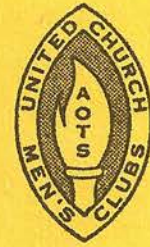




UNITED CHURCH
AOTS
MEN'S CLUBS



A National AOTS Newsletter

Vol.2, Number 3, September 1979



BACK TO BASICS

CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

raised at

THE NATIONAL AOTS CONVENTION

Toronto, July 27-29, 1979

Don Smith - Is the concept of a Service club and a men's Service Movement related to the church outmoded and outdated?

Maurice Boyd - Have you got it? MY Gospel!
If you have, what are you doing with it?
Ambassadors for Christ!

Bob Rumball - Why marvel ye ? Acts 3:12

Ted Kersey - Will any change be noticed in you when you return home from this Convention?

DECISIONS BY THE NATIONAL AOTS COUNCIL, July 26, 1979

Redraft the Constitution with by-laws for presentation at the 1981 Convention for adoption.

Establish a National Spiritual Life Committee and urge every club to have a Spiritual Life Chairman.

AOTS must - Build on - Emphasize - Develop the characteristic that AOTS IS Christ-centred.

NOTE- The next two years will set the priorities and the focus for AOTS. WHAT KIND OF SERVICE? It will be YOUR opportunity and Christian responsibility to be a part of the planning and decision making.

AOTS NEWS Sept/79

1979-81 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNITED CHURCH AOTS MEN'S CLUBS

NATIONAL OFFICERS & STAFF

President-	M.McPHERSON	740 Lanark St. Winnipeg	R3N 1M3	204-489-9344
Hon.Pres.-	Dr.R.McCLURE	71 Thorncliffe Park Dr. Apt.1910,Toronto,Ont.	M4H 1L3	416-423-9052
Past Pres.-	TOM FERGUSON	Box 13,Trenton, N.S.	BOK 1X0	902-752-2748
Eastern VP-	M.MacDONALD	R.R.#5, Sydney, N.S.	BLP 6G7	902-564-9640
Central VP-	K.MacFAYDEN	1081 Pharmacy Ave., Scarborough, Ont.	MLR 2H2	416-755-9857
Western VP-	JIM DICKIE	8915-148 St,Edmonton,Alta	T5R 0Z8	403-483-5401
Nat.Treas.-	BOB LEWIS	1286 Landfair Crescent Oakville, Ont.	L6H 2N3	416-845-2417
Exec.Sec.& Nat.Office	-ALLAN SMITH	#602-70 Baif Blvd. Richmond Hill,Ont.	L4C 5L2	416-883-4001
DMC Staff -	ALAN STAIG	85 St.Clair Ave.,East Toronto, Ont.	M4T 1M8	416-925-5931

CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Communicat.-	M.M.WRIGHT	1454 Willowdown Rd. Oakville, Ont.	L6L 1X3	416-827-0118
Constitut.-	CLARE BOYD	Box 706,Mitchell, Ont.	NOK 1N0	519-348-9413
Finance -	GORD HALL	91 Somerset Cr.Waterloo	N2L 1N1	519-886-7223
Leadership-	DON GROFF	40 Kenneth Ave.,Kitchener	N2A 1V8	519-743-3968
Long Range-	JACK CLEAVE	361 TwinLakes Dr.Sarnia	N7S 4X4	519-542-7628
Membership-	BOB WHITMAN	2398 St.Clair Ave.West Toronto, Ont.	M6N 1L1	416-762-6687
Program -	DON SMITH	1676 Wedmore Way Mississauga, Ont.	L5J 2J8	416-822-8592
Projects -	NORM PYDDE	RR#2,Millet,Alberta	TOC 1Z0	403-387-4111
Spirit.Life-	REG ATTWELL	Site58,RR1,Lantzville,BC	VOR 2H0	604-390-2124
Youth -	BILL SEFTON	Box5,RR1,Unionville,Ont.	L3R 2T4	416-297-4317
Internation-	J.DURHAM	Box405,Hamilton5,Bermuda	- -	809-292-4746
Convention -	F.HOLBERTON	3818-14A St.S.W.,Calgary	T2T 3Y2	403-282-7466
Ont.Roundup-	NED BROWBLEE	116 Carlo Cr.,North Bay	PLB 8B1	705-472-2619

CONFERENCE AOTS PRESIDENTS

Newfoundland-	C.LOCKE	Box 190,Springdale,Nfld.	A0J 1T0	709-673-3326
Maritimes -	LORNE PUTNAM	RR#1, Debert, N.S.	BOM 1G0	902-662-2407
M & O -	JOHN POLLEY	612 Highland Ave.Ottawa	K2A 2K3	613-728-9206
Quinte -	JACK ARTHUR	RR#5,Belleville, Ont.	K8N 4Z5	613-966-3918
Toronto -	L.STEWART	29 Lockwood Rd.,Toronto	M4L 3M7	416-691-0686
Hamilton -				
London -	ROSS AGAR	74 Wilson Ave.,Chatham	N7L 1K7	519-352-9208
Manitou -	Jack Thompson	Box 1558,Cochrane, Ont.	POL 1C0	705-272-5133
Manitoba -	CLARE BAILEY	43 Valleyview Dr.Winnipeg	R2Y 0R5	204-837-2612
Saskat. -	RAY SILZER	48 Marsh Cr.,Regina,Sask	S4S 5R5	306-584-1006
Alberta -				
B.C. -	NORM CARTER	5886 Highland Av.DuncanBC	V9L 1L6	604-746-7472

Archivist-	Dr.W.HASTINGS	803 Younette Dr. West Vancouver, B.C.	V7T 1T1	604-922-8595
Hon.Mention-	PHIL SPENCE	Box 1421,Deep River,Ont.	K0J 1P0	613-584-4108

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It is an honour for me to address the whole AOTS membership and the multitude of churchmen affiliated with the men's clubs of Canada and Bermuda. I am proud to be a member of the Westworth AOTS Club in Winnipeg and to be a part of the larger association which reaches from sea to sea. I thank you most sincerely for the trust you have placed in me.

Before I move on to comment on the tasks ahead, I would like to recognize a number of persons and groups who have given me faithful support and from whom I look for continuing encouragement. The first is my wife, Margaret, who not only cares for the family and home while I am away but provides insights and inspiration on many issues relating to the role of the laity in the church. Without her complete support I would probably not be your president. I would also like to give recognition to the four provincial presidents; their hard work and advice on a multitude of matters over the past two years has been tremendous. Of course the group which make up the National Council are to be much admired; they have contributed hundreds of hours of time to keep the AOTS national network functioning. Space does not permit me to mention those gentlemen by name but through their dedicated effort the "whole is much greater than the sum of its parts". Thanks fellows.

In this initial letter I would like first to reiterate our vision of AOTS being an important arm of the church today and to repeat the list of dreams which I presented at the recent annual meeting.

The Importance of AOTS

During the past two years I have noted two thrusts within our church which call for clear understanding of the role of AOTS both local and national. The first of these is a growing awareness of the role and responsibilities of laymen in the life and work of the church. It looks as though we are about to rediscover the Ministry of the Laity and to see laymen as important in the mission of the church as the Church in the World. At the same time lay groups across the country have expressed a desire for more adequate communication channels, consequently many local groups have seen the need to affiliate with the National Association. In order to respond to these thrusts I would like to remind you of some comments made by Don Smith at Halifax in 1977.

1. The work of AOTS at all levels of the church in fostering genuine fellowship, encouraging spiritual growth and nurture, and encouraging men in action and service is recognized by discerning people everywhere.
2. Of particular benefit is the down-to-earth, practical expression of faith and action represented by the AOTS movement. It has been the sort of activity most attractive to many men -- something with which they could easily identify.

3. AOTS has been for many, a side-door introduction into the life and fellowship of the church and a vital first-step in nurture and leadership development. We ought to reaffirm our aim to be "an arm of the church reaching out in fellowship to all men."
4. The importance of a national organization and network is well documented; it can make a vital contribution to the church. The capacity to communicate with the men of the church and to represent them has proven to be invaluable.

DREAMS

That every layman of the church in Canada be afforded opportunities to become part of the AOTS fellowship; to experience a meaningful program of Christian service and to deepen his personal spiritual life.

The means of communication be developed which will enable all men to know the purpose and aim of AOTS and to belong to the fellowship either as a club member or as an individual member.

That a variety of AOTS programs be developed through which men in every walk of life may engage in practical expression of their faith as a means for personal self-development and self-fulfillment.

That AOTS men be catalysts, be active yeast in the society which is uniquely theirs. BUT this impact on their daily world is only part of their task. The Report of the Task Force on Ministry says:

"The good health and perhaps the survival of the church depends on whether or not it can hold up new vision to its people; a vision of a church wherein every person who has acknowledged the claim of Jesus Christ on his or her life has a ministry to perform -- and that not a grim duty but a joyous privilege.

The men of the church must be encouraged to participate more fully by accepting responsibility at the local, conference and national levels of decision making of the church courts. Their experience, their abilities and their commitment to Christ must be expressed here as well as through their service and fellowship in AOTS.

Of course we must remember that daring is that quality which makes dreams come true. No one nor any group is every totally immune from fear and trepidation; however, dreams only become reality when one dares to overcome fear of failure and press on toward the goal. To quote Robert Schuller:

"I would rather attempt to do something great and fail, than attempt to do nothing and succeed."

Murray McPherson

ALAN STAIG

Newly appointed Associate Secretary - Ministry with Adults, in the Division of Mission in Canada, Alan Staig's responsibilities (among other things) include "leadership in programs and projects which will assist laymen to a deeper understanding of the meaning of faith".

A Londoner by birth, and holding an engineering degree from London University, Alan is a professional engineer of the Province of Ontario and for 26 years worked for the consulting engineering firm of Proctor & Redfern Limited, ending up as Manager of Administration and Personnel.

In Church affairs, Alan has been an elder of Cliffcrest United Church in Scarborough for the past 24 years, and in that time has served that congregation in a variety of ways including Sunday School, boys' work, outreach and worship.

He is a past president of two AOTS men's clubs, one in Ontario and one in Newfoundland (where he worked for three years as an engineer).

He is currently Vice-President of Alcohol and Drug Concerns, an Ontario organization committed to promoting a lifestyle that is independent of alcohol and other harmful drugs.

Alan has been a member of Presbytery for 18 years, and is a past chairman and secretary of Zone 1 of Toronto Area Presbytery. He has served on the Toronto Conference Interview Board, the General Council Candidature Committee and was a Commissioner to General Council in Calgary in 1977.

WHAT NOW, AOTS - Alan Staig

The 1979 AOTS National Convention is behind us, and as I write this, summer is still in full swing but with our thoughts turning already to the Fall and Winter ahead.

You will also recognize that I'm the "new boy" at 85 St. Clair, (at least as a staff person) and that it would be impudent of me to "come on strong" with grand plans for the future.

So - I'm not going to summarize AOTS work now and into the future
 - I'm not going to develop a strategy for AOTS to pursue
 - I'm not going to exhort you into a fervour of enthusiasm.
 I do want to deal with three things - the past, the present & the future.

For each of us, the past is different and unique, a mosaic of human experience that is so rich and diverse as to make our comprehension of it baffling. Some of us - reflecting on our view of the mosaic - may wistfully pine for the "good old days". Before you shake your head and say "No sir, not me", think whether you would like to see AOTS as numerically strong as it was in the mid-50's. But the 1980's will not be the same as the 1950's: we cannot turn back the clock.

What about "Now" - that fleeting instant between the past and the future? Jesus exhorts us to "seek FIRST the kingdom of heaven". That single word "FIRST" is startling in its demand to each of us and catches the urgency that runs as an unbroken thread through the Gospels.

What Now, AOTS? cont'd-

Today in Church and in AOTS we have dedicated loyal and faithful people; their capacity to serve the Lord, their willingness to witness is limitless. For this we need to shout a song of thanksgiving. I see Christian people today - NOW - as more confident, more vibrant, more effective, more loving than ever before. This is exciting and great!

As we look to the future we can be sure of one thing - change. Tomorrow will not be the same as today or yesterday - it will be better, and you and I will make it so.

What do you want to see in AOTS in the 1980's?

Do you wish for greatness?

-how will you measure that?

Do you want to be more effective?

-for what purpose?

Do you want to respond to the needs of society?

- what are those needs?

Do you want to set priorities?

- what is most urgent?

Do you want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ?

- let's not lose sight of him.

What does all this say to you in AOTS? May I suggest it says:

1. Reflect on the past, give thanks for its glories, but be grateful we are no longer there.
2. Soak up the experiences of today, so that they form part of your mosaic of history as you move into tomorrow, and be glad.
3. Plan for tomorrow - not in some great pyramiding concept that may not respond to the needs of tomorrow - but plan to make things happen that will strengthen the work of the laity of the church.
4. And, as Paul wrote to the Ephesians so many years ago: "Finally then, find your strength in the Lord in his mighty power, so that you may be able to stand firm against the devices of the devil... give yourselves wholly to prayer and entreaty; pray on every occasion in the power of the Spirit. To this end keep watch and persevere, always interceding for all God's people."

HERE & THERE IN AOTS

South Burnaby AOTS has awarded a Life Membership in the Club to Harry Vogel, a past president of the club. Harry is moving to Campbell River.

Duncan AOTS, Vancouver Island, cleared \$200. on their 25th Annual Spring Tea on May 10/79. Mrs. Emma Davis, UCW President, officially opened the affair with comments on the camaradie which existed between the two main groups of the church.

Lorne Talbot has resigned as President of the Chemainus-Ladysmith AOTS Club to help a Youth Group in the Baptist Church in Nanaimo. He feels that the Youth need him more than the men.

Bellefair AOTS in Toronto profited by \$139.50 from Ivan Pike's Germany show. Nice work Ivan. Bellefair's first Fall meeting will be Oct.1/79.

Regina District AOTS Council sponsored the planting of 75 dozen flowers to beautify the grounds of Mutchmore Lodge. 18 men helped in the work.

The 1979 winter project for Lewisporte AOTS, Nfld., involved improvements to the auditorium kitchen, erecting an all-purpose stage with dressing and cloak rooms.

THE NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER - Al Smith, Executive Secretary

As noted elsewhere in this issue, Maurice Wright will be assuming major responsibility for future issues. YOU can be very supportive of him by noting and using the following suggestions.

1. Keep sending in your club newsletters, District Council Minutes, news clippings etc. to the National office. The address is in the listing on page 2.
2. Each club send in their yearly financial & activity report. The report you prepare for your congregational annual meeting is an excellent one.
3. Each club name a specific person to prepare and mail specific items for the Newsletter. These items need not be, in fact should not be, more than a few lines. See items at the bottom of page 6 as examples.
4. Each National Committee send a short item of value to clubs or individuals pertaining to their committees responsibilities.
5. Individuals can send in comments on books etc. that they have found helpful.
6. Let us have the dates of your future events well in advance. Send them in as soon as the date is set. This applies most definitely to Presbytery and Conference events.
7. And of course, comments and suggestions re the Newsletter is helpful and most welcome.

IN MEMORIAM

- Harry Sage - December, 1978. Harry was a charter member of the St. Luke's AOTS Club, Sudbury, Ont.
- John Marlow - Spring of 1979. John was a Life Member #016 of the National AOTS Association. He was a regular attender at all National Conventions and was registered for 1979. He lived in Jasper, Ont.
- William Payne - March 12/79, age 97 years. Bill had been a faithful and enthusiastic member of Fairfield AOTS, Victoria, for many years.
- Tom France - May 20/79, age 87 years. Tom was a member of Fairfield AOTS Club and a former member of Duncan AOTS Club. He was a noted harmonica player.
- Tom Flannagan - May 22, 1979. Tom was a charter member of the Esquimalt AOTS Club and a Past President of that club. He was a former Secretary of the Vancouver Island District Council.
- Laurence Flegal - August 3/79. Larry had been a valued member of Fairfield AOTS Club since 1972. It was he who gave the title "Candy Cane Tea" to their annual Christmas social.
- Monty Griffin - August 6, 1979, Faith AOTS Club, Toronto. Monty was a Life Member #043 Of the National AOTS. Since 1960 Monty has not missed a National Convention or Ontario Roundup until this year's Convention. He served as Treasurer for the Toronto Conference AOTS Council for 6 years. Three AOTS men representing Club, Conference & National were active pall bearers.

A MESSAGE from the COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN - MAURICE WRIGHT

At the recent National Convention held in Toronto, July 27 to 29, 1979, a new standing committee was created bearing the name "Communications". One purpose of this committee is to take on the production of the National AOTS Newsletter, the instrument now established to help keep us better informed of one another's activities, thereby to develop a stronger and more closely knit organization. It is my privilege to have been elected chairman of this committee. I see it as a very challenging opportunity and hope that I can measure up to the demands of the job.

As you know, our present newsletter made its appearance, as Vol. 1, No. 1, in September of last year, the result of a decision made at the 1977 Halifax convention and the product of the expert handiwork of our executive secretary, Allan Smith. It could not have been launched in more capable hands. This is the fifth issue and the first of four to appear this year, 1979-80. My tour of duty begins with the one scheduled for November 15th.

By relieving Al Smith of the burden of the quarterly newsletter he will have more time to give to other duties. He can never escape entirely, however, because as executive secretary he is at the hub of all AOTS activity. We shall be looking to him for contributions as well as for information and guidance. So you should continue to send your material to him: club news, district council minutes, AOTS news of all kinds; we don't want to risk the possible confusion of a second mailing address. And please keep it coming! Fortunately I live close enough to his office that the material is readily available to me.

The years ahead are promising ones for AOTS, for in the words of Past President Tom Ferguson: "The Laity is stirring --- I see --- a widening and deepening of the Laity's understanding of Christian Responsibility --- in the great issues of our day ---" (National AOTS Newsletter, December, 1978). Let us hope that AOTS is at the forefront of this change and that the newsletter may make the contribution expected of it.

MAURICE WRIGHT-NATIONAL AOTS COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN 1979-1981

Maurice is the present secretary and is a Past President of the St. Paul's, Oakville, Ont., AOTS Club where he has been a member for 15 years. He has edited the newsletter for the St. Paul's club. He has recently assumed the responsibility for a newsletter for the Oakville Horticultural Society.

Maurice was introduced to AOTS at St. Andrew's Church, Rossland B.C. in 1953 when he became Vice-President of that newly organized club. He went on to fill his term as President of the club.

In his daily work, Maurice is an electro-chemist with Cominco Ltd. at their Product Research Centre, Sheridan Park Research Community, Mississauga, Ontario.

NOTHING FANCY

Stan Farrow, 1979

1 Men of the Church, There's a
 2 Men of the Church, Heed the

job to do, Whether the ranks be great or few.
 Sa-viour's call, Whether the task be great or small.

If there's a need, we must be there, As one that Serves, no matter where.
 His work is here, His time is now, As one that Serves, no matter how.

Chorus:

Nothing fancy, in the Saviour's name; Nothing fancy is the Saviour's claim:

Faith and hope and fellowship and love, A life of living for the Lord A-BOVE

1st Chorus

Descant after 2nd verse;
 Repeat chorus 3rd time in unison.

A-BOVE

3rd Chorus

NO - THING FAN - CY, NO - THING FAN - CY

FAITH AND HOPE AND FEL-Low-SHIP AND LOVE

This new AOTS song was introduced at the 11th AOTS Convention, Toronto July, 1979

AOTS NEWS-Sept/79

COMING EVENTS

- Sept.15-16,1979 - 24th Annual Stanhope Conference
Camp Abegweit, Augustine Cove, Prince Edward Island
"Reproductive Discipleship"-Rev.Dr.Robert Mueller
- Sept.21-23,1979 - 24th Men's Rally at Loon Bay Camp, Newfoundland
Theme speaker - Rev. Dr. A.S.Butt
Program planned by the Botwood AOTS Club
- Oct. 12-14,1979 - Manitoba Laity Retreat,Lakeside Centre,Lake Winnipeg
Theme speaker - Rev. Bruce Miles
- Oct. 12-14,1979 - 25th Annual Banff Men's Conference
"Keeping Your World Open for Christ"
Speaker - Rev. Dr. George Morrison
- **OCTOBER 15, 1979 - DEADLINE FOR MAILING MATERIAL FOR THE November
----- Issue of the National AOTS Newsletter!!!!!!!
- Oct. 19, 1979 - Vancouver Island AOTS District Council Meeting
Brechin United Church.
- Oct. 27, 1979 - Peterborough Presbytery AOTS Fall Rally
Host Club-George St. AOTS, Peterborough, Ont.
- Nov. 4, 1979 - Toronto Conference 10th Annual AOTS Fall Rally
Westminster Church, Orangeville, Ont.
Registration 2 p.m.- Program 3-9 p.m.
"Restoring the Streets"- Rev. Bruce McLeod.
- Nov.9-11, 1979 - Ministry with Adults Working Unit of the DMC.
Fall meeting in Toronto.
- Nov.27-29, 1979 - North American Conference of Men's Work Secretaries
Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee.
Theme - "Christianity in Real Life".
- Jan. 7, 1980 - Deadline for mailing material for the February
issue of this Newsletter.
- Apr.25-27,1980 - 26th Ontario AOTS Roundup - Geneva Park Centre.
Planning by Manitou Conference AOTS
Theme - AOTS in the 80's.
Planning Chairman- Ned Brownlee, North Bay, Ont.
- May 30-Jun 1/80 - Muskoka Men's Conference - First weekend - men only.
- June 13-15,1980 - Muskoka Conference - 2nd weekend - Ladies invited.
Planning Chairman - Dr. Jim Guest, London,Ont.
- Aug. 21-23,1981 - 12th National Biennial AOTS Convention
----- University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta.
Planning Chairman - Dr. Fred Holberton, Calgary.
- ???????, 1983 - The National AOTS Council has made the decision
to hold the 13th National Biennial Convention in
1983!! Invitations to host that Convention should
be sent to the National Executive Secretary as
soon as possible.