

National AOTS Newsletter

Vol. 3, No. 2. April, 1980.



- In this issue: - five new clubs form, in Newfoundland and London Conferences
- "Insulin for the Children"
 - Club News, 21 clubs report

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 National Association for the exchange of information between clubs and individual members. It appears four times a year: February, April, September and November from the office of the Executive Secretary: G. Allan Smith, #602 70 Baif Boulevard, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 5L2.

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 25-27 - 26th Ontario AOTS Round-Up, Geneva Park. Speakers: Dr. Norman MacKenzie, Dr. Brian Aiken, Rev. Bill Major, Rev. Doug Joblin. Registration \$25, plus \$40 on arrival. Registrar: Art Strain (705)474-5953.
- April 28 - Manitoba Conference AOTS Spring Round-Up, Silver Heights U.C., Winnipeg, 6:30 PM. Speaker: Rev. Bruce Roberts, Knox U.C., Winnipeg.
- April 30 - Niagara Presbytery UCM Rally, Fonthill U.C., Fonthill, Ont., 7:00 PM. Speaker: Gary A. Piper, M.D., Guelph, Ont.
- May 2-4 - 22nd Manitoba Laity Conference, at Gimli.
- May 2-4 - Coastal Christian Men's Conference, Trinity Western College, Langley, B.C. Speaker: Rev. George Morrison, South Burnaby U.C., "Road to Freedom".
- May 25 - Annual Vancouver Island AOTS District Council Rally and Family Picnic, Memorial Camp, Shawnigan Lake, 2 PM.
- 1980 United Church Men's Conference, Elgin House, Port Carling, Ont.
- May 30 - June 1 - men only.
- June 13-15 - men and wives.
Theme: "Christian Wholeness". Theme speaker: Dr. Thomas A. Langford, Dean of the Divinity School, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Other speakers include: Dr. W. Clarke MacDonald on the first weekend, Dr. Bob McClure on the second weekend, plus Dr. Larry Kelly, Waterloo, and Rev. Maurice Boyd, London, on both weekends.
- June 6-8 - Men's Festival of Faith, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B., sponsored by Maritimes Conference UCM. Theme: "We Have an Anchor". Story tellers: Dr. C. M. Nicholson, Truro, N.S., Willard Proud, Cornwall, P.E.I., Dow Price, Keswick Ridge, N.B., Havelyn Chiasson, Sussex, N.B. Registrar: Dale Creelman, Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B. EOA 300 Purpose: to renew faith, reawaken desire for commitment, seek new insights through interest groups, and enjoy fun and fellowship.
- June 13-15 - Western Manitoba Men's Conference, Clear Lake. Speaker: Rev. Norman MacKenzie, St. John's U.C., Levack, Ont.
- June 20-22 - Ontario Conference for Women of the U.C., University of Waterloo.
- August 11th - Final mailing date for material for September issue of the Newsletter.
- August 15-24 - Youth Forum (meeting in conjunction with General Council). See February Newsletter, page 10, for details.
- Sept. 13-14 - 25th Annual Stanhope Men's Conference, Stanhope, P.E.I. (date tentative).
- Sept. 19-21 - 25th Annual Men's Fellowship Rally, Loon Bay, Nfld. For information contact Cyril Locke: (709)673-3326.
- October 17-19 - 26th Annual Banff Men's Conference, Banff, Alta. Speaker: Rev. Ted Scott, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada, "The Influence of Affluence".
- October 18 - Hamilton Conference AOTS/UCM Fall Rally, Melrose U.C., Hamilton.
- November 15-16 - 25th Anniversary Celebration, Victoria Avenue U.C. AOTS MC, Chatham, Ont.

To Visit

begin with good news: CHARTER PRESENTED TO NEW AOTS CLUB IN STEPHENVILLE.



Photo by The Corner Brook, Nfld., Western Star.

Newfoundland Conference AOTS President, Cyril Locke, presents charter to Ray Wall, president of the new Stephenville AOTS club. Looking on are Cyril's wife Rita (left) and Mae and Rev. Henry Price, minister of First United Church, Stephenville. The frame containing the charter was made by member Claude Cooper from 543 separate pieces of wood.

On Tuesday, March 4th, the men's club of First United Church, Stephenville, Nfld., was officially chartered as a member of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs. The charter presentation was made by Cyril Locke, Newfoundland Conference AOTS President and member of Grace U.C. AOTS in Springdale, Nfld. As guest speaker on this occasion Cyril stressed the importance of affiliation with the nation-wide AOTS organization and the need to "look past the ceiling of the meeting room" in the approach to service. He recounted some of the history of AOTS, explaining what it means to be a member and how clubs operate. Also present and bringing best wishes was Alf Slade, president of the St. Paul's club at Deer Lake, the sponsors of the new Stephenville club. He presented the gavel of office to the new president, Ray Wall. Best wishes for the success of the Club were also expressed by Janet Dalton, president of the United Church Women, together with their desire to work with the men in serving the Church. Chairman of the evening was Rev. Henry Price, minister of the Stephenville church. Rev. Ambrose Newbury of St. Paul's of Deer Lake was also present. [See page 9 for further news of new clubs.]

Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth." How would he make the same statement today? He would probably say, "You are the preservative that will keep society from going rotten."
Allison MacKinnon, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Many people think life is like a cafeteria --- self-service only.

Anon.

CLUB NEWS

The volume of mail was about the same as last period, 21 clubs in 9 conferences sending news of their activities. There are four new names in the group (denoted by an asterisk) and we are glad to hear from them. However, there are still a great many that have not yet communicated. May we hear from you? Send your news items to: The Executive Secretary, G. Allan Smith, #602 70 Baif Blvd., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 5L2.

BRITISH COLUMBIA Conference, 5 clubs reporting.

Fairfield U.C., Victoria (#685), their "inspired AOTS newsletters" for February, March, and April, the latter fearlessly announcing that their April monthly meeting would be held on the 1st, regardless, and reporting last minute arrangements for attending the B. C. Round-Up to be held at South Burnaby U.C. on March 29th. 78 attended the Valentine Ladies Night held February 5th, including a large contingent from Duncan. The Club voted \$50 donations to each of The Upper Room, Naramata, Pringle Camp, and Moorcroft Camp, and \$20 to the Boy Scouts. A Strawberry Tea is planned for June 14th with the proceeds to go to the Harry Colnett Memorial Fund.

Gordon U.C., Victoria (#757), the March newsletter. The March meeting featured a talk on nuclear energy, a controversial issue these days and so a very timely subject. Club life memberships were awarded to Fred Hayhurst and Albert Silman, the presentation being made by Conference AOTS President Norm Carter (of the Duncan club). The Club has undertaken to refence the Church property at a cost of \$1300.

Duncan U.C., Duncan (#016), the AOTS section of the Church newsletter, by Al Solotki. 56 members were present at the February meeting to welcome a five-man delegation from Cowichan Lake AOTS bringing the travelling gavel, Bob Thiessen, Cowichan Lake president, noting that it was 10 years since they had last presented this gavel to Duncan. Special guests were the two young ladies, Margaret Gillatt and Rosemary Mann (daughters of Duncan members), sent by the Club to the 50th B. C. Youth Parliament. They reported on this (also engaged six men in mock debate) and were then invited to speak to the Cowichan Lake club as well.

Some financial and other news: their profit from the sale of nuts, a remarkable 3600 boxes sold, was \$1355, from the Burns Supper \$624, from the AOTS Bread and Buns Stall at the March 1st Community Bazaar \$189 (all of which was turned over to the Handicapped Association, sponsors of this event), and from their 15th annual Spring Pancake Brunch held Sunday, March 23rd, 8 AM to 1 PM, \$240, this project involving 44 men and coordinated such that everyone was able to attend one of the two morning services. Money was voted to maintain the Club's orphan in Cyprus (\$190), to bolster the AOTS Second Mile Fund (\$370, at \$5 per member for 74 members), to buy Youth Parliament bonds (\$60), and to support the Association for the Mentally Retarded (\$50). Interclub visitation is a major activity with the Duncan club. Thus, in 1979 they sent a total of 101 men on visits to 26 clubs (an average of 4 men per visit), and to March 1st of this year it is 31 men and 7 visits, surely a record effort in reaching out to promote AOTS, assist and fraternize with fellow AOTS men. A recent example is the one to a men's fellowship at First U.C., Victoria (not AOTS), 80 miles return, on March 20th. Four Duncan men were in the party, including Norm Carter, B. C. Conference AOTS president, and Ernie Stafford, Vancouver Island District Council president, to bring a strong message for AOTS.

As noted last time, Duncan is our largest club, 75 members in 1979. It is not hard to see why --- they have such a fine program. Thus, in 1979 donations totalled \$3900 to 19 recipients, including \$2000 to their church and \$300 to the Harry Colnett Memorial Fund. The annual report says "involvement is expected of every member", and so every member is on one of the 14 committees. And what is very significant, "young members are moving into executive positions". For this reason they look to the future "with Faith and Confidence and Devotion to Duty".

Cowichan Lake U.C., Cowichan Lake (#317), a report of their March meeting, 30 in attendance to hear Margaret Gillatt and Rosemary Mann of Duncan speaking on the recent session of the B. C. Youth Parliament, this including 8 men from the Duncan club (on one of their many interclub visitations). In the business session the Club voted \$500 to the Church maintenance fund, \$25 to the Youth Parliament, \$40 to the AOTS Second Mile Fund, and \$50 to the Scouts Building Fund --- a remarkable effort by a club of only 8 members!

Oak Bay U.C., Victoria (#404), January newsletter. To sponsor the Orion Male Voice Choir in a fund-raising concert on February 11th and to commence planning for the annual auction to be held in May. Donations totalling \$600 were made to several young people's activities, including the Youth Parliament, Christian Education Committee, Messengers, a nursing student, and five young people studying for the ministry.

SASKATCHEWAN Conference, 1 club reporting.

St. Andrew's U.C., Moose Jaw (#158), the February and March issues of The Menu (Vol. 22, No. 2 and 3), an appropriate title because in the latter food dominates the news: the annual pancake supper and bake sale realizing a net \$483 from 35 gallons (1/5th of a ton!) of batter, 60 lb of sausage, and a large and hungry clientele, and the Easter Sunday Pancake Brunch coming up on April 6th. Five members attended the Regina Spring Rally, March 7th, and the Club is promoting attendance at the fall Banff Conference, October 17 to 19, by offering to pay \$50 of the \$70/person total cost of this event. Incidentally, 1980 being the 75th anniversary of Saskatchewan entering confederation, the Club is setting its sights on a membership of 75 for this year (it was 51 in 1979). And for 1983 the target will be 100, to mark the 100th anniversary of St. Andrew's U.C. These are very challenging goals, both to them and to the rest of us, if we are not to let them get ahead of us.

MANITOBA Conference, 1 club reporting.

*Grey Street U.C., Winnipeg (#454), a brief note attached to the dues remittance form that all is well.

BAY OF QUINTE Conference, 1 club reporting.

George Street U.C., Peterborough (#390), the February and March issues of Harambee, the latter reporting a successful and profitable February 19th Pancake Supper, and looking forward to Ladies Night on March 26th. The Club conducted the service on Laity Sunday, assisted by the ladies and young people. A large representation is expected to attend the Ontario Round-Up, with 8 members already registered six weeks before the event.

LONDON Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

Victoria Avenue U.C., Chatham (#188), their February and March meeting notices, the latter announcing the annual Ladies Night for March 28th as well as the regular Sunday 7:30 AM breakfast meeting on March 16th. The writer advises that tickets for Ladies Night can be obtained from the "xekuteif" (such spelling!!). On November 15th they will observe their 25th anniversary with Dr. Bob McClure as guest speaker.

Thamesview U.C., Fullarton (#114), sends, in brochure form, their program schedule for the whole of 1980, together with the names of those on the executive and other information, evidence of good planning and an excellent information piece to put in the hands of the members. Their guest at the February 27th meeting was Jack Hagarty of the Ministry of Agriculture speaking on his work in Ghana, West Africa, assisting and teaching farmers how to increase crop yields.

HAMILTON Conference, 1 club reporting.

St. Paul's U.C., Oakville (#103), several fine programs reported: in January, a talk on the problem of vandalism in the community, a matter of much concern these days, in February, an excellent talk by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale on video tape, and in March, Ladies Night with 145 attending and enjoying The Entertainers, a local barbershop choir. Coming in April and May are talks on Green Survival, on the importance of plants to the quality of life, and on Marijuana, the latter by Rev. Karl Burden, Director of Alcohol and Drug Concerns Inc. of Toronto, and former assistant minister at St. Paul's. In preparation for the sale of crafts at the fall bazaar the members have been organized into groups to make on a more-or-less assembly line basis a number of items which it is hoped will be saleable in fairly large volume. Much to everyone's surprise membership is sharply higher this year, 51 to date vs 30 last year. Must be doing something right; perhaps it is the delicious pot-luck supper served at every meeting.

TORONTO Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

Bellefair U.C., Toronto (#558), January and February newsletters, reporting a successful Ladies Night on February 11th. Again selling maple syrup (some remaining from 1979). To purchase a stand-up microphone for the Church and to join with other Toronto Conference clubs in sponsoring the Junior Choir Competition on Sunday, March 2nd.

Wilmar Heights U.C., Toronto (#090), the AOTS section of the Church's annual report. President Sid Bagnall summarizes a good year and the financial statement shows \$1640 in donations to the Church and community activities. The major fund-raising events were sale of nuts (\$726), sale of Christmas trees (\$870), and sale of Canada Savings Bonds (\$530). They look forward to 1980 and the celebration of their 25th anniversary in October. This is the home of the famed AOTS Glee Club.

MARITIMES Conference, 1 club reporting.

*Gibson Memorial U.C., Fredericton (#350), a brief note on the dues remittance form reporting donations to the Scouts and Cubs (for flags and camping), the manse (carpets), and to the Church (\$300). Sale of Christmas nuts returned a \$321 profit, and expecting to raise about \$300 on a bean and pancake supper on February 16th. This is a small club of 10 members.

NEWFOUNDLAND Conference, 7 clubs reporting (the first six via a brief statement in the February 16th minutes of Central Newfoundland District Council).

Botwood U.C., Botwood (#023), reported a wonderful year in 1979. Supplied a number of leaders for Cubs and Scouts; honoured three members who served as cooks at the Loon Bay Camp meeting of last September.

Bishop's Falls U.C., Bishop's Falls (#215), had a good year, concluding with a Christmas party for members and wives. Looking forward to 1980.

Memorial U.C., Grand Falls (#566A), a new club, successfully completed its first year and looking forward to a good year in 1980.

St. Matthew's U.C., Lewisporte (#324), many good programs in 1979 including one having as guest speaker Dr. Fred Holberton of Alberta Conference.

Grace U.C., Springdale (#187), 37 members, average meeting attendance of 24, 15 members attended the Loon Bay Camp last September. The Club has adopted a 12-year old girl in Calcutta, India. Expecting 1980 to be a great year.

Windsor U.C., Windsor (#461), a successful year, 7 dinner meetings, 6 business meetings. Guest speakers included Rev. John Posno, missionary in China.

*St. Paul's U.C., Deer Lake (#778), February letter from the secretary, Malcolm Fudge, reporting on two work projects: room dividers for the Sunday School classrooms and book racks for the Church pews. The Club is pushing hard for new members and has sponsored a new club at Stephenville.

So ends the news from the clubs for this period. Our next newsletter is due to issue on September 1st so reports and news items should be in the mail not later than August 11th. Better still, send them in month by month, or as events happen and are fresh. And let us know what you consider to be of special interest and of importance to pass on to others. Continue to send all mail to: The Executive Secretary, G. Allan Smith, #602 70 Baif Blvd., Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 5L2.

Also, we would like to hear from you directly rather than via the brief reports given in district council minutes. These latter do not do you justice and often lack the detail needed to make the event or person or place understandable to someone in another part of the country. Remember, AOTS is from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and Bermuda. Why not appoint someone to tell your story fully and accurately, on a regular basis.

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DISTRICT COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NEWS

Vancouver Island District Council

37 men representing 9 clubs attended the quarterly meeting of January 18th. Despite the high level of AOTS activity on the Island there is no let-up in efforts to promote AOTS; new members and new clubs remain high priority objectives. The travelling gavel is constantly on the move, no doubt an important reason for the extensive interclub visitation program in this district. A brief report was given by each of the 9 clubs, which included Brechin, Centennial, Ladysmith-Chemainus, and Esquimalt additional to those heard from directly and reported under Club News.

Regina District Council

Minutes of the March 4th meeting (those of January 8th and February 5th also received), attended by 8 men representing 5 clubs, report final plans for the Spring Rally to be held on March 7th at Wesley U.C. in Regina. Added to the minutes is a report on this meeting: 93 attended, including a carload from Moose Jaw (the five St. Andrew's fellows), National AOTS President Murray McPherson plus four others from Manitoba (including Conference President Clare Bailey and Winnipeg District Council President Frank Lewis), and Alan Staig, Associate Secretary, Ministry With Adults, Division of Mission in Canada, Toronto (see Alan's comments on this meeting elsewhere in this Newsletter). Chairing the meeting was Regina District Council President Alex Hay. Both Alan Staig and Murray McPherson addressed the meeting.

Winnipeg District Council

From the minutes of the February and March meetings (16 men at the latter) we learn that the wheel chair service at the municipal hospitals is continuing; every Sunday (for 29 years now) about 12 AOTS men wheel patients from their rooms to in-house church services, and back again, and sometimes also take part in the services. Recruiting new members and promoting new clubs continues to be a major activity of the Council and the work is producing encouraging results. For example, President Frank Lewis has developed a flyer (8½" x 14") which sets forth 12 points about AOTS and invites both ministers and laymen to contact the Council for further information or to discuss the formation of a

club in their area. It has been sent to all United Churches in the province and Frank reports that it is getting action. A brief summary of local club activities is given for Grey Street, Silver Heights, Brandon Knox, and Knox Winnipeg.

Central Newfoundland District Council

The meeting of February 16th in Bishop's Falls gave a lot of attention to the needs of Loon Bay Camp. According to a task-force study, facilities have deteriorated to the point that an expenditure of about \$220,000 has become necessary. Conference President Cyril Locke sees this as presenting a very great challenge to AOTS and other church groups in Newfoundland, and urged that everyone get behind the project to see that it is successfully carried out. Recognition was given by the meeting to the excellent promotional work which Cyril Locke has carried out over the years to increase interest in AOTS in the Conference. Several new clubs are in the formative stages and a new district council has been proposed (see page 10 for details). Cyril reported that the new Topsail club has expressed interest in hosting the 1983 National Convention if held in St. John's.

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In the report of the St. Paul's club of Oakville (page 6) reference is made to a video tape of a talk by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. The occasion for the making of this tape was the 50th anniversary of Riverside United Church in Windsor, Ontario, in May of 1979. Dr. Peale, who was 81 at the time and still very active in his New York church, was their guest speaker and 1500 people crowded into the Church to hear him. He spoke about problems, not how to avoid them but how to live with them and enjoy life more because of them, and how without them we might as well be dead. It was a thoughtful and yet immensely entertaining address, for he has a great sense of humour and a fund of marvelous stories.

Riverside Church has very kindly offered to make this tape available to other AOTS clubs. To borrow it all you need do is write to the Church, c/o Rev. Jurrien Camman, Riverside United Church, 881 Glidden Avenue, Windsor, Ontario, N8S 2N6; telephone (519)948-5249. There is a small rental fee of \$5.00 to cover postage and handling. Note: there is only the one copy so it must be handled with care and be returned promptly.

To show this tape you will need the following: a colour TV set, a video cassette recorder that will accommodate a 3/4-inch tape, and a coaxial cable connector between recorder and TV set (the person renting you the recorder can supply this; be sure it fits). The tape is in colour and it runs for about 50 minutes.

Dr. Peale is one of our great preachers. I guarantee you will enjoy hearing him.

On the subject of films, there is another that the Oakville club has seen and highly recommends, entitled: "Now the Chips are Down". This is the story of the development of the large-scale integrated circuit, the computer-on-a-chip, the basis of today's micro-computer. It is a device that is now making possible a host of automated operations, in factories, offices, in transportation and communication, and, before long, in the home. The small but very powerful hand calculator is one of the products of this development. Its impact on society may well be greater than that of any previous invention.

This film may be borrowed from: The British Broadcasting Corporation, Manulife Centre, Suite 510, 55 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A5; telephone (416)925-3891. The rental fee is \$50 (a bit steep but well worth it). The film was produced by the BBC in 1978. It is in colour and it runs for about 50 minutes.

A successful man is one who earns more than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who finds such a man.
Fairfield AOTS Newsletter, March, 1980.

As reported under District Council News the promotion of AOTS is and must continue to be a major activity. Outreach is at the heart of our Christianity; Jesus commissioned his disciples to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation", Mk. 16:15. AOTS is part of this preaching mission and we have no alternative but to go this way. Not to do so is to become inward looking and self-centred, to be of little use to anyone, if not to die.

However, outreach requires effort, and it requires organization if it is to be effective. This was in the minds of the men of the London Conference AOTS/UCM Council when they met in London's Riverside Church in January, under the leadership of Conference President Ross Agar, to plan an outreach program. Don Smith, past National Executive Secretary, was invited to speak to the meeting, and this was the substance of his remarks as reported to us by Jack Cleave of Central UC AOTS MC, Sarnia:

- We should be aware of our past but not live in it. We must look to the future and devise new and innovative ways to meet the needs of men today.
- We must set goals that are challenging yet realistic.
- Money should not dictate what we propose to do; rather, we should formulate our goals first and then seek the financial support. If the goals are sound and well-defined the money will be found.
- We should solicit the support of the minister in promoting men's work, and document the benefits of a men's club in those churches where they have operated successfully.
- Communications are all-important; we should make ourselves visible at every opportunity, in both church and community, via newsletters, via reports to the congregation, to presbytery, and to conference, and at all church gatherings.

Following Don's talk there was discussion and then Vice President Ralph Wensley took the group through a WHAT-HOW-WHO-WHERE-WHEN process which resulted in each person being given a specific task for action and reporting on at the next meeting. Out of this they hope to develop a positive program by which they can reach out into all of London Conference to further men's work in the church.

Further on outreach, we are happy to report the following good news:

- five new clubs have been formed, and
- a dormant club has been reactivated.

It comes as a result of good missionary work in the respective conferences.

Newfoundland Conference - three new clubs.

Zion U.C., in La Scie, sponsored by Grace U.C. AOTS MC in Springdale. 30 members. The charter presentation was to have been made by now but unfortunately it got lost in the mail. A second one is being prepared and will soon be on its way.

The president: Raymond Gray, P.O. Box 64, La Scie, Nfld. AOK 3M0

First U.C., in Stephenville, sponsored by St. Paul's U.C. AOTS MC in Deer Lake. 15 members. The charter was presented on March 4th.

The president: Raymond E. Wall, P.O. Box 261, Stephenville, Nfld. A2N 2Z4

Topsail U.C., in Topsail, no sponsoring club, the nearest being at Grand Bank, 360 miles to the west, or those of the Central Newfoundland District Council about 410 miles to the northwest. 20 members. Date of charter presentation not set.

The president: Melvyn R. Rowe, P.O. Box 183, Manuels, C.B.S., Nfld. AOA 2Y0

London Conference - two new clubs.

Tilbury-Quinn of Tilbury U.C., Tilbury, Ontario, sponsored by South Raleigh U.C. AOTS MC in Merlin, Ontario. 25 members. Charter presentation to be made on April 11th.

The president: James Manser, P.O. Box 88, Tilbury, Ontario. NOP 2L0

Kent North of Thamesville U.C., Thamesville, Ontario, sponsored by Victoria Avenue U.C. AOTS MC in Chatham, Ontario. 20 members. Charter presentation to be made on April 18th.

The president: Gordon Maynard, 88 Lamila Street, Thamesville, Ontario. NOP 2K0

British Columbia Conference, one club reactivated.

First U.C., Salmon Arm.

The president: Keith Best, R.R.#4, Salmon Arm, B. C. VOE 2T0

We wish to welcome these new members to the AOTS fellowship and look forward to hearing from them and reporting on their activities. We suggest that present clubs drop a line to each of these clubs, c/o the president, to make the welcome a little more direct.

With the formation of new clubs at La Scie and Stephenville there are now (with St. Paul's U.C. AOTA MC in Deer Lake, Grace U.C. AOTS MC in Springdale, and St. Anthony U.C. AOTS MC in St. Anthony) five clubs in the western part of Newfoundland, enough, says Conference President Cyril Locke, to form a West Newfoundland District Council. This action has been approved by the National Executive and Cyril is now moving to set up the organization. I hopes the first project will be a men's conference this spring at Westhaven Lodge in the Pasadena area on Deer Lake. The new district will cover Humber Presbytery on the west coast and the Great Northern Peninsula. Cyril sees the potential for eleven clubs in this area.

A recent letter from Dr. Bob McClure, our honorary president and former moderator of the United Church (1968-71), tells of the assistance given by the men of St. Paul's U.C. AOTS MC in Stirling, Ontario (Bay of Quinte Conference, 20 miles NW of Belleville), to one of his overseas projects. This is "Insulin for the Children" at the Institut Medical Evangelique in Zaire, Africa, the former Belgian Congo. The gift was \$500, received in March of this year through Wayne and Barbara Martin of the Stirling club. And it follows from a contact made two years ago when Dr. and Mrs. McClure were visitors to Stirling.

Dr. McClure's interest in this insulin project dates from the fall of 1977 when he served for four months at the Institut. The project itself was started by Dr. Bob Hilliard, now of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, who was at the Institut for three years. While diabetes is not more prevalent in Zaire it is a serious disease and a terrible maimer and killer. Today there are about 200 children under treatment. Those who can pay, or pay in part (and most do), are expected to do so, but no one is denied treatment for inability to pay. Given steady treatment the disease can be kept under control and severe damage avoided; but when it is broken off --- as was often the case due to the hospital running out of money to buy insulin, the condition of the patient deteriorates and any gains are lost. Hence the importance of this work, the need to keep it going.

Donations to "Insulin for the Children" are invited by Dr. McClure from AOTS men, and clubs, everywhere. If you would like to share in this work send your gift to: The Treasurer, The United Church of Canada, 85 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 1M8, and direct that it be deposited in "McClure's Special Fund". This fund, administered by Dr. McClure, is the source of money for "Insulin for the Children" as well as for several other projects he is interested in: support for cancer treatment in Zaire, scholarships in India (for specialized training in medicine or agriculture), and ambulances in India, etc.

(more on this another time). In the case of the insulin project he purchases the drug and arranges for shipment to Zaire through "ECHO", an interdenominational non-profit volunteer organization in England skilled in the processing of medical supplies for far-off places. An insulin shipment is made regularly every two months, and he adheres closely to this timetable to minimize any difficulties there may be in getting supplies into this troubled country.

So there you have another outlet for AOTS service and the Stirling club is to be commended for leading the way. And no one is better qualified than Dr. McClure to see that your money is put to good use.

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IN MEMORIAM

Bert Bratton, Mount Dennis U.C. AOTS MC, Toronto, National Life Member (#37), March 1, 1980.

Leland Wight, Victoria Avenue U.C. AOTS MC.

Murray French, Victoria Avenue U.C. AOTS MC.

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President Murray McPherson's visit to Manitou Conference last fall took place pretty much as outlined in the Newsletter of last November. He travelled 1420 miles by car over a period of 6 days to participate in 7 meetings with men from 12 churches, a very demanding experience. His escort was Conference President Jack Thompson, who reported as follows.

Murray arrived in Sudbury by air from Winnipeg on the morning of Thursday, November 29th. He rented a car and drove north on 144 to South Porcupine (300 miles*). There he was met by Jack who had come south from his home in Cochrane (80 miles). That evening there was a supper meeting at South Porcupine U.C. with 18 men present representing Porcupine-Schumacher, Timmins, and the South Porcupine AOTS Club. On Friday they drove to Sudbury (300 miles*) to return the rented car, then went north again (30 miles*) for an evening meeting at the United Church in Levack where Dr. Norman MacKenzie (to be a speaker at the Ontario Round-Up) is the minister. 12 men were present and interest was expressed in forming a club. Then it was back to Sudbury (30 miles*) and up early on Saturday for a breakfast meeting with the St. Lukes U.C. AOTS MC. 13 men were present for their regular monthly meeting and to hear Murray speak. They then headed east on 17 to North Bay (126 miles*) and an evening meeting with Trinity U.C. AOTS MC, 22 men attending from Trinity and St. Andrew's U.C. This was a question-and-answer session with Murray telling of work in his home club (Knox U.C., Winnipeg) and others across the country.

On Sunday they were up early to drive south on 11 to South River (57 miles*) for a breakfast meeting with Chalmers U.C. AOTS MC. 16 men attended including 3 from an unaffiliated men's club in Sundridge (11 miles further south on 11). The regular morning service followed at 11 AM, Murray preaching the sermon. Sunday afternoon they toured the area, and took a run west on 522 to Golden Valley U.C. (40 miles*), a small charge, one minister serving both here and at Loring (20 miles further west). The whole area, says Jack, Golden Valley, Sundridge, Burks Falls (16 miles still further south on 11), is promising territory for new AOTS clubs. Monday they headed north again, on 11, to Haileybury (142 miles*). Unfortunately there was a storm this day and only a few men turned out for the evening meeting. Tuesday they continued north on 11 through Cochrane to Kapusking (350 miles*) where there is a very active club of 18 members. This was a supper meeting and Murray's last of the trip. From here, next morning, he took a flight to Timmins, then to Winnipeg.

At this time there are tentative plans for Murray to visit the Maritimes and Newfoundland in September, including the Stanhope and Loon Bay Conferences, but they have yet to be confirmed. He has certainly done a fine job in getting around to meet people.

Alan Staig, from his Toronto office as Associate Secretary, Ministry With Adults, Division of Mission in Canada, has also been travelling, this time west to Saskatchewan and Alberta. He attended the Regina AOTS Spring Rally on March 7th, where "tireless" Murray McPherson was the theme speaker, and gives us the following brief report:

"More than a hundred AOTS men from Regina and district, Moose Jaw and Winnipeg met in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship at Wesley United Church in south Regina. Murray talked about AOTS, its past and its future, expressing enthusiasm and optimism for growth and effectiveness in the 1980's."

He adds that Ray Silzer, Saskatchewan Conference AOTS President, and Bud Harper, Saskatchewan Conference Office Executive Secretary, were among those present.

Alan was much impressed by the vitality shown at the Regina rally and says that AOTS is "alive and energetic" in that city and in Moose Jaw. Saskatoon, he notes, is being asked to provide leadership for the 1981 Banff Men's Conference and he looks for great things from them.

In Calgary he met with Don McMahon of the Banff Conference Society and reviewed with him plans for the on-going annual October men's conference. One item of concern is that the Banff Centre may not be available for outside events after 1982. However, plans for the 1980 meeting are shaping up well under the chairmanship of Ralph Horley. It promises to be an outstanding event. The dates are October 17 to 19, the theme speaker is the Anglican Primate, Ted Scott. If you haven't registered, Alan says, don't delay (details from registrar D. R. Milner, Box 3501, Postal Station D, Edmonton, Alberta).

Then it was on to Edmonton and a meeting with AOTS Western Vice President Jim Dickie, with whom he discussed AOTS activities in Alberta and B. C., recognizing many exciting happenings, e.g., the Wetaskiwin story (re the campaign for Rundle's Mission, Nat. AOTS Newsletter, Nov. 1979, page 12), but also some areas of weakness.

Closer to home Alan had two recent engagements: speaking to the men of Thornhill U.C., February 24th, and to the men of the King area at a Good Friday Breakfast at King City U.C. on April 4th, 63 men present. The latter event was sponsored by the K-T-L AOTS MC (King-Teston-Laskay). At the former, drawing on his background in engineering, he spoke about "building", in relation to the fundamental needs of people:

"As an engineer, I often find myself on a different language level to some of my clergy friends: they don't understand me, nor I them. So I take comfort in those parts of the Bible that use building terms rather than deep theology. May be you'd like to check a few: Luke 14: 28-30, Gen. 6: 14-16, 2 Chron. 3 and 4, Amos 7: 7-8, Exodus 37 and 38, Matt. 7: 24-27.

As we move into the 1980's we need to attend to three kinds of building work: tangible things, systems, and relationships. Most of us are builders of tangible things, from a modest set of shelves in the den to paving our driveway. Every such act is a statement of our stewardship: the wood for the shelves uses our great renewable resource; the asphalt in our driveway is part of our non-renewable oil reserves (paving our driveway also increases the rain run-off to the rivers and lakes). All of us participate in the building and the use of systems --- that complete fabric of civilization that we experience as we use banks, stores, buses, government services. As the United Church creed says: "We are not alone, we live in God's world". Each of us as an individual can do nothing.

Each of us has a mandate to build strong relationships with others: whereas systems can be impersonal and cold, relationships that are warm, caring and personal are precious in our tension-filled world.

What does this say to a group of men? A strong community of men will: reinforce you, your work, encourage you as citizens of a community, strengthen you in your congregation, assist you to strengthen your relationships, and deepen your faith.

My prayer is that you will build well."