

# NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER

"As One That Serves"

Volume 8, Number 3

December, 1985

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Dear AOTS Members:

*In response to Newsletter submissions in the May edition I have received a response from five clubs, all in the west, one letter in reply to the Anglican versus United Church report, letters from Dr. Murray McPherson, Jack Cleave, Lloyd Clark and Mr. S.R. Cooper, who thinks my name is Ken Taylor.*

*I appreciate the concern shown for the publication. It would be easy to phone Fred Holberton and say I have had enough, but before I do that I'll try again. It bothers me that very little has come via the mail. I'll change the format a little this time and let you have the full range of these articles submitted for publication.*

*I'm sure you have read all about our new President in the United Church Observer. I enclose his report that I received in the mail.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JACK ARTHUR — NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Greetings to the new members of the executive and to the old members welcome back! We have a challenging two years ahead of us and I ask from each of you your ideas, your prayers and hard work.

I feel very positive about the opportunities AOTS has before it.

The United Church Observer is planning a story covering the new talking book project and AOTS in general. This will give us excellent coverage from coast to coast.

We are into the second phase of the Hospital Project which again is very positive and a good promotional point for AOTS.

Our committees have been reorganized to some degree and I am expecting new and progressive ideas from each of them.

We are a Christian Men's Organization and we must have faith as we set new and higher goals for AOTS. We have to be looking towards a budget of \$100,000 within the next two years. A full time executive secretary is a must if we are to fulfill our mission across Canada.

We must review our relationship with the United Church so that we can determine our proper position within the framework of the church.

With our goal of being the leaders for men's work within the United Church, as I have stated, we have many challenges ahead of us.



## 1985 COLNETT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

*Dr. Murray McPherson provides information, and a picture no less, of Sheila Luther, a member of St. Paul's United Church, Saskatoon, as the first recipient of the Colnett Scholarship program this year.*



The first recipient of a Colnett Scholarship in 1985 is Miss Sheila Luther of Saskatoon. A member of St. Paul's United Church, Sheila is a third year student of Agriculture (Crop Science) at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1984, working through the Canada World Youth Program, she was an exchange student for three and one half months on an Ontario farm and then lived with a farm family in Sri Lanka for the rest of the year. Following graduation Sheila plans to conduct research on food production.

## LETTERS

*Now, Mr. Cooper - I enjoyed your letter and I'll be in Toronto sooner than you think, so be prepared to meet the Ken Taylor you wrote to. I think it would be fair to enclose your open letter to the Editor of the AOTS Newsletter.*

**An Open Letter to the Editor of the AOTS News.**

Dear Editor,

What happened? Where is our newsletter? We sure miss it. I know that winter comes early in the wild and woolly West. In know the Eskies were not much better than the Argos, but to hibernate so soon — how come? there are lots of things happening down in Ontario, and I'm sure that's true of near and far West. I'm sitting here with my Saskatoon Booster Cap on and I don't know, is all well with our '87 Whoopup? Let's hear from them.

What about a slant on our national scene, TUNAGATE or Billion \$ Barbara's Big Bank Bailout. We're taxpayers as well as AOTS men.

What about some inspiration from our great AOTS men of the past — Charlie Burrit from Burnaby, Taylor Franklin from Belleville, Dave Sherwood from Scarborough. Have these men nothing to tell us from the past? It's true some of them can't speak for themselves anymore, but let's hear about them from the pens of others. Let's recount their greatness for posterity while they are in living memory of some of us.

So stir it up Mr. Editor, even if we don't like your opinions, for goodness sake have some. That's what an Editor is for — besides correcting my spelling and typing — and if we don't send you any news, what about appointing a STRINGER in every Conference. I'll volunteer for Toronto, so there, you're off and running.

G.R. Cooper  
Chairman Toronto Conference

P.S. I hope you take all of this in the spirit that it was meant to be — FUN! The one thing I miss since retiring is my secretary, please excuse this awful typing and never mind the spelling.

**WE DID, MR. COOPER, AND WE EVEN REPENTED FOR YOU! TRY BORROWING A WORD-PROCESSOR FOR YOUR NEXT LETTER!**

*The Anglican's Report VS. the United Church Report was word for word from an Anglican publication and the Observer for the United Church. The Letter to the Editor came from the pens of two learned men. It was printed to stir some response. There was one reply from Prince Edward Island:*

September 11, 1985

AOTS Newsletter  
Editor

Dear Sir:

Your last edition contained a letter attacking U.C. Men, by one who is ashamed to sign his name. Considering his silly comments, he has good reason to shun publicity. Does he happen to be from Head Office?

There was no prior consultation with church members as to the value of VIM. It was imposed on us by those occupying official positions. They seem to think that their opinions should govern U.C. people. Does your correspondent not realize that some congregations sacrificially gave to VIM before paying their own debts and badly needed repairs?

A church organization, whose chief concern is getting money for the promotion of nefarious schemes e.g. ordination of homosexuals, liberal theology and other questionable procedures can hardly be termed Christian. Many of us do not trust the U.C. hierarchy and show it by refusing to support what we regard as unethical practices of those who are wise in their own eyes. We refuse to bow the knee to Baal.

Yours truly,  
Ivan Darrach

## MANKIND'S PROBLEM

Our problem is basically theological. The towering enemy of man is not his science but his moral inadequacy. We have too many men of science and too few men of God. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount. Unless we can anchor our knowledge to moral foundations, the ultimate result will be dust and ashes.

The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience.  
— E. E. Pieplow



One of the more encouraging letters received has been, I trust, presented to the National AOTS executive meeting. I suggest it be read by all. Thanks to Lloyd Clark.

**PREAMBLE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL AOTS FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Whether we call ourselves "The National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs" or "The National Association of the United Church Men's Clubs" with the motto "AOTS" or "The National Association of United Church Men's Clubs," we have a National Organization with a National Constitution and structure that has the potential of lifting and uniting all men of the United Church in Christian fellowship, spiritual growth and service. This is our VISION!

AOTS strives – through the encouragement and practice of prayer, praise, worship and Christian service for our Creator – to lift the sights of United church men so that they will experience DREAMS and VISIONS for Christ and His Kingdom, for His Church and for Mankind in general: not only on a Local Club level but also on the levels of Interclub, Interconference and National service and fellowship. The larger our Fellowship in Christ, the greater will be our spiritual strength, the more substantial will be our growth in "a sense of being," in "a sense of purpose" and in "a sense of power" that is Christ's for victorious living.

Consequently, in obedience to this VISION, a basic need at all levels, but particularly at the National level, is for movement, visitation, speaking, action!! That requires two things: not only human resources and Christian dedication but also material resources.

The National AOTS Executive needs a healthy increase of material resources for making our National Association completely self-supporting with sufficient funds for staff, office accommodation, promotion, publicity, travel and for projects that bring men together from the Local level to the National level. We recommend an expanded extension of communication through every possible means including travelling itineraries. This would require not only a full-time Executive Secretary (or half-time assistant) but also Executive officers (or commissioned officer(s) making grass-roots contacts with the men of the Church, nationwide.

Our President has envisaged a budget of \$100,000 in two years time. Dreaming? Yes! But is anything ever accomplished without DREAMS and VISIONS? And this DREAM is plausible! Proverbs 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish..." (KJV). Paraphrased: "Where there is no VISION, there is no enthusiasm and no drive." Such DREAMS must be of God, since they harmonize with His will for the spread of His Kingdom.

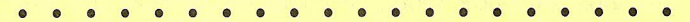
Then, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" The Lord has promised that it is but for us to act and sow the seeds then, in faith, leave the increase to Him.

One of our Financial Committee members has defined the National AOTS problem thusly: "insufficient financial and human resources to make the United Church Men across Canada a united, vibrant and influential force for service to our Lord." These members of the National AOTS Financial Committee, who represent the "grass-roots" of our organization, have caught National Executive's concern and vision. They pray, along with us, that great things will happen across this nation as "grass-roots" men of the Church are inspired by this same concern and vision.

Lloyd Clark  
(Chairman)

Marty Albers  
Jack Authier  
Dick Macdiarmid  
(Members)

Ross Agar  
Bob Lewis  
Bruce Reissner  
(Corresponding Members)



Don't resent growing old - many are denied that privilege.

**NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER**

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



## SPECIAL EVENTS AS RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION

Plans are underway for our 10th Annual Junior Choir Festival. This year it will be held at Asbury and West United Church in Toronto. The date is Sunday, March 2nd. We expect that the limitation of participants to 10 will make the festival a little less onerous for the children and adjudicators. Certificates of participation will again be presented.

Events of special interest within the TRI-COUNTY AOTS DISTRICT COUNCIL area (Essex, Kent and Lambton Counties in SW Ontario).

1. The TRI-COUNTY AOTS DISTRICT COUNCIL sponsored a District AOTS Golf Tournament at the Tilbury, Ontario, 9-hole Golf Course on June 29/85. Over seventy men attended. Enjoyment was high. A repeat performance for June 28/86 was voted unanimous. The planning was initiated by the National AOTS Membership Committee in the Chatham area, with local detail overseen by the men of Tilbury-Quinn AOTS.

2. The TRI-COUNTY AOTS DISTRICT RALLY was held at the Tilbury Darrel S. Maffat United Church on the evening of Saturday, November 16/85. Over 90 men enjoyed the fellowship of a delicious roast-beef dinner, worship and speaker, Dr. Don Watt of Vancouver. Dr. Watt is supervisor of Canadian hospitals under the wing of the United Church Division of Mission. Dr. Watt's address and slides gave the men a United Church mission Hospital insight that was unprecedented in detail and interest.

3. The TRI-COUNTY AOTS DISTRICT has a VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE active in the Chatham area. The volleyball interest began in Park Street AOTS some three years ago through the persistence of one man, Dick Macdiarmid. During the winter of 1984-85, a group of young men from S. Raleigh Tp. AOTS, gathered by Bob Pratt and George Dunbar, played the Park-streeters several times. The dream of one man, plus the encouragement from Tri-County and the volunteering of an organizer, Robin Shepherd, of Victoria Avenue AOTS has resulted in a four team (soon to be a six team) league this autumn: Park Street AOTS, St. Andrew's AOTS, two teams from Victoria Ave. AOTS and hopefully, in the near future, two teams of young men from the S. Chatham (Tp.) AOTS and the S. Raleigh (Tp.) AOTS. DREAMS are potent "stuff" even in AOTS!

It was nice to receive five Bulletins from:

- Nov. 15 - Moose Jaw AOTS - St. Andrew's United Church.
- Oct. - Fairfield United Church Newsletter, Victoria, B.C.
- Oct. 2 - St. Paul's United Church - H. Hagerman, Bulletin Ed.
- Nov. - Duncan BC, Lake Cowichan Club
- Oct. - AOTS Men's Club - Kapuskasing



In all ages, people have said: "Show us God and then we will pray." That's why the heathen made idols of gold or brass and why the ancient Greeks personified their gods. Oddly enough, the Christian faith demands an exactly opposite attitude: "Pray - and then you will see God."

*The next NEWSLETTER should be published in March. The deadline for material is February 28, 1986.*

*May I take this opportunity to say, "Thank you for listening."*

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

— Anonymous

Lord, as I sit wrapping presents in the bright clutter of the paper and ribbons beneath the Christmas tree, I keep thinking of other, better things I wish I could give my family.

First, I'd love to put peace, world peace, in a package. But since I can't, maybe I can try harder to keep peace within this house - to manage less hectic meals and bedtimes, to calm down or prevent its arguments and conflicts. Please help me do this, Lord.

And this fishing rod I'm struggling to wrap for my husband without revealing its secret, what would I like its clumsy package to include? Freedom to go fishing more often, for one thing, but mostly freedom from worry - worry about mortgages and car payments, about our health, the children's future, our happiness. As I sit pondering this impossible gift, you make me realize I can help by giving him my consideration, by doing everything in my power to spare him.

Our sons, Lord, what would I like to tuck into their boxes along with the boots and shirts and football gear? For one son, self confidence, belief in his won abilities, more ease with girls. For the other, better grades so he'll get into the college he wants to attend. How can I compensate for these gifts that I cannot bestow? By continuing to believe in my sons and showing it, I guess.

For my daughters I wrap the sweaters and tennis racquet, the books and records, the doll clothes I stayed up late to finish for my little one. I can think of so much more I'd hand them if I could. I'd give them poise and graciousness, kindness and compassion, courage for all occasions - for tests and dates and interviews - but especially the courage to be themselves whether it makes them popular or not. Above all I'd like to say, "Open your eyes and your arms to this priceless present: the wonder of being a woman today when so many careers are calling and you can still be a wife and mother if you wish."

This list of longings for all of them is endless, Lord. I can't wrap up the things I really want. But one thing I can give all of them, a gift that no box would ever be big enough to hold - something that's mine alone, to give as often as I wish - my love!

Yours in the spirit of Love,  
KEN TURNER  
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