



NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER

"As One That Serves"

Volume 7, Number 2

April 1984

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S OBSERVATIONS

We welcome some new clubs to our fellowship: Mountainview, Moncton; Atlantic-Garden City, Winnipeg; Essex, Essex, ON; Ogden, Calgary; Knox, Brandon; Powell River, Powell River, BC. There are two more clubs, Queen Street, and Belleville and Trinity, Kitchener, ON, which are in the process of being chartered. We will be watching them with great interest as they fulfill their commitment to AOTS. We hope to see many of them at our regional gatherings and look forward to their contribution to AOTS.

This growth is very encouraging, and not only for our organization. It shows that the men of the United Church are beginning to realize that there is more to church membership than just having their name on the roll. The credit for all this is due to you fellows out in the field accepting your commitment to AOTS and putting it into practice.

The year 1984 has had a good beginning, the challenges numerous and the opportunities waiting for us to act. Let's make 84 the best year yet for AOTS.

Dues from clubs and individual members are now overdue. Send your money to:

R.A. Lewis
National Treasurer
RR#4, 105 Lamp Road
Amherstburg ON N9V 2Y9

NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER

Official Publication
The National Association of
AOTS Men's Clubs

United Church of Canada

April 1984
Vol. 7 No.2

Published by the National
Committee of Communication

Editor
Ken Turner
11507 - 73 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6G 0E2

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AOTS has much to offer in the the building of better lives, and ultimately a better society. Let us equip ourselves as evangelists, promoting the Institution, not alone by preaching AOTS, but also by precept and example -- becoming truly AS ONE THAT SERVES.

Cyril Locke
National President
PO Box 190
Springdale Nfld. A0J 1T0

NOTES OF INTEREST

The TRAVELING GAVEL made by Lloyd Thompson was seen in Bishop's Falls on February 8th. How far and how many places will it reach?

Doug MacDonald of 965 Brighton Crescent, Victoria BC V8S 2G4 is no longer secretary at Oak Bay United -- sorry to hear you are not in the best of health. Try Richard M. Gale, 356 Pooley Place, Victoria BC V9A 6Y5, the new secretary.

PRESIDENTIAL
LETTER
TO LIFE AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Greetings to each of you on behalf of the AOTS National Council!

It is unlikely I will get the opportunity to meet each of you during my term of office, but that does not lessen my appreciation for your contribution to the AOTS Association over the years -- monetary, as well as moral and physical.

Those of you who have Life Membership within the Association, have been awarded it because of meritorious service at various AOTS levels. This includes the National Association where some of you have held office with distinction. I personally want to thank those who have retired from active service for helping make AOTS what it is today. You planned well, you gave direction to many of us in our formative years, and you passed your wisdom on to us. One purpose of this letter is to salute you. Life members still active in service, using your talent and energy for the betterment of AOTS, are appreciated and needed wherever you are able to serve. Service is the WATCHWORD, and members of your status are a visible force in a team effort.

Individual members constitute an important element of our membership, and many have joined for a variety of reasons. It is important for us to develop and maintain a close relationship without regard to membership status -- Individual, Life or Club. Individual members are welcome and encouraged to attend as visitors at any of our local clubs, and I am sure would benefit from the fellowship experienced. You are also entitled to attend National AOTS Biennial Conventions in your own right, after registering with the host committee.

I presume you are regularly receiving the AOTS NEWSLETTER and
(continued on p.8)

EDITORIAL

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Lloyd Richards of Chatham, Ont. reports -- the slide presentation is now in the hands of the Regional Vice Presidents and is available from any of the following:

Western Vice President
C.T.G. (Clarke) Bailey
43 Valleyview Drive
Winnipeg, Man. R2Y 0R5

Central Vice President
Jack Arthur
RR #5
Belleville, ON

Eastern Vice President
N. Malcolm McDonald
RR #5 Dutch Brook, C.B.
Sydney, NS B1P 6G7

Membership Chairman
C. Lloyd Richards
15 Diane Road
Chatham, ON N7L 1N6

We would welcome any comments pro or con on the use of this slide presentation in promoting AOTS.

The membership committee has held two meetings. Our first was to acquaint ourselves with the General Terms of Reference:

1. Recruit and retaining members.
2. Revise the handbook.
3. Research and trends
4. Foster formation of new Clubs.
5. Consider changes to modes of membership and types of Clubs.
6. Be responsible for the "David Sherwood Memorial Trophy."

The second meeting we set up these goals for ourselves:

1. Visit as many Men's groups as possible (within our own London Conference).
2. Set a goal of 6 new AOTS clubs in London Conference. With the help of all dedicated AOTS men we hope to see at least 20 new clubs across Canada.

May I say "Thank You" for the many kind comments in the many pieces of correspondence received to date.

I note many bits and pieces from BC -- where not everyone is able to live; a few from Ontario -- where, judging from the number of automobiles on the highways, everyone lives; and a sample from the other areas of Canada.

I believe it is my job to promote the imagination, excite the brain, and at times boil a little readers' blood for the good and growth of AOTS. Your help will be appreciated. A few more addresses or locations on your submissions will help and, of course, I must be able to read the names and places to get the spelling correct. I'm lucky -- I can blame the computer!

Ken Turner
11507 - 73 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6G 0E2
(403)436-0741

The next NEWSLETTER will be published -- October, 1984. Coming Events should be after October 15. Material must be received by August 31.

I'm looking for many more communications, especially from the new clubs and the others who sent nothing.

Letters to the Editor are welcome and when space permits, will be published after editing for length (and good taste!).

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IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM K. MACKAY, Cranbrook, BC. Long time member, Past-President; May 17, 1983; 66 years.

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CUERNAVACA EXPERIENCE

REFLECTIONS ON A CROSS-CULTURAL SEMINAR IN MEXICO

By Murray McPherson

In November 1983, twenty-three members of the United Church of Canada engaged in an awareness-building experience designed to provide understanding of what it means to be poor in the third world. The setting was the Cuernavaca Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and Development (CCIDD). The participants represented all regions of Canada.

Cuernavaca, "the city of eternal spring," is located about 80 miles south of Mexico City. For Canadian participants it became an area of sharp and stunning contrasts. Amid beautiful mountains and valleys, multitudes of flowering plants, ancient ruins and attractive villas, one could not help but be shocked by the prevalence of abject poverty.

The program directed by Ray Plankey was designed:

to develop with Christians a perspective toward change and development within the theology of liberation; to create awareness of independence and solidarity with the common struggle for human liberation which crosses cultural and national boundaries; to facilitate personal contact which can provide continuous growth and mutual support between intercultural groups.

Ray, a civil engineer with training in theology and education, has been working as a lay missionary in Latin America for 22 years. The staff at CCIDD also includes a young couple from Minnesota, a nun from Boston, and two young women from Calgary. The program provided by these leaders and a host of visiting speakers consisted of presentations and seminars, plus visits to communities within 100 miles of Cuernavaca.

Our first visit was to a squatter settlement on an abandoned railway yard known as "Las Estacion." Hundreds of shacks made from "Datsun" cases covered every inch of space; an open sewer crossed by tiny log bridges made its way among the homes. We visited one of the better homes -- a dirt floor, walls of crates and a roof of corrugated paper. Within, Angela cared for a number of children and a grandchild (seven in all). The absentee father was able to provide only a few pesos per week. Angela sewed and crocheted to buy tortillas which appear to be the difference between life and starvation. Angela spoke to us with feeling; she saw little hope for herself, but stated that perhaps one day there would be enough food and her children might go to school. Water in La Estacion was the most serious daily threat as the six public faucets functioned only when the people of Cuernavaca were not using water (1:00 - 4:00 AM). In addition, there was the continuous fear of eviction by the government (who owned the railroad yard).

Other visits took us to a second squatter settlement called "La Ravine," a rural community located on marginal land, an Indian village where 15,000 persons were struggling for survival, and to business and industrial centres. Presentations and seminars at CCIDD gave background for our experiences as we met church leaders, historians, a banker, representatives of women's groups, refugees from Central America, persons at the Canadian Consulate, and others. We talked with escapees from El Salvador as well as members of a group of Canadians who were returning from Nicaragua. Each had a story to tell and as they described their situation we recognized that for most of the developing world "pulling one's self up by the bootstraps is not an option." In Mexico, as in most of the developing world, you can be smart, hard-working and ambitious. You will still remain poor.

Through it all however, there were some positive signs. The most striking to me were the base Christian communities which have become common. People came together to study, to pray, and in many cases to work cooperatively. Many who were illiterate can now read, and together they reflect on the Scriptures seeking direction to deal with oppression. In this way they build a Christian community which in many cases, we noted, had expanded to support cooperatives to produce and market clothing, baskets, as well as agricultural products. Their support for the "barefoot doctors" was especially noteworthy. Their simple faith in God, along with the application of the Scriptures to daily life, challenged each of us as to how we demonstrate our faith.

The Cuernavaca Experience has given me a new outlook on life -- it has opened me to the reality of the nature and extent of poverty. Christians of Canada and Christians of the third world need to talk with each other; we need to learn from their oppression so we can demonstrate the solidarity of our faith. The total experience adds a new dimension to my personal faith in action "As One That Serves."

Murray McPherson is a past president of the National Association of AOTS Men's Clubs.

CLUB NEWS

Our thanks to all those clubs contributing news to this issue. We appreciate your response to our request for news which has meant some editing had to be done. We hope we have retained those items of most interest to our readers. A little more attention to the address or where it all comes from would be appreciated.

BOTWOOD, Nfld. - The annual dinner of AOTS saw president M. Bessey and a slate of officers replaced by Lloyd Thompson and his gang. Jack Baker, Conference AOTS president

made it all legal. A good year was recorded -- dinners and executive meetings, church services, involvement with senior citizens, work with the Salvation Army and other Christian groups, Beavers and Cubs, chartered a new club, lost a Charter Member in September, raised considerable money, sold moose burgers and had a happy time on ladies night.

MOOSE JAW, Sask. - The "Menu" consists of 16 executive members. Hardly a tasty meal but continue to do the work of AOTS. Sponsoring two male and two female youths to Banff Mens' and Womens' Conferences. I trust this recommendation passed. Installation of new officers to come later.

TORONTO, Ont. - Kingston Road United sponsor the 11 year old Pee Wee hockey team. Russ Grundy reports their team has been awarded the right to represent the Ted Reeve arena for Canada playing a home game here and a visitors game in the USA. They are still winning!

DRESDEN, Ont. - Bruce Reissner reports donations of money to camp, buses to Detroit Ice Capades and lots of activity.

MORPETH, Ont. - Gordon O'Neill and Ralph Robinson report 30 years since founding. Year's highlights included attending the 13th Biennial in St. John's.

BELLEVILLE, Ont. - Carl Wammanher reports a good year in 1983 -- raised about \$2000.00 and ate a lot of roast beef. Better late than never, Carl!

KAPUSKASING, Ont. - Randolph Soth reports participating fully in the 85 Convention, Sudbury. Sounds like you had a great Pancake Brunch with real maple syrup.

GLOUCESTER, Ont. - Dave Gault reports a silver anniversary for Rothwell United. Note: It is reported Rothwell has one of the largest Sunday Church Schools in Canada, anybody disagree?

TORONTO, Ont. - Harry Wolfrain of Bellefair AOTS reports monthly. A very active group getting ready for their 84 roundup in Geneva Park.

MANITOBA - Mel Johnston, secretary to the district council reports for seven clubs. All appears well in Manitoba at St. James'-Assiniboia, Shaughnessy, Atlantic Garden City, Greg Street, Knox, Westworth and Windsor Park.

ROSSLAND, BC - Cliff Davison reports a successful year and donations of many dollars to various needs.

POWELL RIVER, BC - received its charter on January 22, 1984, sponsored by Campbell River. Congratulations! Dudley Pearson is the new president. Powell River is one of the great places in BC. It is highly recommended by the Editor.

DUNCAN, BC - Keith MacDonald was named president of the Island Council for AOTS Men's Clubs. The Cowichan Leader reports Ernie Stafford, president of the BC AOTS lead the ceremonies.

BC - West Burnaby, Lake Cowichan, Brechui-Nanaimo - from the brief report, all things are well in BC. I note Campbell River brought to Island a Traveling Gavel. Have two of these now? More on the devotional later.

VICTORIA, BC - Ted Belt reports AOTS dedicated Memorial Lectern to honor the memory of the late Fred Nichols - remembered "As One That Serves."

VANCOUVER ISLAND COUNCIL - reports that as of January 20, the quarterly meeting of the Council, 58 men representing nine clubs were in attendance. Hope your BC roundup on 31 March was a success!

A USEFUL MOTTO

Make the best of the life you have left, the alternative is very, very permanent!

AOTS WORK IN THE MARITIMES

There are many Maritime clubs which operate strictly at the local church level, thus their activities are rarely known outside their own circles.

Our men seem very reluctant to become caught up in an organization which puts more demands on their time, thus the thought of the district council, etc. seems to scare them off. The exception is PEI Presbytery, where the men are well organized and busy.

As I write this, I am awaiting the arrival of five other men. At 8 AM we will head for Sackville, NB (a 2 1/2 hour drive) for our steering committee meeting. The committee is made up of men from Bridgewater, Halifax/Dartmouth and Springhill, NS, Fredrickton area and Moncton, NB and Charlottetown, PEI. I think it significant that these men give up one Saturday a month and travel at their own expense to these planning meetings.

The steering committee (approx. 20 men) has been meeting monthly since October to plan for the Third Men's Festival of Faith to be held at Mount Allison University, June 8-10. Five storytellers, eight interest groups and lots of singing, will make this festival even bigger and more interesting than the previous two.

In Halifax 30 or more men meet for breakfast at 7 AM on the second Tuesday of each month, while a similar number gather on the Dartmouth side on the fourth Tuesday. After a bit of singing, praying, sharing and eating, all head out at 8 AM with a spring in their step and a song in their heart.

On December 10, the men of Halifax Presbytery were treated to a most interesting evening when Mike Kaye and Rev. Bruce Roberts shared their experiences from several trips to St. Paul's Church in Darien, Connecticut.

The men of Woodlawn United hosted a breakfast with Dr. Robert McClure on February 18. If you have an opportunity to have this man for an event, you should take it. He is fantastic!

PEI Presbytery men held their annual meeting on November 19, with 84 in attendance. They are well organized and very busy. Ralph Sams, president of Maritime Conference Men, attended the meeting. This group is responsible for Stanhope Conference each September. More and more men from other provinces are finding this a very meaningful weekend.

The Cape Breton Men's Council held a very successful conference weekend in October.

Many clubs and groups are meeting regularly for worship, fellowship and projects. Our men are alive and well.

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 NEWSLETTER NOTE - NEXT PUBLICATION DATE - OCTOBER 1, 1984. Your reports should arrive before August 31, 1984. Please include your address and send them to:

Ken Turner  
 11507 - 73 Avenue  
 Edmonton AB T6G 0E2

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 If your group is planning a conference, roundup or rally we will be glad to publish this information in future issues. Please identify yourself clearly and send your materials to:

Ken Turner
 11507 - 73 Avenue
 Edmonton AB T6G 0E2

COMING EVENTS

- APRIL 16 - South Burnaby United Church dinner meeting with Vasant Saklikar speaking on "The Third World Experience in Mexico."
- APRIL 27-29 - "Celebration of Faith" (Coastal Men's Conference) at Trinity Western College, Langley, Dr. Alan Reynolds, theme speaker.
- APRIL 27-29 - Cranbrook United Church Father and Son weekend at Rock Lake Camp.
- APRIL 27-29 - Ontario AOTS Roundup, Geneva Park YMCA Centre, Orillia, ON. Contact:
 Ken Lane,
 #1711, 1460 Ghent Ave.
 Burlington ON L7S 1X7
- MAY 2 - Niagara Presbytery AOTS Eleventh Spring Rally, 7:00 PM, Grantham United Church, St. Catharines, ON. Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rumball, Executive Director, The Ontario Community Centre for the Deaf. Contact:
 Ralph Graham
 4, 290 Glenridge Ave.
 St. Catharines ON L2T 3K4
- JUNE 8-10 - "Men's Festival of Faith" at Mount Allison University, NB. Contact:
 Men's Festival of Faith
 C/O Mark Canty
 Mount Allison University
 PO Box 1230
 Sackville NB E0A 3C0
- JUNE 24 - Annual Pork BBQ, Chalmers Centennial Court, Dresden ON
- OCTOBER 12-14 - 30th Banff Men's Conference, Banff AB. Contact:
 Dave Kinniburg
 Box 103
 Airdrie AB T0M 0B0

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PLAN NOW TO ATTEND:

**UNITED CHURCH
AOTS MEN'S CLUB**

**14th Biennial
Convention**

Huntington University
Sudbury ON
AUGUST 16-18, 1985

A great spiritual weekend is planned for everyone attending. Registration forms will be available with the fall issue of the NEWSLETTER.

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NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE

Already one-quarter through the present term, our responsibilities are becoming focused, and we are encouraged by the resurgence of AOTS and growing interest in youth ministries throughout the church. A very real concern of the committee is to acquire a vital and pertinent network of corresponding members across Canada and Bermuda. We recognize our regional limitations and seek to use the available structure in AOTS to act with a truly national perspective. The thrust of this committee is to speak to all AOTS men.

The committee has had two meetings since the last report. We have added a new local member, Graham Hale, and a corresponding member, Ken McCaskill of Winnipeg. We are creating a display for the 1984 Ontario AOTS Roundup, studying the issue of the D.R. Poole Trophy Competition, and discovering the

extent of youth work in AOTS across Canada and Bermuda.

OTHER YOUTH NEWS

The United Church sponsors a Youth Forum in conjunction with each General Council. A Youth Moderator and a General Secretary are elected. More information is available through:

Connect
The United Church Observer
85 St. Clair Avenue East
Toronto ON M4T 1M8

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

(Con't. from P. 2)

other mailings, and are aware of our national church hospital project, and our second mile effort. The National Council is depending not only on the support of Clubs to finance these endeavors, but as well on the continuing support of our whole family, which includes our Life and Individual members.

When making contributions, all cheques should be made to NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AOTS, and identified as either "National Hospital Project," "Second Mile Support," or "Individual Membership Fee," and mailed to:

R.A. Lewis
National Treasurer
RR #4
105 Lamp Road
Amherstburg ON N9V 2Y9

A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued.

Cyril Locke