

National AOTS Newsletter

Vol. 6, No. 1. January 1983 .



AOTS - Developing effective programs
of Christian service

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1923 ---

AOTS 60th Anniversary

--- 1983

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 three times a year: January, April and October, from the office of the executive secretary: G. Allan Smith, 61 Nordin Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M8Z 2B4. The editor is M. M. Wright.
Editor Emeritus - W. Jack Banks

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

February 5 - 9th Annual Oshawa Presbytery Men's Rally, hosted by St. Stephen's U.C. AOTS Men's Club, Oshawa, Ont. Dinner at 6 PM. Speaker: Hugh McCullum, Editor of The Observer, on some global concerns of the church. For information: Alex Ferries, (416)576-9938.

March 6 - Annual Junior Choir Festival, Asbury and West U.C., Toronto, Ont., 2 PM. Sponsored by Toronto Conference AOTS Council. Entries accepted until February 15th. For information contact Layton Stewart, (416)691-0686.

March 26 - 34th Annual B.C. AOTS Round-Up, Centennial U.C., Victoria, B. C. Speaker: Gordon Hall, National AOTS President. For information: Tom Murray, (604)853-7881.

March 30 - Annual Regina and District AOTS Spring Rally, Whitmore Park U.C., Regina. A dinner meeting. For information contact Ray Silzer, (306)584-1006.

April 20 - Niagara Presbytery Men's Rally, Fenwick U.C., Fenwick, Ont. Speaker: former National AOTS Executive Secretary Don G. Smith. Contact: Ralph Graham, (416)682-2126.

April 22 to 24 - Annual Ontario AOTS Round-Up, Geneva Park, Orillia, Ont. Speaker: Dr. Clarke MacDonald, Moderator of the United Church. Hosts: London Conference, under the leadership of Lloyd Richards, (519)354-4048. [Note: for the convenience of Ontario members registration forms are attached to this newsletter.]

April 29 to May 1 - Coastal Christian Men's Conference, Trinity Western College, Langley, B. C. Theme speaker: Hugh McCullum, Editor of The Observer. Sponsors: men of Surrey U and B.C. Conference Men's Council. For information contact Tom Murray, (604)853-7881.

June 3 to 5 - West Newfoundland Men's Rally, Westhaven Camp, Pasadena, Nfld. For information contact Cyril Locke, (709)673-3326.

June 3 to 5, and 10 to 12 - 31st United Church Muskoka Conference, at Elgin House, Port Carling, Ont. (first weekend), and Delawana Inn, Honey Harbour, Ont. (second weekend). Theme speaker: Dr. John N. Gladstone, "The Optimism of Faith". To register contact Mr. Paul Moore, 24 Elgin Street West, Norwich, Ont. NOJ 1P0

June 10 to 12 - 18th Annual Riding Mountain Conference of Churchmen, Camp Wannakumbac, Clear Lake, Manitoba. For information: Clare Bailey, (204)837-2612.

- → July 22 to 24 - 13th Biennial Convention of The National Association of U.C. AOTS Men's
- → Clubs, on the campus of Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland. Plan now for a
- → July vacation in Newfoundland and to attend this meeting; you may never have a better
- → opportunity to see this part of Canada. A registration form is attached. Register now!
- → See page 4 re a proposed bus tour, and page 9 for information on ferry service.

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New charter: No. 798, Grace-Cobb's Hill AOTS Men's Club, Bermuda (a two-point charge of the Methodist Church). See page 6 for Cyril Locke's report on his recent Bermuda visit.

This issue of the Newsletter is, unfortunately, much overdue. It should have been out by late October, and here it is January! The fault is mine; the only excuse I can offer is that somehow I wasn't able to "get up" for it. I postponed it, first, so that we could report on the meeting of the National Council (page 3). Then came some "other things" that needed doing, then Christmas, etc., and so it went. An extra issue is therefore planned for late February, to include, among other items, club news, which has been omitted in this one. Sorry for the delay, and a very Happy New Year to you all.

Maurice Wright

AOTS National Council Meets

Men of the Church, there's a job to do,
 Whether the ranks be great or few.
 If there's a need, we must be there,
 As one that serves, no matter where.

With these words from the AOTS song "Nothing Fancy" (composed by Stan Farrow in 1979) setting the tone, the 1982 annual meeting of the National Council got under way at St. Paul's U.C., Oakville, Ontario, on the weekend of November 12 to 14. It ran from 7 PM Friday evening to 4 PM Sunday afternoon, with 24 members in attendance. Men of the AOTS club at St. Paul's, under the leadership of Bud Farris, were hosts, providing luncheon on Saturday and Sunday, the evening meal on Saturday, plus coffee and snacks for five breaks. The fellows also set up the meeting rooms and provided billets for nearly half of the out-of-town visitors. These excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality of the St. Paul's men did much to make this a highly successful meeting.

Following a short business session the Friday evening was given to presentations by Gordon Hall (president), Phil Spence (past executive secretary) and Al Smith (present executive secretary), dealing, respectively, with the topics: "Where we are!", "Where we've been!", and "Where we go!". In addition, Alan Staig (Ministry With Adults, Division of Mission in Canada) described how AOTS fits into the organizational structure of the United Church. The whole was in the context of the approaching 60th anniversary of AOTS, for it was on January 8, 1923, that the first club was formed at Kerrisdale Methodist Church (now Ryerson U.C.) in Vancouver.

Both Gordon and Phil reminded members that AOTS began and grew as a service club in the church, serving as a vehicle both to bring men into the church and to provide an opportunity for Christian service in the community. Gordon noted, however, that we continue to have problems at the national level: limited financial resources to support the work that ought to be done, our inability as an organization to function as effectively as we should, and inadequate recognition by the church of what AOTS is trying to do. While strongly supportive of the purpose of AOTS and optimistic for its future, he did feel that we were in a crossroads situation and must rethink and reshape our structure and operation so that we can better carry out our mission.

However, in making changes, said Phil, we must not lose sight of the past: where we have been, what we have done. To do so is to lose direction. And he noted that it should be the welfare of the local club that determines the purpose and nature of the national organization, and not the reverse. He stressed the great importance of our following through with the responsibilities we accept, observing that this --- and often at great personal cost and sacrifice --- was how AOTS grew. This spirit is symbolized in the AOTS torch: to pass on to others something worth while. Today, he said, though we have the people and talent we seem to lack the spark. Given this spark we can have another 60 years of AOTS.

Describing AOTS as "an arm of the church reaching out to all men in Christian fellowship", Al Smith asked: "What is on the end of that arm? Is it --- should it be --- a caring hand? How can we best serve the local AOTS club and AOTS at large?" Then, referring to the dream so many have: that AOTS might become the focus of a much greater proportion of the men of the church, he discussed how an improved fee structure might contribute to this. Thus, to promote affiliation with the national organization, he urged that we give serious consideration to the introduction of a club affiliation fee per se, one of nominal amount, e.g., \$25, this to replace the present fee based on club membership (currently \$5 per member). The national organization would then look to the Second Mile

fund for its main source of financial support. Club affiliation, he said, is the communication link we should vigorously pursue, adding that we should do so in the faith that the financial needs will be met.

The main purpose of this council meeting was to discuss a number of questions relating to the future of AOTS: the effectiveness of the national organization as resource and support for the AOTS movement; our relationship with the United Church through the Ministry With Adults Working Unit of the Division of Mission in Canada; the national newsletter; and the national biennial conventions. This was done in small groups, with each then reporting its findings in a plenary session. Several actions followed from these discussions.

One business item of particular interest was a proposal for a new national project, one of support for United Church hospitals. The idea originated with the national program and membership committees; they saw something like this as a necessary prerequisite to what they were trying to do in their respective areas. The proposal was enthusiastically received by the meeting and endorsed for presentation to the forthcoming 13th Biennial Convention in St. John's, Newfoundland. Meanwhile, details of the proposal will be sent to individual clubs.

The next meeting of the National Council will be held in St. John's on the day before the convention.

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ADVERTISEMENT

"AS ONE THAT SERVES"

A part-time challenging position is offered by the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs. The successful applicant will be responsible for the administration of the National Office and for related secretarial duties. The applicant should also be prepared to commence the next two-year renewable term on January 1, 1984. The salary is negotiable.

The challenge of inspiring men to a better way of life through Christ is foremost in this position.

Please address all applications and inquiries before March 31, 1983, to:

Mr. Kenneth Lane, Committee Chairman,
1711 - 1460 Ghent Avenue,
Burlington, Ontario. L7S 1X7
Telephone: Home (416) 632-7409
Bus. (416) 637-3457

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SPECIAL NOTICE

The National AOTS Office is investigating the possibility of arranging a bus tour to Newfoundland to include the National AOTS Convention in St. John's, July 22 - 24, 1983. The cost from Toronto would possibly be in the range of \$1000 to \$1300, excluding meals, for a fourteen-day tour. It would require a minimum of at least 30 people participating.

If you are at all interested, please contact the National AOTS Office: G. Allan Smith, 61 Nordin Ave., Toronto, Ont. M8Z 2B4. Please respond as soon as possible, with your comments and noting any specific areas you might like to visit.

The President's Letter*

"Greetings. Much has occurred since my last letter to you, fellow AOTSers. I have been very busy travelling to various areas of the country, attempting to encourage clubs, trying to interest men in organizing clubs, and in general being as one that serves wherever I felt my time and service could be utilized to the greatest advantage.

Newfoundland afforded me a great opportunity to observe the results and changes in men's lives as a result of the great time of revival and renewal that has been sweeping over this lovely island and its people (see Newsletter, May 1982, page 22, for trip details). Cyril Locke was a great travelling partner. He had all arrangements for my visit very well worked out, and the reception we received was testimony to his leadership in that part of Canada and to the warm-hearted demonstration of Christian brotherly love accorded us everywhere by the men of AOTS. We travelled nearly 1000 miles and found men everywhere to be enthusiastically involved in club work. And it was great to learn that a large number are intending and planning to be at the Biennial Convention in St. John's. Their reaction to the Convention, in fact, was so great that I am forced to conclude that we, who reside in the rest of Canada, should get our registrations in to the committee early so as to be assured of adequate accommodation.

Another great experience, and again a wonderful opportunity to witness to my faith and to tell the story of AOTS, occurred at the Festival of Faith held at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. This was a time of sharing and for me a time of learning. Close to 300 men met over the long weekend to celebrate their faith in a living Christ. The singing of these men was something to hear. One could almost imagine oneself being lifted right out of this world. Men witnessed to the power of God in changing their life styles, and much freedom of expression and liberty was enjoyed in the discussion groups.

Once home again it was in order to get back down from the mountain top and on to the level where the everyday work of carrying on the interests of AOTS were to be experienced. AOTS is continuing to grow, even after almost 60 years, and while the growing pains are now considerably lessened in severity, there are still times when the corporate voice and thinking of the whole executive of the national organization must be brought to concentrate on subjects that greatly affect the future continuance of AOTS. The annual meeting of the National Council, called for the weekend of November 12-14, is to take a long hard look at such concerns. It is the intention of your executive to see that the best interests of all members are considered and respected, and that you will be informed of the decisions made.

* I am writing this note over the Thanksgiving weekend, and just prior to my leaving for a visit to western Canada with Jim Dickie, our Western Vice President, and the men of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Please remember and plan to be with us at St. John's, Newfoundland, in '83 at the 13th AOTS Biennial Convention. The men of the island will welcome you with open arms and I am sure it will be a time you will never forget.

I pray that as we enter into the fall and winter season the blessing of God will abide with you and that His hand may be discerned in all your undertakings as you seek to serve your fellow man. We truly are our brother's keeper."

The western trip that Gordon Hall refers to began with the Banff Men's Conference, October 15-17, after which he went on to Swift Current on the 18th, Moose Jaw on the 19th, visiting the St. Andrew's AOTS Club, then to Brooks, Alberta, on the 20th and

a meeting with the Brooks U.C. AOTS Club, then Medicine Hat on the 21st and the Westminster U.C. Men's Club, and finally on the 22nd back to Calgary and a meeting with the St. David's U.C. Men's Group. Jim Dickie was with Gordon on this tour.

While reporting on the travels of national officers Executive Secretary Al Smith has also been doing some visiting and speaking, though not as far afield as Gordon Hall. Al reports the following:

September 22 - to George Street U.C. AOTS Men's Club in Peterborough.

October 31 - met with the men of Beaverton U.C., Beaverton, Ontario, at a Sunday morning breakfast meeting.

November 20 - attended, with Toronto Conference President Layton Stewart, the Belleville Presbytery AOTS Rally at Bridge Street U.C., Belleville, Ontario.

November 24 - joined with Jack McClintock, president of Wilmar Heights U.C. AOTS Men's Club, in a visit to Church of the Master U.C. in Scarborough, Ontario, to discuss with their men the possible formation of an AOTS club.

Al was also a delegate to the annual meeting of the North American Conference of Men's Work Secretaries held at the Anglican Centre in Aurora, Ontario, November 16 - 19.

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Eastern Vice President Cyril Locke reports a very warm reception in his recent visit to Bermuda, October 25 to November 5, one result of which was the chartering of a new club: Grace-Cobb's Hill, representing a two-point charge. His response to the many people he met there follows:

"Through the medium of this AOTS newsletter, my wife and I would like to express our gratitude to the many people who received and entertained us during our recent visit to Bermuda, and in many ways went the second mile to ensure our comfort and pleasure.

To Bobby and Mary Lou Binns, Kenny and Ingrid Simmons, who made their homes available during our visit, we can only assure you once again that you have won for yourselves a place of special endearment in our hearts, which will remain with us, not alone for the excellent quality of the facility itself which you placed at our disposal, but also for that far greater facility of Christian companionship which made us feel so welcome.

My special thanks to Peter Hardy, the secretary of Wesley Church Club, and his committee, who arranged my itinerary with such detail to enable me to carry out my function with maximum efficiency.

From the hour of my arrival on Monday until my final official function on Sunday at Wesley Methodist, the story is one of success, culminating in a new club formed at Grace Methodist, and a renewed interest in AOTS generally throughout the various circuits, which I believe will eventually translate into meaningful expressions of service.

As the shores of Bermuda faded from our view, and as we winged our way towards home, we knew we had left behind a host of new friends, which gave us good reason to believe WE SHALL RETURN."

"God and the soldier we like adore, in time of danger, not before.

The danger past and all things righted, God is forgotten, the soldier slighted."

Thomas Jordan, 1612-86, in The Regiment Room, Fort St. Catherine, St. George, Bermuda.

National Committee Reports

We have brief reports from the following national committees.

Program

Chairman: Jack Cleave, Sarnia, Ontario. [Written Sept. 18/82]

"The summer holiday season is over. The National Executive is back to work. Your Programme Committee kept active through the summer working with the Membership Committee on some project ideas.

It is not enough for the National organization to gear up. It is far more important for the local club to get rolling and laying plans for another active year. This, of course, involves programme planning. How are your plans coming? Have you looked in your own back yard? Some members may have very interesting hobbies they would like to talk about: photography, model railroading, horticulture, rock hounding; the list is endless.

How about the Victorian Order of Nurses, the agencies which deal with the handicapped in your community, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, and many others, all looking for an opportunity to talk about their work.

Maybe it's time you dug a little deeper. How about a meeting with the members sharing "What being a member of the United Church means to me", or some other topic which makes us consider the implications of being a Christian.

Programming is a very important part of your club's life. If you haven't had your committee together, get cracking! It is amazing the ideas that come out when three or four sit down for a couple of hours and throw around ideas. Don't be backward about going after the best. Many a speaker gets more enjoyment out of talking to a few people in an informal setting than addressing a crowd of 500.

Don't forget to keep the National Programme Committee informed of the successful and innovative ideas that you have used.

May God crown your efforts with success in the coming season."

While on the subject of program, you may be interested in the series of suggested program topics (with worship service and discussion outline, etc.) that Alan Staig is running in the U.C. magazine Exchange (a publication for leaders of adults). For example, in the Fall 1982 issue the topic is "The focal points of freedom", and in Spring 1982: "What's wrong with marijuana?". Have a look; there is good resource material here.

Membership

Chairman: Robert S. (Bob) Pratt, Merlin, Ontario. [Written Sept. 22/82]

"Hello --- and best wishes from your Membership Committee. To date you have not heard anything from us but we have been active and working towards establishing our course of action for the next year or so. Since we are all new at this task it has taken us a while to determine what we wish to accomplish and how we are going to go about accomplishing it.

To date we have been working with the Program Committee, which is chaired by Jack Cleave of Sarnia. Several meetings have been held, alternating between the Sarnia and Chatham areas. The Membership Committee is also working on a project of its own which we believe will be helpful to you in the promotion of new clubs in your area. As this progresses we shall keep you informed.

We are enthusiastic and willing, and with God's help and yours we are confident that we can provide some assistance to you in regard to club membership. It is unfortunate that we cannot meet with each of you personally in order to discuss club membership. However, since we cannot do this, we expect to be greeting you on a regular basis from the pages of the NEWSLETTER. Please look for us; we'll be looking for you!

May God bless you all."

Youth Work

Chairman: J. W. (Bill) Sefton, Markham, Ontario.

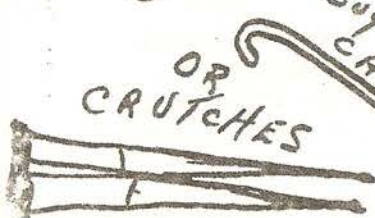
SURE We know you've lots of Projects — BUT —

CAMP CLEAN UP PROJECTS



BUY A WHEEL CHAIR FOR SOMEONE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR boys & youth?



BUY A CANE OR CRUTCHES

IF YOU HAVEN'T ONE START ONE NOW THEN ENTER THE D.R. POOLE ORGANIZE A Picnic? MEMORIAL AWARD! COMPETITION!

Information and application forms for the D. R. Poole competition for youth work are expected to be in the mail to all clubs soon.

Long Range Planning

Chairman: Don G. Smith, Mississauga, Ontario.

This report comes in the form of a two-page questionnaire which is attached at the end of the newsletter. Don and his committee have put together a very thoughtful set of questions aiming to try to find out what we think about several matters of importance to AOTS and the church. We are asked to give it our serious consideration, and to respond as soon as possible, replies being requested by March 31st.

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Planning to drive to the National Convention?

If you are planning to make your way to St. John's by car here is the information on ferries. The service is operated by CN Marine, at (800)565-9411, a toll-free number you can call for information and reservations.

There are two services, both operating from North Sidney, Nova Scotia. The one to Port aux Basques requires a further 905 km drive to St. John's; the one to Argentina, only 131 km. Reservations are required in each case, and should be made as soon as possible (now, if you can), especially for the Argentiarrun. Reservations can be made by telephone: (800)565-9411; no deposit is required. Your space is held until 2 hours before sailing time. So one should check in early. Many travellers go one way and return the other.

Here are the fares and schedules for July (as of Jan. 10th):

	<u>Port aux Basques</u>	<u>Argentina</u>
Travel time	6 hours	18 hours
Departures:	Daily	3 days/week, 2 PM
Going to	8 AM, 11:30 AM, 11:30 PM	Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Returning from	8 AM, 12:30 PM, 11:59 PM	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
Fares: Car	\$28.60	\$61.50
Adult	9.50	24.00
Child, 5 to 12	4.75	12.00
Child, under 5	Nil	Nil
Accommodation	1 cabin type (for overnight run): 4 beds, \$46.00	3 cabin types: 2-bed \$28.00 Upper Lower 3-bed 42.00 " " * 4-bed 56.00 2 " 2 "

* plus a settee/bed; all cabins have wash basins.

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IN MEMORIAM

Robert Alexander (Bob) Norris, Victoria, B. C., member of Oak Bay U.C. AOTS Men's Club and past president of Vancouver Island AOTS District Council, April 30, 1982, aged 65.

A. Leslie Jarvis, Victoria, B. C., member of Fairfield U.C. AOTS Men's Club, September 20, 1982.

Forbes Cavanagh, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, long time Individual Member, and member of St. Andrew's U.C. AOTS Men's Club, October, 1982.

Harry Chambers, Edmonton, Alberta, member of St. James U.C. AOTS Men's Club, October, 1982, in his 81st year.

MEMO FROM: Alan Staig "On Being Busy"

One common element that many church volunteers share is the habit of being busy. I am amazed at the massive commitment of time and energy that so many put into "good works", often on top of major obligations to employment and family. Just yesterday, a colleague told me that he finds it to be a liberating experience to know that there will always be more to do than there is time to do it.

"Time management" is a fashionable and popular subject for seminars and workshops (one of these days when I have time I'll attend one of them). Some people I meet in church circles seem to have an immense capacity for being involved and getting things done without appearing pressured. Others, whose responsibilities seem to be fewer, are always running, often late, and personify the state of being flustered. What is the difference between these two conditions? There are many possible answers to that question; indeed whole books have been written about it. May I in a few paragraphs outline three responses.

1. Know where your priorities are. The very word "priority" has a threatening ring to it, and yet all it means is deciding what to do next. When you get out of bed in the morning, it is a high priority to get dressed. When the car's gas gauge reads "E", it's a priority to fill it up. Similarly, as each day, week and month present themselves to us, our obligation is to determine our priorities in that block of time.
2. Take time to think. Many of us seem to accord a higher urgency to activities that involve doing, be it writing, talking, or travelling. If we're not careful, the essential need for learning, reflecting, reading and thinking gets squeezed out of our schedule partly because there is so much to DO and partly because when we appear to be doing nothing people may assume we're wasting time.
3. Know why we are doing it. Even if the reason for being on a committee is as simple as "someone twisted my arm" it clears the air to be aware of that reality. As Christians, the setting of our personal priorities, the rationale for our being and doing is fundamentally a spiritual task. We need to be confident and definite about this; as "servant-leaders" we are obligated to follow Jesus and to lead others on that course.

Finally, I am reminded of the hymn that tells us to:

"Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct this likeness shall see."

Blessings be with you in all that you do in the name of our Saviour.

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Alan Staig, as you know, is a member of the Ministry With Adults Working Unit of the Division of Mission in Canada, and it is through him, in that capacity, that there is contact and communication between AOTS and the Church. His responsibility is to all men in the Church.

Alan's recent visits to men's clubs and conferences include the following:

September 24 to 26 - 27th Loon Bay Fellowship Rally, in Loon Bay, Newfoundland.

October 15 to 17 - 28th Banff Men's Conference, Banff Centre, Alberta.

November 20 - guest speaker at the Tri-County AOTS Rally, Tilbury U.C., Tilbury, Ont.
 November 21 - spoke at a Sunday morning breakfast meeting of the Victoria Avenue AOTS Club, Chatham, Ont., then preached at their two Laity Sunday services, 9:30 and 11 AM.
 November 23 - spoke at a meeting of the Grace U.C. AOTS Club in Sarnia, Ont.
 November 28 - attended a Sunday breakfast meeting of the men of Mount Albert U.C., Mount Albert, Ont., to discuss men's work in the church, and to explore with them the possibility of forming a club there.

Coming up, in the week of January 15 to 23, Alan will be joining Ross Agar (Central Vice President) and Jack Thompson (Manitou Conference AOTS President) in a tour of Northern Ontario, in which there will be meetings in Cochrane, Kapuskasing, Timmins, Porcupine, North Bay, and Sudbury. Present plans call for him to preach at Sunday services in Cochrane and Sudbury.

Alan also attended the annual meeting of the North American Conference of Men's Work Secretaries (as did Al Smith for AOTS), November 16 to 19, in Aurora, Ont. This is an organization of people who have staff responsibilities for men's work in the church, many different denominations being represented. The attendance was about 35. Alan was elected vice president for the coming year, a move up from the office of secretary-treasurer which he had held previously.

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"Our calling, now as in the past, is to transform our work, profession, or trade into a context and means for witnessing to the coming of God's Kingdom. At its deepest level, Christian life is a call to service, or ministry, and to have mission, or witness. Since we all do not bring the same gifts or have opportunities for the same influence, our personal ministries take different shapes and forms. But none is superior to the other. None is more holy."

John Westerhoff

We have a few reports of men's conferences in 1982, the highlights of which follow:

17th Annual Riding Mountain Conference of Churchmen, June 11 to 13, 1982.

Clare Bailey (Manitoba Conference AOTS President) has given us an account of this event, held at Camp Wannakumbac, Clear Lake, Man. Planning was under the leadership of Charlie Kingdon, and 40 men attended. The theme for this weekend of spiritual renewal and fellowship was "Faith and Living", and the speaker Father Art Seaman of St. Dominic's, Neepawa. He emphasized the importance of Christian relationships in all aspects of our lives. Music was provided by the Freedom Quartet from Steinbach, and Brian Morrison entertained with songs, accordian and bagpipes. During free time on the Saturday afternoon the fellows journeyed to Fred Charles' farm at Minnedosa to see an exhibit of 35 antique cars of the 1915-40 era.

28th Annual Banff Men's Conference, October 15 to 17, 1982.

George Robertson of St. James U.C. AOTS Men's Club in Edmonton very kindly sent us a report on this. Theme speaker was Rev. David MacDonald of Prince Edward Island. He gave three talks, the topics being "Ecology", "Economics", and "Ecumenism", each derived from the Greek word OIKOS meaning "wholeness". He dealt with these in a broad sense, noting the ideas common to each, treating them from the perspective of history, theology, and actions of government. The men then split up into some 30 "action-response" groups for their discussion of the theme and his remarks on it.

There were, in addition to the theme address and discussions, 19 workshops. They dealt with a wide range of topics: "The older person", "Stress", "Facing death and loss", "Church and social concerns", "Modern medical science and our troubled conscience", "Does justice mean jail?", etc. Each of these workshops was led by a well qualified person who first spoke to the subject.

About 550 men attended, some from as far as Ontario (this including Gordon Hall and Alan Staig) and California. Also, three ladies representing Canadian Crossroads International: from Surinam (South America), Kenya, and Zambia (in Africa). George adds that seven fellows attended from St. James.

The 1983 conference is scheduled for October 14 to 16, with Dr. Clarke MacDonald, Moderator of the United Church, as theme speaker.

Hamilton Conference Fall Rally, Chalmer's U.C., Guelph, November 6, 1982.

A very interesting discussion on crime and punishment was the subject of this annual rally, under the theme: "The Mission of Men". The speaker was Rev. Dr. G. Morton Paterson, now Mission Officer for Hamilton Conference and previously of Laurentian University in Sudbury where he taught the philosophy of law and punishment. He was part of an ecumenical training program in Hamilton which prepared a group of 14 lay people and clergy for prison visiting and ministry. Also, through membership in the John Howard Society (he is a past president of the Sudbury branch) he experienced the challenges of a ministry to prisoners and he corresponds with several former and current prisoners.

Dr. Paterson's morning topic was "Criminals and Us", and in the afternoon "Tough Faith". He left his listeners with many interesting thoughts, for group discussion and to ponder later:

- One cannot become involved with a criminal for long before a personal attachment develops, the awareness of "criminal" dissolving and the person becoming "Joe".
- Criminal activity is very often a result of parental neglect and abuse; it is so very important, he said, "to care" for young people.
- A ministry to criminals is not for everyone (we do not all have the inclination or aptitude for such work), but it is one necessary dimension of the total Christian ministry. Nor is it something that one can sustain for more than about five years, for it is very draining on one's system. This ministry should include those in the correctional services.
- As an important factor in crime prevention we must have a ministry to children: through youth work, camping, by letting children and young people have a full part in the life of a congregation, by assisting those in Children's Aid, Big Brothers, etc.
- The church must be involved in the criminal justice system, as were Jesus, Paul, Bunyan, Bonhoeffer, and others, i.e., in the court, at the bar, in the prison. We can minister by our presence, this acknowledging that the prisoner has something to give us, as we him. The volunteer, because he is unpaid, can be particularly effective, for the prisoner is not used to having someone care who is not paid to do so.

Dr. Paterson was accompanied by two Hamilton men who had served prison terms and who participated in the discussion groups, freely sharing their thoughts and experiences.

62 men attended the rally. Chuck Forbeck took the opening devotional and Chalmer's Rev. Doug Sloan conducted the closing communion service. Jim Wark was confirmed as president of Hamilton Conference Men's Council for a second year.

"What we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God." Chuck Forbeck

Winners Named for Harry Colnett Scholarships

In June 1982, Dr. Murray McPherson, chairman of the Harry Colnett Scholarship Committee, announced the names of the winners of the \$500 awards for 1981-82 as follows:

Wilma Koersen, Enderby, British Columbia.

Margaret Anderson, Forrest, Manitoba.

Wilma Koersen is a 1982 graduate from the University of Alberta where she was enrolled in the 4-year B.Sc. program in Agriculture and Food Science. During her time at the University she was awarded several scholarships, including one from the Canadian Institute of Food Scientists and Technologists in 1981. She is continuing her studies by way of a posting at Valio, a Finnish national dairy cooperative, under IAESTE, the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience. Later, she plans to become involved in agricultural development in other countries.

Margaret Anderson has a degree in Home Economics from the University of Manitoba, in which she majored in Foods and Nutrition, and she is now completing a Master of Agriculture program at the same institution. Following her undergraduate work she served for a time as nutritionist and home economist in rural Manitoba and northern Alberta. She then received a three-year posting as provincial nutritionist in Papua, New Guinea, under CUSO (Canadian University Service Overseas). The topic of her research in her present graduate studies is "trypsin inhibitors", a factor in nutritional problems in less developed countries. After getting her master's degree in 1983 she plans to continue her work in the field of food science in the developing world.

The Newsletter offers congratulations to Wilma Koersen and Margaret Anderson. AOTS is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the careers of two such well-qualified workers in food science, and we wish them all the best.

By way of a brief review of this scholarship plan, it was created in 1975 in memory of Harry Colnett, a long-time member of AOTS who died suddenly during the 1975 AOTS Biennial Convention in Ottawa (see also The Observer, January, 1974, page 36, for a note on Harry). The theme address of this meeting: "The Global Food Situation" by Dean Leonard Shebeski of the University of Manitoba, had made a deep impression on Harry and he saw in it an action opportunity for AOTS. As a result, this scholarship plan came into being. Two awards of \$500 each are made annually to young people who are prepared to continue their studies in preparation for service in food production or distribution in developing countries. By 1979-80 sufficient funding was in place and the first awards were made. To date, there have been six recipients of Harry Colnett Scholarships.

Assisting Murray on the scholarship committee are: Miss Betty Johns and Dr. George Porozny. Both are professors at the University of Manitoba (as is Murray). The former also has Peace Corp experience and the latter served in Nigeria and South Yemen setting up training programs for teachers. Murray, as you know, was National AOTS President, 1979-81.

* * * * *

Some Milestones (Meterstones? Kilometerstones?)

Westworth U.C. AOTS MC, Winnipeg, Man. - celebrated their 30th anniversary on Nov. 6/82, "30 years of service in the church and community". They were chartered by D. R. Poole.

St. Andrew's U.C. AOTS MC, Moose Jaw, Sask. - will celebrate their 30th in 1983.

St. Andrew's U.C. AOTS MC, Rossland, B. C. - their 30th too, I believe (?).

St. Paul's U.C. AOTS MC, Oakville, Ont. - have a 25th anniversary coming up this year.

EDITORIAL: Who speaks for the church?

This question is increasingly on people's minds as the institutional church becomes ever more involved in controversial social and political matters. The election of Dr. Clarke MacDonald as moderator gives it added importance for, as deputy secretary of the Division of Mission in Canada, he was an outspoken proponent of such activity. Two recent examples are his trip on the Thomas Crosby V, "On vigil against Trident" (The Observer, October 1982), and his reported endorsement of the economic statement of the Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops (Toronto Star, January 1, 1983).

For most people the answer is "the clergy", the ordained (or professional or full-time) ministry of the church. This is the answer of tradition, the one that emerged as the early church grew and its organization evolved, an answer that has its roots in this more than in scripture, and one that was not greatly altered by the Reformation or by the diversity of church it gave rise to. Thus, in the United Church today, the clergy hold most of the key positions (i.e., chairman, secretary, etc.) of the various national divisions and committees (outnumbering lay people by about 2 to 1), as well as the offices of moderator (only one exception in 29 elections: Dr. McClure, 1968-71) and general secretary. Tending to perpetuate this situation is their near control of church courts: having an allocated 50% of the voting power of general council, at least one third that of conference, and automatic membership in presbytery. This level of representation in church government is quite inconsistent with a membership in the church of probably less than 0.5%.

Interestingly, this answer is not in accord with our present understanding of ministry, as given by the report of Project: Ministry, endorsed by the 28th General Council in Halifax, August 1980. Here we read that "the ministry of Christ is entrusted to the whole people of God", that "ordination is not a device to generate 'clerical privilege'", that "we can never be more than a member of the church", and that "there is no distinction of worth between the various persons and the different ways through which Christ's ministry is fulfilled". In other words, the people are the church. This statement on ministry is a very remarkable one when viewed in the context of present clergy domination of church structures.

So - who speaks for the church? Sadly, it is still usually the clergy. Despite the new meaning given to ministry (it has been taking shape within the United Church for at least 20 years), very little has happened to give it credence or to change the perception of the community. We still have a system of government which is, for this day, patently undemocratic, and which has a condescending paternalism that is offensive to human rights and human dignity. This is one "justice issue" the church seems unwilling to address.

However, the report of Project: Ministry is on record for all to see. As people read and ponder its words, change will come. The reality will emerge that we, "the whole people of God", are the church, that as individuals we speak for the church in our daily work, in whatever role we may have in society, and that no one is entitled to speak for "the whole" without having the proper democratic authority to do so.

Change will not likely come quickly, and it may not come easily. It will require revision of the constitution; it may require affirmative action programs; it will probably require of the laity a better understanding of the operation of the church and its proper place in society, plus a willingness to accept the challenge of a greater role in its affairs. As a church-wide organization of lay people AOTS may have a special responsibility in this matter. We should consider what we can and ought to do.

M. M. Wright, January 12, 1983.

SURVEY OF INTERESTS, IDEAS AND CONCERNS
AMONG LAYMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

(The Long Range Planning Committee of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs is studying the present effectiveness and future possibilities of church-related men's programs, projects and events across Canada. Your ideas as a club, group or individual will be very helpful. Please take a few moments to share your thinking with us. Turn this in at the event you are attending or, mail in confidence to Don G. Smith, Chairman AOTS Long Range Planning, 1676 Wedmore Way Mississauga Ontario L5J2J8. Please forward your comments no later than March 31st, 1983)

1. THERE ARE SOME 250,000 LAYMEN IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA. LESS THAN 10,000 ARE MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZED GROUP OR CLUB FOR MEN IN THE CHURCH. WHY IS THIS SO?

2. WHAT, IF ANYTHING, DO YOU THINK COULD AND SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THIS?

3. WHAT SHOULD BE THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF A CHURCH-CENTRED MEN'S PROGRAM?

Spiritual growth and development _____ Supportive fellowship _____
Leadership training _____ Practical service _____ Fund raising _____

Why?

4. IN YOUR EXPERIENCE WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE?

An organized men's group or club meeting regularly _____
Occasional meetings of men with a small committee to plan activities _____
Meeting only as required for a special project or need _____
Other _____

Why?

5. IS THERE A NEED FOR A NATIONAL NETWORK OF MEN IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA?

Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Why or why not?

6. HOW COULD AOTS BE A MORE EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR YOU AND OTHER MEN?

Locally _____
Regionally _____
Nationally _____

7. SHOULD THERE BE A UNIFIED NATIONAL PROGRAM EMPHASIS OR PROJECT FOR MEN OF THE CHURCH?

Yes _____ No _____ Not very important _____

Why?

8. WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR CHURCH?

What do you like most about it? _____

What do you dislike about it? _____

9. HOW COULD THE CHURCH HELP YOU MORE

In your personal life? _____

In your family? _____

In your work? _____

In your social concerns and issues? _____

10. IN YOUR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST?

Bible Study _____ Prayer _____ Lay theology _____

Caring/Sharing Fellowship _____ Church History, Doctrine _____

Other _____

11. WHAT ARE TO-DAY'S MOST PRESSING COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND SOCIAL ISSUES?

the economy _____ social change _____ injustice _____

violence _____ pornography _____ declining moral values _____

nuclear power _____ youth _____ energy _____

pollution _____ disarmament _____ poverty _____

other _____

12. HAVE YOU ATTENDED - AOTS BIENNIAL CONVENTION? _____ AOTS ROUND-UPS? _____

MEN'S CONFERENCES OR RALLIES? _____ (please specify where and when) _____

please comment on the value to you _____

Name _____ Address _____

Age _____ Occupation _____ Phone _____

Single _____ Married _____ No. of children _____ Divorced _____ Widower _____

Are you presently an AOTS member? _____ Name of Club _____

Were you previously an AOTS member? _____ Name of Club _____

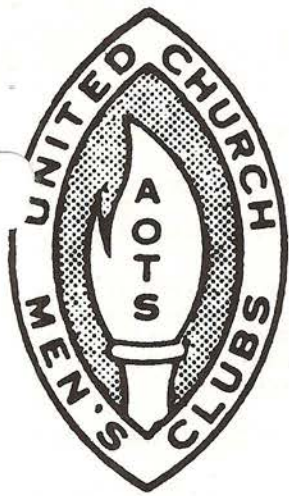
Are you a member of a men's church group which is not AOTS? _____

What is the nature of the group? _____

Local Church _____ Office held if any _____

(Please note - providing your name and other personal details is optional. However it would be helpful to know if you are, or ever have been, an AOTS member. Please feel free to use a separate sheet for further comments and suggestions. Thanks!)

If you would like to receive a copy of the Report and Recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, please fill in your name and address above and check here _____ . Again, many thanks for sharing your thoughts!



United Church AOTS Men's Club

ONTARIO

ROUNDUP 1983

APRIL 22 - 23 - 24

National YMCA Conference Centre, Geneva Park

MEN AT THE CROSSROADS

*"Rediscover the Role of Men in Church
and Society Today"*

SPEAKER:

RT. REV. CLARKE MacDONALD, B.A., M.Div., D.D.

Moderator, The United Church of Canada

MUSIC AND WORSHIP BY REV. LARRY MARSHALL

The Conference is under the direction of London Conference

Registration by March 1, 1983 - \$40.00 - - - After March 1, 1983 - \$45.00
Balance on arrival - \$50.00, based on double occupancy.

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS PHONE

CITY POSTAL CODE

CLUB CHURCH

ANY PREFERENCE OF ROOM-MATE?

I WISH FRIDAY SUPPER - YES - NO - Served at 5:30 p.m. (No Extra Charge)

I WISH A SINGLE ROOM (\$20.00 extra enclosed) covers 2 days.

Cheque enclosed for \$ Payable to "ONTARIO AOTS ROUNDUP '83"

Return To: Mr. Clarence Stirling, Registrar,
P.O. Box 818, Ridgetown, Ontario N0P 2C0
Telephone: 519 - 674-2661



A PROFILE OF OUR THEME SPEAKER

Clarke MacDonald believes in - commitment - evangelism and social action.

He has what he calls "a Christo-centric faith." The Christian life, he maintains, puts Christ at the centre and all life revolves around obedience to him.

Impatient with theological jargon and hair-splitting, he, nevertheless, believes that the coming of God in Christ is The Event in human history and the pivot of all genuine Christian action. This is what motivates him, whether he is preaching on grace or walking on a picket line for human rights.

Clarke MacDonald was born July 6, 1920 in the farming community of Green Hill, N.S. He says that he owes an unpayable debt to the United Church congregation of twenty-five families where he was brought up. "My parents were my first, and among my best teachers in applied Christianity." He attended public and high school in Pictou County. He went to Dalhousie University and then to Pine Hill Divinity Hall in Halifax where he was ordained in 1943. Pine Hill granted him an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1969.

For 15 years he held pastorates in Cape Breton, then moved to downtown Toronto Saint Luke's where he stayed for eight years.

In 1971 he was appointed Secretary of the former Board of Evangelism and Social Service which a year later was integrated into the Division of Mission in Canada in which he still, although presently Moderator of the United Church, maintains the title and some of the responsibilities of a Deputy Secretary. He is Secretary of the Office of Church in Society and Chairman of Project Ploughshares, as well as serving on other Inter-Church Coalitions and the Canadian Council of Churches.

Dr. MacDonald was elected Moderator of The United Church of Canada at the 29th General Council meeting in Montreal in August, 1982.



OUR WORSHIP AND SONG LEADER

Rev. Larry Marshall is a graduate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, (A.R.C.T.), the University of Toronto and Emmanuel College, (M.Div.)

He has a varied musical background which includes T.V., radio and concerts. He has been a chorister and soloist with the Festival Singers of Canada, the Mendelssohn Choir, the Carl Tapscott Singers and the Ivan Romanoff Singers. As well, he has appeared as soloist with major choral groups and orchestras throughout Canada. In addition, he was a teacher of Voice at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.

At present he is a minister in the United Church of Canada and divides his time between a pastoral and music ministry. Larry estimates that one quarter of his ministry is in music. He sums it all up in four words: "I Sing The Word".

Larry should prove to be a vibrant addition to our Weekend.

13th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND

July 22 — 24, 1983

=====GUEST SPEAKER=====

NO REFUNDS ON CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED AFTER JUNE 10, 1983
(A discount of \$5.00 will be given on early men's registration)

REGISTRATION FEE
(payable in advance)

Men _____ \$35.00
Ladies _____ \$20.00
Dependants _____ \$10.00

ACCOMMODATIONS

(to be paid on arrival)

Single _____ \$21.00 per person per night.
Twin Bedroom _____ \$16.00 " " " "
Extra Bed _____ \$8.00 " " " "

Rates for accommodations and meals are estimates.

MEALS

(To be paid on arrival)

Friday Lunch thru Sunday Lunch inclusive TOTAL COST \$20.00

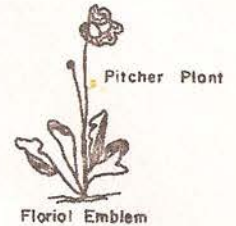
Saturday night banquet cost included in the Registration Fee.



The Reverend Boyd Hiscock Executive Secretary of Nfld. Conference, has agreed to be the keynote Conference Speaker. Reverend Boyd is a native Newfoundlander, and was Ordained in 1960.

The Earth Is The Lord's

To: HECTOR K. SWAIN
REGISTRAR, 13th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION
320 ELIZABETH AVENUE, ST. JOHN S, NEWFOUNDLAND
A1B 1T9



Name _____

Address _____

Club _____ Church _____

Office Held _____ Voting Delegate _____ Individual Member _____

My wife will be attending _____ Her name is _____

Children attending: Names _____ Ages _____ Sexes _____

I will be travelling by: Car _____ CN. _____ Plane _____ Bus _____ and expect to arrive in St. John's

Date and Hour _____ Will require trailer-park accommodations _____

Want to stay at Memorial University of Newfoundland _____ I wish to share a room _____ Special arrangements required — SPECIFY _____

Each cheque or money order payable to: 13th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE. I enclose cheque/money order for _____ for full registration fee.

Travel information required.

Provincial Flag

