



NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER

"As One That Serves"

Volume 10, Number 1

March, 1987

A Few Thoughts

Jack Cleave, Executive Secretary

Another year has come and gone and one stops to ponder as we move into a new year. There is merit in looking back, assessing our successes and failures, but this should be just a pause. What has been done cannot be changed. We can thank God for our successes, be sorry for our failures and look to the new year with hope and anticipation.

1986 has been a relatively good year for AOTS. Our growth has not been spectacular, having formed four new clubs but losing two. From the number of inquiries coming in there appears to be a stirring among the men of our church to become more involved. An encouraging sign not just for AOTS but for the whole church.

The major disappointment was when our annual meeting was interrupted. For the first time in my memory we took the annual meeting outside central Canada so men in another region of our country might share in the experience. The Winnipeg Men offered an invitation to supply the facilities and billet the Council members. Excellent accommodation was provided at Silver Heights Church and we got started on Friday afternoon. We enjoyed a super dinner put on by the Silver Heights' men and went back in to the evening session. When we broke up Friday night we found the City of Winnipeg snowbound. Everyone managed to get to their billets, but that was the end of our annual meeting.

The Council members enjoyed a very relaxing weekend with their hosts. I believe everybody was able to make their connection home without too much inconvenience. Our many thanks to the Winnipeg men for all their effort for what would have been an excellent annual meeting if Mother Nature had cooperated.

We held a mini annual meeting a few weeks later in Toronto, bringing in a couple of key men from the Western and Eastern regions to give the meeting a national flavour. We were able to complete most of the work that wasn't done at Winnipeg.

Our National projects are being well supported with the Harry Colnett Fund established and our third commitment to sponsoring specific projects for the United Church hospitals nearly completed.

1987 will be a busy year. The fellows in Saskatchewan are putting the final touches to the plans for the biennial in Regina and are looking forward to welcoming many of you to the event. It will be a challenging weekend. Dr. Boyd, one of our outstanding United Church ministers, will have a message that will make us do some soul searching. Major changes to our constitution will be up for debate. We will have to select another hospital project to assist our United Church medical people as they carry out their Christian commitment of service to others. Among other matters, we will have to elect and install our new officers and council members for the coming term.

The weekend won't be all work, however, as the committee has an excellent program planned for members and their families.

As we move into 1987 let each AOTS member resolve to make his local club a more successful operation, support regional gatherings and attend the Biennial in Regina. Let's make 1987 the best year yet for AOTS and the men of the United Church.

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Snowbound Success!

Clare Bailey, Annual Meeting Coordinator

Manitoba AOTS District Council, under the leadership of District Council President, Rev. Walter Cowan, hosted the Annual Meeting of the National Association in Winnipeg, November 7 - 9.

Despite unseasonal weather conditions which paralyzed Winnipeg for 48 hours, the gathering of delegates from across Canada was a success. New friends, closer fellowships and understanding resulted from the weekend.

Thanks is extended for the efforts and cooperation of the following members of the Manitoba District Council who helped to make the weekend feasible: George McKeener, Mel Johnson, Ron Biggar, Walter Cowan, Don MacKenzie, and Murray McPherson. Special thanks to the Silver Heights United Church whose facilities were made available for the meeting.

Let us assure the National Association members that we only have weather like this every 20 years in Manitoba!

Financially Speaking

Lloyd Clark, Chair
National Finance Committee

National AOTS Club Membership Dues

In the 1987 Budget, the combined Club membership dues and individual Club member dues have been raised from \$16,100 in 1986 to \$21,000, a difference of \$4900. The increase was made on the assumption that many AOTS members will be willing to voluntarily increase their 1987 fee payment from \$7.00 to \$10.00 – less than \$1.00 per month.

PLEASE NOTE: that for the the year 1987, individual Club member dues of \$7.00 are still officially in effect. These members are encouraged, however, to consider a voluntary payment of \$10.00 instead to help us meet the 1987 National AOTS Budget – for the sake of the Kingdom of God and the work of the AOTS.

Donations to National AOTS

Donations to the following are TAX DEDUCTIBLE:

- 1) SECOND MILE SUPPORT
- 2) MEMORIALS AT FUNERAL HOMES
- 3) BEQUESTS

Mail to:

Mr. Robert A. Lewis
Treasurer National AOTS Men's Clubs
RR #3, 105 Lamp Road, Amherstburg ON N9V 3R3

Survey of Club Projects

To any club that did not submit the fund-raising and service project survey to the National AOTS Finance Committee in the Fall of 1986, an extension has been made to APRIL 30, 1987.

That the Church may know what AOTS does, you are asked to report:

- 1) Total of funds raised annually
- 2) List of fund raising projects
- 3) List of service projects

Mail to:

Lloyd J. Clark
Chairman National AOTS Finance Committee
79 Churchill Street, Chatham ON N7L 3T3

PHILOSOFACTS

(from the South Porcupine DIALOGUE)

Getting old is merely a matter of feeling your corns more than you feel your oats.

There are two finishes for automobiles – lacquer and liquor.

Remember, if you're over the hill why not just enjoy the view?

Many a train of thought never reaches the station.

The Heritage of "One That Serves"

This is the last of two articles submitted by the National Membership Committee and prepared by Forest Shuttleworth.

Maintenance of Membership

A twenty-five member club should have a goal of at least five new members a year and larger clubs should set their goal accordingly.

Methods of acquiring new members vary. Some AOTS clubs have NO method. This results in stagnation and, in due course, giving up their charter.

Recommended Methods

RECRUITING:

- a) Bring a buddy to social events and rallies. This may not be one time only. Keep it up until the prospect indicates a preference.
- b) Each executive should have a list of prospective members and someone delegated to contact them.
- c) All members of AOTS should be active recruitment agents. One's own neighbour, social, church and business circles are a good place to start. Personal contact is the best approach. No method is more effective than face-to-face contact. A participating member's personal conviction about AOTS is evident in the tone of their voice, facial expression and choice of words. "The satisfied customer is our best advertisement."

RETAINING:

- a) All members need to work together "As One That Serves" to see that everyone remains interested and active in the club.
- b) New members should be placed on a committee so they will become more interested and feel wanted.
- c) Every new member of AOTS should have an understanding of our history, philosophy, ideals, structure and methods. There should be training sessions for this purpose. New members should be invited to attend executive meetings and committee meetings familiarize themselves with the mechanics of AOTS.

RECLAIMING:

A club should develop a reclaiming plan. There are two good reasons why a follow-up procedure should be developed:

- 1) Members who have dropped out or no longer attend meetings may be persuaded to renew their interest, perhaps in another area.
- 2) Knowing why members have dropped out will help assess the general condition of AOTS by revealing the

causes of dissatisfaction. Loss of interest or drop-out is not necessarily a sign of failure on the part of AOTS. It could simply mean changed interests, poor health, new responsibilities – job, family, moving. Every organization must expect some turnover in membership.

The membership chairman and his committee should go over each previous year's membership roll and make a list of those who seem to have dropped out. This list should be discussed at the executive meeting whereby a plan can be put into operation to contact the listed members.

RECOGNIZING:

All human beings feel the need for recognition. Do not forget the friendly "pat on the back" for a job well done.

As the man pulled the small boy out of a hole in the frozen river, he asked, "How did you come to fall in?"

The boy answered, "I didn't come to fall in, I came to skate!"

Didn't we all!

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

National AOTS Convention Goes Western

Preparations are gaining momentum for REGINA ROUND-UP 87, the 15th AOTS National Convention in Regina in the summer of 1987.

The convention will be held in the Canadian Bible College, Regina, July 31 to August 2, 1987. Guest speaker will be Dr. Maurice Boyd of Metropolitan United Church, London, ON. The convention theme is "The Gospel of God's Grace."

The convention committee, headed by Ray Silzer of Regina, has already had six productive planning meetings to work out details of this special AOTS event of informational, spiritual and social activities.

The convention chairman says the committee was very fortunate to line up one of the most dynamic and provocative orators in the church in Canada. Dr. Boyd has been theme speaker at numerous conferences including the Banff Men's Conference in October, 1986. He has also spoken at conferences in the United States, notably Chautauqua, NY and Lake Januluska, NC.

A native of Northern Ireland, Dr. Boyd has served in pastorates in Ireland, Hamilton, Toronto and Sarnia. He is also well-known for his broadcasts, publications and involvement in church affairs at the national and international levels.

In addition to Dr. Boyd's theme, presentations will include workshops on timely topics, social activities and optional activities for family members.

The Convention has been billed Regina Round-up 87 in keeping with the western mood of the Queen City during the annual Buffalo Days Exhibition that will be taking place at the same time. The convention will therefore take on the same informal western atmosphere of Buffalo Days.

Regina Round-up 87 will be held in the most modern and functional convention and accommodation facilities in the area, featuring a chapel that seats more than one thousand, meeting rooms for groups of close to two hundred, housing for more than three hundred, wheelchair access and limited parking for campers and trailers.

The convention chairman expects registration of more than three hundred from United Church men and families from all parts of Canada and Bermuda.

The cost of registration varies depending on accommodation and meals required. The maximum four nights, single occupancy, including eight meals (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) cost \$130. The cost for sessions only is \$25 and meals only is \$70.

More details about the convention and registration are available from:

Ross Evans, Registrar
24 Castle Bay
Regina SK
S4S 4X4

Travelling . . . Accoutrements

The AOTS members of Atlantic United left Brandon, Manitoba on Nov. 16 to present the travelling gavel to Central United, and make a donation toward the rebuilding of their destroyed church.

A pair of travelling AOTS "spurs" was last heard from in Chilliwak BC, with honorable intentions of moving to South Burnaby.

AOTS Island Council's gavel is immobile at last report.

Fundraising

South Burnaby, BC, held their annual auction with proceeds of \$1300 assisting the club's community work.

St. James AOTS, Edmonton, held a "huge giant garage sale" selling all types of donated material, raising \$2700 which was given to the congregation.

Bellefair AOTS, high and dry without any maple syrup to sell this year, turned to giant sized children's colouring and activity books. They managed to sell 150 without any trouble.

Ontario AOTS Round-Up 1987

MAY 8, 9, 10

A Great Weekend at Geneva Park!

CONTACT

Gil Reashore

12 William Box 542

South Porcupine ON P0N 1H0

(705) 235-4590

Fulfilling Our Purpose

Canadian Memorial AOTS, Vancouver, put on a luncheon at Brock House to celebrate the birthdays of elderly members in the congregation.

Gordon United AOTS, Victoria, presented the \$500 Fred Hayhurst Memorial Scholarship to Karen Stenberg for continuation of her studies at the University of Victoria.

St. James AOTS, Edmonton, have a weekly workshop time when they repair all sorts of furniture and appliances. When the repairs are complete the club sells the item or forwards it on to the Bissell Centre, which is a depot that all the local churches draw from when fire or other disasters strike the community. The club pays for the materials used in repairs and gets their investment back from the sales they make.

Duncan AOTS and UCW jointly staged a very successful dinner theatre. One hundred guests attended on each of two nights which began with a dinner prepared by the ladies and served by the men. The latter were "correctly attired in white shirts and black ties." Two hours of comedy and variety followed.

Sterling, ON, AOTS entered a float in the Santa Claus Parade with six members riding on a wagon and singing carols. Nearer Christmas, 10 members went caroling to some seniors apartments, nursing homes and lodges, as well as some individual homes.

Individual effort counts too — Hary Wolfram reports that Bellefair member Barry Nesbitt organized a variety show on his own and then, with their club's help, sold nearly 500 tickets. Proceeds went to the church.

A Small Step for a Person

Will sexist barriers never cease to crumble?

Not only has Duncan BC AOTS given an honorary AOTS membership to Elsie Carter, South Burnaby UCW has given an honorary membership to Mark Dambrough, AOTS member and their faithful caretaker!

The next NEWSLETTER should be published April, 1987. The deadline for material is March 15, 1987.

PEI Reports

United Church Men's PEI Presbytery Men's Council met for their 31st Annual Meeting, Nov. 19, 1987. Lloyd Yeo of Charlottetown will be President for 1987.

Plans are being set for the Stanhope Men's Conference, a youth public speaking contest, and the Presbytery Men's Choir. The Choir takes part in a number of church services each year.

The Stanhope Men's Conference first met in Stanhope Beach Lodge in 1956. In recent years it is held at United Church Camp Alyweit at Augustine Cove, yet still retains the name Stanhope Men's Conference because it holds a special place in the lives of many men.

Esquimalt AOTS Celebrate 32 Years of Service



Left to right: Fred Wheely, an all around valuable member, First President Alan Crouch, National President Jack Arthur, and Fred White, the club's first secretary.

THE 15TH NATIONAL AOTS CONVENTION

Where: Canadian Bible College
Regina, Saskatchewan

When: July 31, August 1 & 2, 1987

Registrations to:
Mr. Ross Evans
24 Castle Bay
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 4X4

Telephone: (306) 586-5313

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR:

Your Articles
Your Concerns
Your Interests
Your Events

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