours of non-stop AOTS music hall entertainment before a capacity crowd, netting \$375.

December - Christmas hamper program, 700 prepared and sent out; undertook the sale of 4000 boxes of Christmas nuts (to net about \$4000!); presentation of life membership to Norm Carter (a past president of the club, Island Council, and B. C. Conference!!!).

January - 15th Annual Burns Supper and Dance, for 200 people, with all the trimmings: toasts to "the bard", haggis, and lassies; dancing, song and music; and \$600 profit to the club! Ladies Night and 33rd installation of officers, charter member Bill Kenyon becoming president.

February - a talk on tourism, and March - the annual Spring Pancake Brunch.

Their 1982 financial statement shows nearly \$8200 in donations to 16 charities, including: church \$5700, Thomas Crosby V \$700, various youth activities \$700, assistance to handicapped persons \$300, several community charities \$800, a remarkable effort. The club continues to be extremely active in visitation and assistance to other Island clubs, 3 or 4 members attending several such meetings every month, one being a visit to the new Campbell River club (charter application approved March 19th) March 14th. The club is organized into 15 committees, with every member (70) on at least one. They report that 20 of the 34 past presidents are still active.

"Let us not deceive ourselves by saying that Christ wants us to give up the quest of truth and accept Him instead. It is as the truth that He wants to be accepted, or not at all." John Baillie, quoted by Angus J. MacQueen in "Superman is an Idiot".

For other news from B. C. we have clippings and notes from Don Morton plus minutes of the Vancouver Island District Council.

Brechin U. C., Nanaimo (#048). Some topics at recent meetings: "Stress", "The Life of Terry Fox", and "Battered Wives". The December meeting took the form of a Christmas party with the wives, 60 attending. The wood cutting project raised \$525. Donations in 1982 totalled \$1845 to 11 charities (plus \$160 to AOTS Second Mile support, for 32 members), including: \$950 to the church for organ, building, and office funds, \$100 to Hospice Society, and \$650 to CGIT and other youth activities.

Chemainus -Ladysmith (#769). Annual nut sales raised over \$1200, supporting a \$700 donation to Moorecroft Camp (to help rebuild a cabin). Recent talks: one on Ghana and Kenya by member Dave Stringer, on Malawi, and one on a journey from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island by Stan Owens (which should be reversed come July 22nd!).

Lake Cowichan U. C., Lake Cowichan (#317). Although having a membership of only five the club does much good work. And visits from other Island clubs swell the attendance at their monthly meetings to about 20 to 25. Two program topics: the Dave Stringer slide/talk presentation on Ghana and Kenya, and "Music Through the Ages". Donations: \$40 to Cowichan Music Festival, \$100 to Christmas Cheer Fund, \$150 to Cubs, and \$500 to the pastoral charge. Club life memberships were presented, in December, to charter members Oscar Winqvist and Dennis Nagy.

Centennial U. C., Victoria (#362). At the monthly meetings: a talk on the provincial Water Pollution Branch, one on Kenya (by missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Talbot), and a pictorial visit to Cape Breton. Donations: \$500 to the church, \$300 to Camp Pringle, and \$25 to Scouts.

Esquimalt U. C., Victoria (#033). Newsprint is an important source of revenue for the club, 20 tons reported collected in '82, selling at about \$15/ton. And the sale of nuts raised \$960! In december, the annual Ladies Night, a pot-luck dinner, skits and carols, and the "AOTS Men's Band" performing. Donations: \$50 to Operation Eyesight, \$140 to the Crosby V, and \$300 to various youth activities. Ray Jones was reelected as president for 1983.

Gordon U. C., Victoria (#757). An active program continues: \$1200 plus labour spent on various jobs around the church; a successful fall yard sale raised a further \$500 for the church fund and \$100 for the CGIT. Some programs: visit to a very early (1863) local synagogue; talk on the B. C. Ferry Service; films on fire fighting and insulation; and a talk/slide presentation on Nicaragua by Rob Gage of World Development.

Oak Bay U. C., Victoria (#404). An Easter Sunday pancake breakfast was served to 75 people, and 80 attended the annual spring Ladies Night. The spring garage sale netted \$1700, enabling the club to donate \$200 to each of six young people attending the Bethel Teachers Clinic in Madison, Wisconsin, plus \$100 to the Crosby V. In November a talk entitled "Natural Light Photography", and in January: radio news broadcasting.

One final item: \$1760 raised to date in the current (and second) \$3500 project in support of the Crosby V (an AOTS B. C. Conference project).

Alberta Conference

St. James U. C., Edmonton (#458), several letter reports from secretary George Robertson. Ladies Night, in April, featured a talk describing a visit to China under Dr. Bob McClure as tour guide. In September: a tour of the new control tower of the Edmonton International Airport, said to monitor the largest land area of any tower in the world. And in October, a report on the Banff Conference and its significance to the UC.

Saskatchewan Conference

St. Andrew's U. C., Moose Jaw (#158), Bill Taylor's "Menu", Vol. 24, No. 's 5 to 10 and Vol. 25, No. 's 1 and 3 (which Bill says means "Men and U", also "Me 'n' U"). A major spring activity was the preparation of Camp Capernaum for the summer, where eventually 185 boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Fall fund-raisers: a rag drive (netting \$85+), sale of Canada Savings Bonds (\$590 profit), sale of nuts (\$1740!), and the annual October Chuckwagon Dinner and Bake Sale (a \$425 profit!). November '82 marked the 30th anniversary of the club and Bill is gathering material for a club history (at one time they had 98 paid members; many charter members are still active). Two recent events: 30th annual Ladies Night in January, and in March the annual Pancake Supper and Bake Sale, which this year raised \$600 for them. Some donations reported: \$270 for choir gowns, and \$1000 to help send a group of teenage boys and girls on a mountain climbing "adventure" in Banff.

Note: two years ago (Newsletter, February '81, p5) we reported that member Ab (now 97) and Mrs. Tremain had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. Bill says they have now celebrated their 73rd (or 72nd?), that they are both well and still living in their own home. Isn't that great! Bill reports two other nonagenarians in the club: Max Ballard at 91, and Jack Siddeley at 93. It must be the pure prairie air!

Manitoba Conference

News from Manitoba comes by way of District Council minutes of January and February 1983. Some highlights:

Grey Street - prepared 104 fruit baskets for local senior citizens.

Westworth - the club had an interesting visit to the Japanese Buddhist Centre.

Windsor Park - raised \$500 from the sale of nuts. Donations: a new projector for use in the church, and \$1000 to the building fund and for a new kitchen range. The fellows also prepared 146 bags of goodies for the children at Christmas.

Taking office as Council president for '83 is Gordon Mathieson, succeeding Stan Babcock.

The mother was having a hard time getting her son to go to school in the morning. "Nobody likes me in school.", he complained. "The teachers don't like me, the kids don't like me, the superintendent wants me to transfer, the bus drivers hate me, the School Board wants me to drop out, and the custodians have it in for me. I don't want to go to school."

"But you have to go to school.", countered his mother. "You are healthy, you have a lot to learn, you have something to offer, and you are a leader. And besides, you are 46 years old and you are the principal." Fairfield AOTS Newsletter, March 1983.

Bay of Quinte Conference

St. Paul's U. C., Stirling (#235), Harold Hagerman's newsletters of June, and September through March. Late spring activities were the Annual Barbecue (featuring a demonstration on "how to barbecue a steak without burning it"!), and the annual June Auction Sale and Strawberry Social. Recent fund-raisers: the sale of Christmas trees, and a February Pancake and Sausage Breakfast. 18 men went to the November Belleville AOTS Round-Up at Bridge Street U. C. and won the attendance award. Donations reported: \$725 for new cabinets in the church.

1983 marks the 125th anniversary of Stirling's founding as a village, and the 130th anniversary of the Wesleyan Methodist Church that became St. Paul's. A talk on the early history was the program for their February meeting. Ladies Night coming in April. Don Marchand is president for 1983.

George Street U. C., Peterborough (#390), Larry Seili's "Harambee", June, and September through March. A June barbecue wound up the spring program. In the fall: a visit by Executive Secretary Al Smith in September, and talks on energy conservation and World Vision of Canada. In February: the annual Pancake Social (serving 300), and Ladies Night (100 attending). Tom Rose became president for 1983, succeeding Art Harding. Tom was twice president of St. Paul's AOTS, Oakville, in '65 and '66.

St. James U. C., Peterborough (#267), a letter from secretary-treasurer Warren Morrison. Fund-raising activities in '82 included: sale of Christmas trees, running a food concession at the local exhibition, and serving an anniversary breakfast to Northminster U. C. and one to their own congregation. Donations reported: \$1000 to the church, and \$100 in dental services to a native person in a nearby community. A talk on Columbia by a member who had served there under Canadian Executive Service Overseas was their program for the December meeting.

Holloway Street U. C., Belleville (#353). A letter from Carl Wannamaker, who is now recovered from an extended illness and back at the helm as president (succeeding Lloyd Townsend), reports an active program. Fund-raising activities included a congregational dinner with the UCW in March '82 (and one planned for March '83 as well), the club earning \$350 for its share, and a pancake supper in February. Donations reported: \$800 to the church building fund in '81, another \$550 in '82.

Toronto Conference

Bellefair U. C., Toronto (#558), Harry Wolfrain's lengthy newsletters for May, and September through March. Winding up activities in the spring was a June barbecue for members and wives, plus a rummage sale, this netting \$1200. Don Smith (Mississauga) was their guest speaker in October when they entertained the Wilmar Heights club, and Don also spoke at their laity service October 17th. Other topics at the monthly meetings: on correctional services, and one on RRSP's and tax matters. For December they visited the elderly at Fudger House. The annual Valentine Ladies Night was again in February. This year, to keep a lid on costs, they tried a pot-luck supper and reported it to be "great". In March: a talk on self-defense by a GRIPS spokesman. A major project of the club has been a new floor covering for the sanctuary, at a cost of about \$7000, depending on certain options still to be resolved. They have also donated \$600 for choir gowns. Fred Grossmith succeeded Alan McLean as president.

Scarborough AOTS Glee Club (#772), from a recent report by business manager Lorne Thornley to Toronto Conference AOTS Men's Council. September '83 marks the club's 25th anniversary. Under the leadership of founder and director Sid Bagnall, the club has "presented over 400 programs of music and song for churches, senior citizens, community associations, AOTS clubs, UCW's, lodges, business associations, church boards and meetings, and for a variety of other groups in . . . towns and cities from coast to coast in Canada." Current membership is 38, including pianist Ruth Butt and soloist Bette Davis, plus Honorary Member Phil Spence. Phil was very supportive in their formative years and has remained a loyal friend. For those who enjoy the glee club and are within reach of their concerts, here are two dates coming up: at Sunrise Towers (Victoria Park Ave., Toronto), 8:15 PM, April 12th, and Riverdale U. C., 7:30 PM, May 1st. For details, phone Lorne Thornley at (416)755-1769.

Hamilton Conference

St. Paul's U. C., Oakville (#103). Among the social events: a hamburger and corn boil for members and wives to open the fall program, a Christmas party, and Ladies Night in March with a record attendance of 215 and \$200 profit. Some program topics: Operation Eyesight (a fascinating and moving story), the TTC (story of Toronto's public transportation system, envy of North America!), and investments (RRSP's, bonds. . . .). In January, to open the year, something a bit unusual: a brainstorming session on club goals and projects, under the title "Expectations". Fund-raising projects: sale of nuts (\$540); and sale of home-made crafts at the annual November bazaar, these being various woodwork items that the fellows put together on a cooperative basis: some doing the cutting, others the assembly and finishing, the process working very well. Donations in 1982: \$680 to several church building projects, \$565 to six youth groups, \$550 to charities (including \$200 to Allen Knight's Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund, which its creation in 1970 has aided 78 students), and \$205 to AOTS Second Mile.

London Conference

Victoria Avenue U. C., Chatham (#188), executive minutes May Through March. Joined with others, in June, to prepare Camp Kenneserie for the summer, as well as raise money for the Camp by sale of cheese (\$1070 profit). Fall highlights included a visit, in October, to Grace U. C. AOTS in Sarnia, to help them celebrate their first anniversary, and the Tri-County Rally in Tilbury, November 20th, Alan Staig guest speaker. The sale of nuts was again a major source of funds, raising almost \$2700. Donations: \$55 to Chatham Music Festival, \$70 to CGIT, and support for summer campers was increased to \$8 per person (from \$5), for about 150 children, plus further assistance for needier ones. Also, \$50 to support attendance at 15th Ontario Youth Parliament (March 18-21, Chatham), and \$150 to support attendance at Scouts World Jamboree in Banff this summer. In this connection, the club has received a special award for their support of Scouts in their church. Membership reached 52 in '82, and Al Angood took over from Peter Duchene as president for '83.

Incidentally, these fellows are still looking for a pianist for their 3rd-Sunday breakfast meetings. The ad says: for an appreciative audience, no experience necessary (though someone who has had music lessons would be given preference), and pay is negotiable. If interested give Al Angood a call at (519)354-5908. (There is no mention of travel or moving arrangements, or of pension plan, dental plan, etc.)

South Chatham Township AOTS (#777), Chalmers U. C., Dresden, a letter report from sec. -treas. Cleo McFadden. The club has regular monthly meetings, a breakfast or brunch on the 2nd Sunday. A June pork barbecue serving about 400 people, plus the sale of nuts and cheese, are the main fund-raising activities. A Ladies Night is enjoyed in December. Donations: \$200 to each of the Children's Aid Society, Children's Treatment Centre, and Operation Our Kids, in Chatham, plus \$200 to the Dresden Arena Fund. The club also shares in the work at Camp Kenneserie, and gives support to the Dresden Residence, a seniors rest home.

Newfoundland and Labrador Conference

Carol U. C., Labrador City (#796). New to the AOTS fold, the Carol club was chartered on April 30/82, Eastern Vice President Cyril Locke making the presentation to Harry Whitehorne, their first president, and 28 charter members. The club meets monthly, has sponsored two congregational breakfasts, and taken one Sunday worship service. Its first fund-raising project: a community calendar for Labrador West. The members are looking forward to becoming "a successful addition" to AOTS.

Happy Valley U. C., Happy Valley, Labrador (#794). Also a new arrival, this club was chartered on May 1/82, Cyril Locke presiding. The initial activities, in addition to several social functions, were to make preparations for the church's annual spring fair, in which the club will have a part.

Other news comes from the minutes of the Central Newfoundland District Council (May 21/82), which has brief reports on the following clubs:

Memorial U. C., Grand Falls (#566A) - a bean and pancake supper, a jumble sale, and the sale of crafts were projects that raised money for a donation of \$250 to Loon Bay Camp.

Windsor U. C., Windsor (#461) - members visit at the hospital, and at the Senior Citizens Home, and they take the Sunday evening service once a month.

Bishop's Falls U. C., Bishop's Falls (#215) - conditions are now beginning to improve for this club and attendance is up to 18. They have sponsored a snowshoe-a-thon, held a successful Loon Bay Camp reunion, and put on a Good Friday breakfast. Members participate frequently in the church worship services.

Botwood U. C., Botwood (#023) - put on a rummage sale and an Easter Sunday breakfast. Members share regularly in the evening services. A committee has been formed to look into ways of attracting more young people into the life of the church.

St. Matthew's U. C., Lewisporte (#324) - again shared with Anglican and Salvation Army men in the March Anniversary Breakfast of fish and brewis, put on a soup supper in April to raise money, and had an evening of fellowship with men of the Campbellton and Loon Bay clubs. Ladies Night was in June at Loon Bay Camp.

Buchans U. C., Buchans (#561A) - this club was reactivated in May, with 16 names on the charter, including 6 whose names were on the original charter. Each of these 6 was honoured with the award of a club life membership. They meet twice monthly, once for business and again for dinner and program. Some activities: the annual seal supper, snowshoe-a-thon, and variety concert for raising money; repairing and painting the church to spend it. Financial support also given to Loon Bay Camp.

Campbellton U. C., Comfort Cove - formed in November '81 (and interested but not yet affiliated with AOTS), this is a men's club of 18 members from a community population of only 39 families! A soup supper and a take-out supper raised enough money to buy an organ for the Sunday School and give \$200 to Loon Bay Camp!! They also sponsor a foster child in Kenya.

National President Gordon Hall spoke to this Council meeting during his swing through Newfoundland last spring (see Newsletter, May 1982, p22), and had this to say about our priorities, as he saw them:

First - youth, many of whom, he said, have felt "let down" by our lack of attention to them;

Second - senior citizens, for whom we can be not only visitor, but good listener;

Third - people in correctional centres, where people can be forgotten.

He said we ought to treat all men as would Christ himself, doing it in his name.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Foster, Toronto, Ont., member of Bellefair U. C. AOTS Men's Club, on December 5, 1982.

Daniel T. Young, Nanaimo, B. C., member of St. Andrew's U. C. and Individual Member of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs, on December 18, 1982, at age 85.

Victor Henn, Victoria, B. C., early member of Fairfield U. C. AOTS Men's Club, in January, 1983.

Al Wood, Victoria, B. C., long-time member of Fairfield U. C. AOTS Men's Club, in January, 1983.

Harry Orvis, Peterborough, Ont., long-time member and former president of St. James U. C. AOTS Men's Club, on January 16, 1983.

Ernest Engelbrecht, Victoria, B. C., member of Fairfield U. C. AOTS Men's Club, in February, 1983.

E. L. Sackville, Peterborough, Ont., member of George Street U. C. AOTS Men's Club, in February, 1983.

* * * * *

In January of this year Life Memberships in the National Association were presented to Bud Farris, St. Paul's AOTS Men's Club, Oakville, Ontario, and Bob Lewis, formerly of the St. Paul's club but now living in Amherstburg, Ontario. Bud was honoured both for the major contribution he has made to the St. Paul's club and for many years of service to AOTS at the presbytery and conference levels. He is currently a member of the National Long Range Planning Committee. Bob is best known for his service as treasurer of the National Association, an office he has now held since the Ottawa convention of 1975.

"It is not possible to enjoy idleness thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do."

National Spiritual Life Committee (Reg Attwell, chairman)

Reg has sent us the transcripts of two devotionals used at club meetings in his area (Vancouver Island), one by Keith MacDonald and one by himself, with the suggestion that they might "help to strengthen the Spiritual Growth of our members". Each is based on the 12th chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans.

In his devotional Reg quoted from the book "Epistles Now" by Leslie Brandt a piece that is a paraphrase of Romans 12. The paraphrase is rather free and not too easily related to the biblical passage. For example, this is the section covering verses 1 to 3:

"Celebration must be combined with service.

The relationship between man and God is a two-way street.

Our great God gives; we must respond to His gracious gifts.

Our response is the offering of our lives, the placing of ourselves at His disposal, for the accomplishment of His purposes in our world about us.

We are, once we acknowledge God's love and accept His salvation, under new management.

This is what worship is all about.

It is not confined to loud singing or verbal exclamations.

It is turning our hearts, minds, and bodies over to God's ownership, and dedicating our abilities and gifts to His service."

You might find it worth while to consult Brandt's book the next time you are preparing a devotional.

Keith saw in this chapter a message that helped him serve as a leader at Camp Moorecroft on Vancouver Island, at a time when the camp was in danger of closing for lack of sufficient leaders. He relates how he sensed that he had been led by God to be available for this occasion, an opportunity to use his gifts in the service of six young boys:

"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching . . ." (verses 6 and 7)

Although Keith had his problems that week, by the time the camp was over and when the good-byes were being said, it was evident that he had scored with the boys. So he had his rewards as well.

Reg comments that "... we must use the gifts that we have to influence the lives of those around us ...", that "Spiritual Growth is not developed simply by listening to devotionals or sermons, but also by taking advantage of the opportunities that are presented to us --- such as face to face visits with a fellow club member or fellow worker, or we may be lucky enough to get to be a camp leader, like Keith!"

* * * * *

"... if we had been honest with our people, Bishop Robinson's little book "Honest to God" would never have created the stir it did. Most of us had read of the writings of Tillich, Bultmann, and Bonhoeffer years ago ... but we had not transmitted (it) to our people. . . . We ministers are to blame that ... people are the victims of a false, or even idolatrous, Biblicism. They deserve to be told the truth."

Angus J. MacQueen, "Superman is an Idiot".

COMMENT

Pamela Bowes, author of the "Front Page" article in The Observer of January, 1983, writes about the paucity of women in high places in the church. Thus, she says that while she is "inundated with invitations to make coffee, take minutes and work in the 'babyfold'" her "brothers" are "chairing the board, organizing the finance committee and discussing the theology of our church", the "important business"! And she adds that despite "a preponderance of women members . . . our church leadership, both clergy and lay, is predominantly male".

There is no doubt that women have a minor role in the ordained ministry (though a growing one), but this is not the case for the lay leadership, at least at the national level. Thus, the table below shows the number of men and women in the various national divisions and standing committees, as given in the 28th General Council Record of Proceedings, August 1980, pages 53 to 66 (the Record of the 1982 meeting is not yet available), as men/women:*

	<u>Officers only**</u>		<u>All members***</u>	
	<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Lay</u>	<u>Clergy</u>	<u>Lay</u>
Executive of General Council	4/1	1/0	23/1	8/12
Division of Communication	4/0	0/0	17/0	3/4
Division of Finance	4/0	5/0	7/0	20/6
Division of Ministry Personnel & Education	4/0	0/2	14/2	4/6
Division of Mission in Canada	2/0	0/2	28/0	5/28
Division of World Outreach	5/0	0/2	20/0	3/17
Totals	23/1	6/6	109/3	43/73
Totals, omitting Division of Finance	19/1	1/6	102/3	23/67
Standing Committees (total of 18)	19/3	6/2	118/5	47/55
Totals overall (omitting Division of Finance)	38/4	7/8	220/8	70/122
	42	15	228	192
Commissioners attending General Council (omitting Ex Officio persons but including Overseas Missionaries and Canadian Forces reps, pages 9 to 21)			202/30	76/151
		—	232	227
		Women:	13%	67%
Attendance at 1982 General Council (The Observer, October, 1982, page 12)			218	215
		Women:	16%	71%

*The numbers are approximate, as identity as to man or woman, clergy or lay, is sometimes uncertain.

**This refers to chairpersons, secretaries, and others whose names are listed ahead of Conference representatives.

***This number refers only to members who are identified by name; unnamed members from other divisions/committees/units etc. are not included.

Lay women are seen to outnumber the men by about 2 to 1, a bit more in the divisions, less in the committees (omitting Finance reveals the ratio in those bodies most shaping church policy). The dominant role of the clergy can also be seen.

So, one can sympathize with Pamela re the clergy, but not the lay leadership. In fact, we men are the ones that could use some commiseration! What does this say to us? "Men of the church, there's a job to do." Let's get better represented!

Annual Financial Statement of the National Association, 1982.

Balance, December 31, 1981, general account (Royal C/A) \$699.47

Receipts

Membership dues (@ \$5.00/member):	Clubs	Members		
Club members - for 1981	11	255	1275.00	
for 1982	84	1952	9760.00	
for 1982 (donations)	4	74	185.00	
			<u>11220.00</u>	
Individual members			795.00	12015.00
Life memberships				25.00
Contributions				6174.50
Second Mile Support				6195.88
Grant, Division of Mission in Canada				6000.00
Sale of supplies				1748.85
Miscellaneous income				64.50
Internal loan (Harry Colnett Memorial Fund)				<u>1000.00</u>
				33223.73

Disbursements

Executive Secretary, salary				6600.00
Office expenses				3985.84
Telephone				618.92
Postage				314.32
Travel:	Executive Secretary		1166.48	
	National President		1822.19	
	Regional Vice Presidents		<u>3410.07</u>	6398.74
Meetings:	Annual (one)		6121.70	
	Executive (four)		1449.52	
	Sub Executive (two)		<u>49.90</u>	7621.12
Newsletter				2369.39
Supplies for resale				2976.38
Conference funds				144.00
Committees (\$100 each: Membership, Program)				200.00
Advances (1983 Convention Committee - \$500; Hospital Project - \$100)				600.00
Miscellaneous (includes repayment of \$1000 to Harry Colnett Fund)				<u>1286.78</u>
				33115.49

Balance, December 31, 1982, general account (Royal C/A) 807.71

Reserve Fund (Royal S/A) 262.21

Harry Colnett Memorial Fund

December 31, 1981. December 31, 1982.

Debentures	9000.00	9000.00
Royal S/A	2679.37	3234.77
Receivable (loan to general account)	<u>1000.00</u>	<u>1000.00</u>
	12679.37	13234.77

Net gain (after payment of \$1000 in awards) - \$555.40

Hospital Project account - \$420.00

13th Biennial Convention of the National Association, St. John's, Nfld., July 22 to 24/83.

How are you making out with those plans?

The word from St. John's is that they are: "Just Waiting For YOU!"

And this is the message on the cover of an interesting brochure describing what awaits us in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is unlike any other Canadian province, the original New World, and it retains much of the Old World heritage. A fun-loving, God-fearing, kindly people, descendants of English, Irish, and Scottish adventurers, surviving 500 years in a remarkably beautiful yet rugged and demanding land, they look forward to our coming. Let us not disappoint them.

A convention registration form, attached to this newsletter, is again provided for you.

For information on the ferry service to and from the island see last newsletter, page 9.

And for those who are planning to drive across the island from Port aux Basques to St. John's (562 miles) we have this message from Walter Scott, secretary of the Central Newfoundland District Council on behalf of clubs in that area:

"The following AOTS men have agreed to be contact persons for anyone passing through the Central Newfoundland area en route to the National Convention in St. John's. We want to make their visit to Newfoundland an enjoyable occasion and will do our best to find a billet for anyone staying in the Central area overnight, or to provide them with information on sightseeing or meet any other need we can."

In Grand Falls:

George Morris, Walter Scott, Nathan Penney, Fred Randell, Douglas Baker,
60 Sutherland Dr. 26 Greenwood Ave. 12 Shallow St. 18 Allen St. 7 Earle St.
Tel: 489-4647 Tel: 489-2914 Tel: 489-6564 Tel: 489-5916 Tel: 489-9829

In Windsor:

This is a very kind gesture. So check the road map, plan your travel, and if you wish to stop over in the vicinity of Grand Falls or Windsor (about mid way between Port aux Basques and St. John's), going or returning, give one of these fellows a call, now or as soon as you can, to arrange for accommodation.

NOMINATIONS for National Council

An important item of business at this forthcoming 13th Convention is the election of a National Council for 1983-85. The initial step in this election is, of course, nominations, and for this the following have been appointed as a nominating committee:

Murray McPherson Norman Carter Albert Diston Ross Adams Willard Proud
Winnipeg, Man. Duncan, B. C. Regina, Sask. Consecan, Ont. Cornwall, P. E. I.
(204)489-9344 (604)746-7472 (306)586-6729 (613)392-4258 (902)675-2715

under Murray as chairman. Members everywhere can share in this by seeking out men who are willing to serve and passing on the names to the committee. These are the positions to be filled by election:

Officers: President

3 vice presidents*

Treasurer

*Eastern, Central, Western

Committee Chairmen:

Communications International

Constitution

Finance

Membership

Leadership Dev't

Long Range Planning

Program

Projects

Spiritual Life

Youth Work

ANNOUNCEMENT

We regret to report that Alan Staig, staff person with the Ministry With Adults Working Unit of the Division of Mission in Canada, has tendered his resignation effective some time in May. As you know, one of Alan's responsibilities was to serve as a resource person for men's groups in the Church. He was also a liaison between the National AOTS Association and the Division of Mission. Since taking on this work in the spring of 1979, Alan has travelled widely, coast to coast, to promote and stimulate the "ministry of men" in the Church. He has been organizer, participant, speaker, workshop leader, preacher, writer --- in fact, whatever he was asked to do to help us. He also contributed in a number of ways to the strengthening of the laity as a whole.

We are very sorry to see Alan leave. He will be greatly missed, and he will not easily be replaced. We wish him well.

Alan Staig Tours Manitou Conference

As reported last time, Alan Staig and Ross Agar (Central Vice President) were to join Jack Thompson (Manitou Conference AOTS President) in an 8-day visit to Northern Ontario, January 15 to 23. Unfortunately, Ross became ill and had to withdraw. However, Alan and Jack went ahead as planned, visiting 4 of 5 AOTS clubs in the area and meeting with men in two other churches. Including travel from Toronto they covered a distance of 1250 miles. The last such visit was by then National President Murray McPherson in November, 1979. Here are some highlights as reported by Jack.

Leaving Toronto by train Saturday evening, they arrived in Cochrane (Jack's home) barely on time for the Sunday morning service at St. Paul's U.C., Alan preaching. They then met with some men of the church at lunch, who decided, as a result, to meet again for breakfast each Wednesday in Lent --- perhaps the beginning of a new club.

Monday morning they drove to Kapuskasing (74 miles) for a dinner meeting with the Kapuskasing AOTS Club, Rupert Banks, president. Jack reported an active club: \$1500 donated for a new fan for the church kitchen, and planning again to put on the annual March carnival breakfast (which last year cleared \$900!). Alan spoke about men's work and about the advantages of affiliation with AOTS.

They returned to Cochrane Tuesday morning and that evening drove to Timmins (65 m) where next day they met with Chester Jury and 7 men of First U.C. at breakfast (Chester was an active member of a once active AOTS club here). These breakfast meetings, now a regular activity, began in Lent a year ago --- also perhaps the seed of a new club. That evening they attended a meeting of the nearby South Porcupine AOTS Club.

After returning to Cochrane, they left Thursday morning for Sudbury (247 m) and two days of visiting prior to a Saturday meeting with the St. Luke's AOTS Club and men of other churches in the area. Their hosts were Charlie Martindale and Clarence Campbell (club president). Alan spoke at this gathering, and at the morning service next day.

Sunday afternoon they drove to North Bay (78 m) and that evening met with the Trinity AOTS Club. It was an excellent meeting with about 30 men present, a fitting end to a very busy week. Alan returned by train to Toronto, Jack driving back to Cochrane.

In all of this Ross Agar was not forgotten: a get-well card made the rounds at each stop and was finally sent to Ross with the names of about 80 well-wishers.

National President Off to Western Canada, Then Bermuda

National President, Gordon Hall, is currently on a 12-day tour of the west, making contact with AOTS men and clubs from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island. His itinerary:

March 22 - Gordon leaves home (Waterloo, Ont.).

March 26, Victoria, B. C. - is theme speaker at 34th Annual B. C. AOTS Round-Up, Centennial U. C.: "AOTS - An Arm of the Church, and More".

While on the Island and in the Vancouver area Gordon plans to visit several AOTS clubs, accompanied by Tom Murray (B. C. Conference AOTS President).

March 29, Edmonton - meetings with the Communications and the Constitution committees (Fred Holberton and Jack Chapin, chairmen, respectively).

March 30, Regina - attends Annual Regina and District AOTS Spring Rally, Whitmore Park U. C. Bill Taylor (Saskatchewan Conference AOTS President) has also arranged for several club visits in this area.

Weekend of April 2 and 3, Winnipeg - a meeting with the Manitoba District Council, with Clare Bailey (Manitoba Conference AOTS President) his host.

April 4th he returns home, then is off again on the 6th for 12 days in Bermuda. Here he is to make the charter presentation to the new Grace-Cobb's Hill AOTS Club, speak at two Sunday services, and do some visiting.

He returns home on the 18th, just on time to head for the Ontario AOTS Round-Up, April 22 to 24. So Gordon has his work cut out for him, and will likely be happy, finally, to get home and do some quiet gardening.

When Gordon was elected president in the summer of '81, in Calgary, he said there was still "plenty of fire in the old furnace". No doubt of it! He has carried high the AOTS torch, coast to coast, in a very able manner.

* * * * *

NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

One of the topics discussed at the recent annual meeting of the National Council (Nov. 12 to 14/82) was the Newsletter: questions as to whether it was meeting our needs, reader acceptance, etc. As a result, the Communications Committee was asked to do a study. One item in this study is the questionnaire attached to this issue, in which we are asked for our opinions on purpose, content, format, etc. Even the name has been questioned and we are asked to offer suggestions on this as well. Another item in the study, inevitably, is production cost (which others are looking at). Although cost is a factor in some parts of the questionnaire, we are expected to give primary consideration to the question topic itself.

Please respond as soon as you can (right now?), if possible by April 30th. Mail your reply to: Dr. Fred G. Holberton, 8208-123 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 1B6.

The Hospitals Project, the proposed new national project for support of United Church hospitals (to be presented at the convention in St. John's; see January '83 Newsletter, page 4), is attracting donations even before it has been formally considered, never mind approved! The financial statement (page 12) shows \$420 in the account, and in late January the Park Street AOTS Club, Chatham, added \$300 more. So it looks as though we are "champing at the bit" on this one.

EDITORIAL: "The bottom line is People."

This statement by the Moderator, Dr. Clarke MacDonald, is becoming familiar. It was the title of his talk to the men of Hamilton Conference at the fall rally of 1981, and he referred to it again in a recent pastoral letter to members of the Church (January 16th). The full statement is this:

"My theological ledger reads this way. The top line is the Glory of God. The bottom line is People. Everything in between must conform to these two principles if the ledger is to balance at the end of the day."

What does it mean to make people "the bottom line"? Surely it is, in all we do, to act in the best interests of others --- which is obedience to the two great commandments: to love God with our whole being, and to love our neighbour as ourself. In so relating to a person, we make a very important statement about him, namely, that he is our equal. This is not equality in the sense that we are the same, as in ability or status, but that we are equal in the sight of God. Thus, Paul said there are "... varieties of gifts ... and service ... and working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one" (I Cor. 12:4). It means that we are of equal worth as persons and that, though we may disagree on some matter, we acknowledge and respect what each has to offer.

Although making people "the bottom line" is rooted in personal relationships, it must be seen in our institutions as well. Otherwise, we have a contradiction, and a very serious one. Sadly, and perhaps more than in any organization in society, this contradiction exists in the Church itself. Here we teach one thing about how we should relate to one another as individuals, yet "teach" something quite different as to how we should relate within its structures --- for in the structures of Church government the clergy are dominant and in control, and the laity are, in effect, a second-class citizenry. In obvious concern for this situation the report of Project: Ministry speaks of "a deep desire to affirm solidarity and collegiality between 'lay' and 'ordained'", and we are told that a minister is called to serve "as a first among equals", yet such collegiality and equality are denied by our Church structures. In the Church, of all places, we should show that we believe what we teach.

Given Dr. MacDonald's near "proclamation" that "The bottom line is People", it is not unreasonable to ask, now that he is Moderator, that he take some positive steps towards making this a reality in Church government. Such change cannot be made easily, so the sooner it is initiated the better. The least one can expect, surely, is a firm statement to the effect that we must now embark on this course. As a united and uniting church, what more important step can we now take than to unite clergy and laity fully as equals in the ministry of Jesus Christ --- the final leg in "the Long Journey".

* * * * *

The Church is indestructible not because of its leaders but because of its people, the ordinary people. "It was not so much the high and mighty," he writes, "the clever and wise, but the 'little people', the 'insignificant' who ... were 'witnesses of truth' and manifested the indestructibility of the Church."

Kenneth Bagnell, quoting from "The Church -- Maintained in Truth" by Hans Kung, The Observer, October 1980, page 59.

M. M. Wright, April 3, 1983.

NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

National AOTS Newsletter, March 1983.

The National AOTS Executive has asked the Communications Committee to do a study of the Newsletter. We are seeking information from you who read this publication. We would appreciate your comments and particularly that you take a few minutes right now to answer this questionnaire. Please respond as soon as you can, if possible by April 30th. Mail your reply to: Dr. Fred G. Holberton, 8208-123 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 1B6. Thank you.

PURPOSE

Agree Neutral Disagree

Please comment on the following suggested purposes of the Newsletter, adding others as you see fit.

- | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. To report decisions made by National Committees | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. To share activities of local clubs | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. To promote National and Regional conventions/conferences | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. To create a sense of fellowship between National and local clubs | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. To stimulate thought about Christian living and Christian action | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. To suggest possible program helps | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. Other? | _____ | _____ | _____ |
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CONTENT

Should the Newsletter contain the following items?

- | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. President's letter | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. In Memoriam | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Reports on the activities of National Council and of the National committees | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. A table of contents | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. Devotional page | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 6. Advertising | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 7. News of Harry Colnett Scholarship Awards | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Coming events | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 9. Club news | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 10. Book reviews | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 11. Letters to the editor | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 12. Editorial | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 13. What other types of items would you like to see in the Newsletter? | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| - | | | |
| - | | | |
| - | | | |

NAME

- | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. What is your opinion of "National AOTS Newsletter"? | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Any other suggestions? | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Newsletter Questionnaire (continued)

FREQUENCY OF ISSUE

Agree Neutral Disagree

1. Do you agree with the present rate of three per year? _____
2. Should we have more? _____ less? _____ how many? _____

FORMAT

1. What is your opinion of the present mimeographed product, and use of typewritten copy (about 16 pages)? _____
2. Would you prefer offset printing (the same amount of material can be put on fewer pages)? _____
3. Should there be more pictures? _____

DISTRIBUTION

At present, a copy is provided for every club member (if the club so requests) by way of a bulk mailing to the club. Individual Members receive their copies by individual mailing.

1. Should the club member continue to receive his copy:
(a) by bulk mailing? _____
(b) by individual mailing? _____
2. Should non-AOTS clubs (i. e., non-affiliated clubs) be sent copies of the Newsletter? _____
3. Who else should receive the Newsletter? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

READERSHIP ACCEPTANCE

1. What is your evaluation of the present Newsletter?
2. What section do you read first?
3. What section do you read last?
4. What section do you not read?
5. Would you share the Newsletter with a friend?
If so, why?
- If not, why?

If you would like to leave your name (this is optional) please complete the following:

Name _____ Club _____
Address _____ Phone _____

13th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

July 22—24, 1983

GUEST SPEAKER



The Reverend Boyd Hiscock Executive Secretary of Nfld. Conference, has agreed to be the keynote Conference Speaker. Reverend Boyd is a native Newfoundlander, and was Ordained in 1960.

NO REFUNDS ON CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED AFTER JUNE 10, 1983
(A discount of \$5.00 will be given on early men's registration)

REGISTRATION FEE
(payable in advance)

Men ————— \$35.00
Ladies ————— \$20.00
Dependants ——— \$10.00

ACCOMMODATIONS

(to be paid on arrival)

Single ————— \$21.00 per person per night.
Twin Bedroom ——— \$16.00 " " " "
Extra Bed ————— \$8.00 " " " "

Rates for accommodations and meals are estimates.

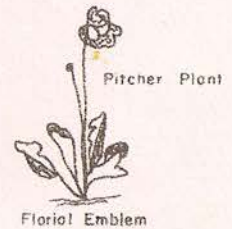
MEALS

(To be paid on arrival)

Friday Lunch thru Sunday Lunch inclusive TOTAL COST \$20.00
Saturday night banquet cost included in the Registration Fee.

The Earth Is The Lord's

To: HECTOR K. SWAIN
REGISTRAR, 13th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION
320 ELIZABETH AVENUE, ST. JOHN S, NEWFOUNDLAND
A1B 1T9



Name _____

Address _____

Club _____ Church _____

Office Held _____ Voting Delegate _____ Individual Member _____

My wife will be attending _____ Her name is _____

Children attending: Names _____ Ages _____ Sexes _____

I will be travelling by: Car _____ CN. _____ Plane _____ Bus _____ and expect to arrive in St. John's

Date and Hour _____ Will require trailer-park accommodations _____

Want to stay at Memorial University of Newfoundland _____ I wish to share a room _____ Special arrangements required — SPECIFY _____

_____ cheque or money order payable to: 13th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE. I enclose cheque/money order for _____ for full registration fee.

Travel information required.

Provincial Flag

