



NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER

"As One That Serves"

Volume 9, Number 2

October, 1986

The Open Door

Something New in Victoria

A great deal of excitement has been generated by the news that Ventures in Mission (National Church) funding is available to provide an outreach minister to work in the inner city on behalf of the United Churches of the Victoria Presbytery. Other operating funds will come mainly from donations from individuals, groups and congregations.

A research team composed of representatives from

three inner city core churches spent several months finding the areas of greatest need. Their findings were presented to the core churches, the Presbytery, the Conference and eventually to the funding committee of Ventures in Mission.

The name, the "Open Door" was chosen by the Inner City Church Council.

The Inner City Pastoral Ministry

Something On-going in Edmonton

The Inner City is the home of Edmonton's poorest people. In less than a square mile, not five minutes from the downtown office towers, they crowd into rooming houses and single family dwellings.

Old people are paying up to \$250 a month for a single room with a hot plate for cooking.

The area is characterized by a highly transient population, mostly male, and many single parent families. Twenty to twenty-five percent are native.

Two-thirds of the households fall below Canada's official poverty line. Unemployment is widespread. Alcohol and drug abuse, prostitution, child abuse and street crimes are common.

All this is the parish of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry. The base of its operations is an office above the Bissell Centre's second-hand store. Its minister, since 1984, is an Anglican priest, Odette Peron.

In such a volatile setting, the ministry is crisis-oriented. Midweek, the phone calls are constant, at all hours.

Counselling is an important part of the job — as often in homes and other gathering places as in the office.

During the week Odette visits all the groups where her parishioners gather. She shares meals with them and tries to be present to them; she listens and pays attention, learning who is behind the facade.

If the office is the pastoral base of the ministry, Bissell Centre is its spiritual home. Services are held in the gym, where the cross stands in the middle of the east wall. Worship is Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion alternately; it is well attended, with a dozen children participating in Sunday School. It is a very ecumenical setting; all denominations are represented and special attention is given to meet the person in his/her own background.

"I was hungry," said Jesus in Matthew's gospel, "and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick, and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me."

Rev. Odette Peron says: "We are a community in spite of the wide disparity."

From:

The Edmonton Presbytery Newsletter, Vol. 88, No. 3.

Commentary

Views of our Members

Ross Agar, Victoria Avenue AOTS Men's Club
Chatham Ontario

The United Church AOTS Mens Club should be a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus, to grow spiritually and to seek daily his will. Its primary responsibilities are:

- to declare the centrality of Christ in the lives of men and in all their relationships;
- to encourage knowledge of and support for the total mission of the church;
- to engage in evangelism by sharing the fullness of the gospel in its personal and social dimensions;
- to clarify and speak to the identity and role of the men in contemporary society;
- to seek commitment to discipleship;
- to study and become familiar with the church, its organizations, doctrines and beliefs;
- to cooperate with all the units of AOTS in obtaining these objectives through local, district, conference and national goals.

What the United Church AOTS Men's Clubs do for us:

- it gives us a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves - the church - the most effective channel for the expression of Christian life and experience and the realization that we are an important part of God's kingdom.
- it gives us a new understanding and appreciation of the gospel, faith, prayer, stewardship, and world mission.
- it helps us understand the mission of the church and its task in the world, and makes us feel a part of the accomplishment of that task.
- it makes us aware of our talents and potential power and affords us an opportunity to express ourselves.
- it widens our circle of acquaintances, promotes friendships, and develops a rich and lasting fellowship with others.
- it supports us in our faith and in applying our faith to our homes and vocations.

What United Church AOTS Men's Clubs do for the church:

- we bring men together in fellowship under the auspices of the church. Men seek fellowship with other men. They will find it in the church or elsewhere.
- we provide inspiration, information and direction for Christian service.

- we develop a reservoir of men, a manpower pool, which can be drawn on to activate many programs.
- we discover and develop new leadership.
- we undergird the work of every functional department of the church.
- we develop a spirit of comradeship and fellowship throughout the church.
- we help hold men within the church.

Every church needs:

- mission-minded men;
- an opportunity for men to witness;
- a community action group of men;
- a men's resource pool;
- a problem-solving group of men.

Every church needs a United Church AOTS Men's Club - a group of men reaching out, as an arm of the church, to all men of the church and community to promote Christian fellowship; to deepen their spiritual life; and to develop an effective program of Christian service.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ken,

Being one of the AOTS members who seldom tell the ones that work so hard in various ways for us how much we appreciate their efforts, I am glad that I have finally put pen to paper to thank you for our **Newsletter**. I realize that it is very difficult to you to print the **Newsletter** with news that you do not receive!

I expect a lot of clubs are like ours at Brechin - meet once a month for an evening of Christian fellowship, have some input from a speaker or a film, have a few projects during the year to enable a youngster or two to attend camp or Youth Parliament or a leader to take a course, and then do it again the next year. Not really headline material, so we neglect to let you know that we exist!

In our case I understand that you do receive the District Council of Vancouver Island minutes and these contain abbreviations of the various club activities on the Island.

I look forward to each issue of our national **Newsletter** as I find it to be informative. Club members are able to find out about the concerns that other members have and various happenings across the country that we do not find out in any other way! Please keep up the good work, even though it is an arduous task.

Yours sincerely
Reg Attwell
Nanaimo, BC

In Memoriam

Osborne R. Crowell

Well-known businessman and churchman, Osborne R. Crowell, 88, died recently in Halifax. He was a lifelong member of Brunswick Street United Church, Halifax, served on the executive and various committees of the Halifax Presbytery, the Maritime Conference and of the General Council of the United Church.

He was interested in the lay movement and was leader of the Men's Own Class for 30 years. He was president of the Halifax Presbytery Men, the Maritime Conference Men and the National Association of AOTS Men's Clubs. He served for 10 years on the national Committee on Lay Activities and the Board of Men of the United Church.

He helped organize and was the first president of the InterChurch men's Association; was a charter member of the Halifax-Dartmouth Council of Churches and its treasurer for 10 years; and served as treasurer of the Institute for Pastoral Training. He was president of the Berwick Camp Meeting Association and of the Inner City Mission.

He also had extensive involvements in business and community organizations.

Crowell is survived by his two daughters, a sister and five grandchildren, having been predeceased by his wife and son.

Fulfilling Our Purpose

A Column of Ideas and Directions

Kapuskasing - Seventeen square yards of sod were laid around the sidewalk at the side entrance of the church building. A small project that cost little yet improved the appearance considerably. A poorly attended workbee still managed to complete some major renovations on the local church camp, Camp Waskesiu.

CPR Course - Bellefair AOTS held a "save a life" course in May. About 20 members enrolled in a training session for Cardio-Pulmonary-Resuscitation. Those attending paid \$10.00, brought a bag lunch and spent from 10:00 am until 2:30 pm learning this valuable technique. More leadership from a "lively" bunch.

Hospital Wheelchair Service - Manitoba and Northwest Ontario District Council reports that the Hospital Wheelchair Service (presumably in Winnipeg) continues to enable between 50 and 70 long-term patients to attend church regularly. For 32 years club members and friends have provided not only transport, but a ministry of fellowship to those who are faced with long-term confinement. Several polio patients who were affected in 1953 are still regular attenders at the church services.

Newsletter Revived - feeling a need for improved communication, a District Council Newsletter, "The Handshake," as been reinstated by the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley District Council in British Columbia. Costs appear to be defrayed by some "business-card" type advertisements! Submissions should be directed to THE HANDSHAKE, c/o 4134 Maywood Ave., Apt. 707, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4C9.

Erie View AOTS, Blenheim, ON, with a membership of 13, not only have paid their dues, but contributed \$100.00 for a National Project and \$140.00 for Second Mile Support!

Knox AOTS, Winnipeg, sent a record number of children to the Hilbre Bible Camp in July. Twenty-four boys and girls from the core area of the city enjoyed the camp for a week thanks to members of the congregation who contributed \$800.

Happenings

Did it happen or didn't it?

Although we have had rumors of its success, no one has seized the opportunity to tell **The AOTS Newsletter** what, if anything happened at the AOTS Ontario Roundup '86! A brief summary might provide some tips and encouragement for other areas.

NATIONAL AOTS NEWSLETTER

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United Church of Canada

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

Manitoba and NW Ontario Conference

Edward Babaian, District Council Secretary,
Conferences and Retreats

The Riding Mountain Men's Conference

Sixty men of Western Manitoba met at Camp Wannakumbac for the 21st annual Riding Mountain Men's Conference. Rev. Ron Pierce of the Hamiota Pentecostal Church provided leadership using the theme "The Layman's Role." His ministry of word and song was the basis for excellent discussion of men's work in the church and community.

The Minaki Laity Conference

Inspired by a series of colourful and thought provoking addresses on the theme, "Faith of our Own," given by Rev. Maurice Boyd of London, ON, a packed conference enjoyed a weekend at Minaki Lodge, May 3-5. A Saturday afternoon address and workshop on "Adoptive Parents of Native Children" gave individuals an opportunity to reflect on their responsibilities in light of the faith theme.

Manitoba and NW Ontario District Council Report

Youth Leadership Recognition

On April 7, the District Council sponsored a "Leadership Recognition Night" to honour 83 youth leaders selected by local churches. Council president, Rev. Walter Cowan, spoke of the AOTS commitment to promote youth programs and each guest was presented with a certificate of merit by Clare Bailey and Murray McPherson. Rev. Bob Kayes of the Winnipeg Presbytery Staff provided some views on the role of men in the support of youth programs. Council has decided that a recognition night will be provided on a regular basis.

National Executive Annual Meeting

District Council finalized plans to host the Annual Meeting of the National Association Executive Committee in Winnipeg, Nov. 7-9. Clubs have been assigned to provide transportation, arrange billets, prepare and serve a banquet, plan a presentation on "Leadership Development." Approximately 30 visitors will be joined by representatives from local clubs for this special event.

National Association Reports

National Membership Committee
By Forest Shuttleworth

The first of two articles to appear in the AOTS NEWSLETTER.

Members of AOTS, the time has come to evaluate ourselves. An evaluation will help us to determine whether:

- there is a bit of cliquishness in our Club.
- public relations have been updated.
- new members have an opportunity to use their talents.
- the Executive is making all the decisions and removing the challenge from membership.
- aims and objectives are maintained as outlined in the handbooks.
- leadership is inexperienced.
- commitment is lacking and a sense of priority lost.
- drop-out follow-up is effective.
- regular members are knowledgeable about their organization.
- restraint from running the show by senior members would help.

The United Church AOTS Men's Clubs were originally

organized to enable the congregational or charge clubs to have a national fellowship with national and local visibility and voice. This should still be and remain the goal of AOTS.

"As One That Serves," AOTS has a very clear mandate. Our purpose is Christian fellowship and leadership. We are to be living examples of Jesus as he served the disciples (Luke 22:27, John 13: 3-17).

AOTS programming should stay within our mandate. It is essential that all members understand that AOTS is not just an ordinary organization or club, but is really an "arm of the church" (people). Regular programs should be religiously oriented. Subjects such as land use and environment, investments and economics can be tied into the Bible and our daily lives. This is part of our stewardship to God and humankind.

It is time for AOTS to assume new leadership in programming instead of following formats established years ago by other clubs. We are unique because Jesus is our sponsor and leader.

(To be continued in the next issue of the AOTS NEWSLETTER)

National Youth Committee

Dale Maris, Chair

D.R. Poole Award

The D.R. Poole Award will be made again in 1987. The award will be based on activities during the 1986 calendar year in support of the ministry of youth. Entries are "weighted" for club size, which gives small clubs an equal opportunity to receive the award. In 1985 two small clubs from Newfoundland tied for third place.

Reports in the NEWSLETTER indicate that many more clubs are developing active participation in youth ministry. The purpose of the D.R. Poole Award is to encourage and strengthen this trend. Details will be available in the near future.

National Association Mailing List

1. Individual members and clubs with whom the National Association has not had contact for over two years will be removed from the mailing list.
2. People who change their address should let the National Office know so the mailing list can be kept up to date.

National AOTS Finance Committee

— Marty Albers, Member

Second Mile Support

The Second Mile fund is a means of voluntary financial support for the National Association and its service to all AOTS Men's Clubs.

The goal is to find 1000 individuals and/or clubs who are willing to donate \$100.00 over and above regular dues, to enable the National Association "to provide stimulation, re-birth and additional public relations staff to give the men of our country the opportunity to deepen their Christian experience and serve their Lord more fully in meaningful experience of Christian fellowship." Some clubs have added an item in their budget for the Second Mile program. In other clubs a regular member has been appointed to oversee this program. Members appreciate being reminded that receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for all contributions.

More clubs have decided to sponsor an annual project exclusively for Second Mile support. This enables all members to participate and contribute to the program.

Individual contributions continue in addition to the club support.

We are very hopeful that we will receive sufficient funds for 1987 to enable our National Executive to carry out its programs of service and club expansion across Canada.

Laugh-A-Minute

"Boss, I have to have a raise," the man said. "There are three other companies after me."

"Is that so," said the somewhat sceptical boss, "what other companies?"

"The electric company, the telephone company and the gas company!"

Did you hear about the latest dieting craze — garlic sandwiches? You don't lose weight, but from afar you look smaller.

A heavysset man asked his petite wife, "Have you seen my belt around the house?"

"Oh," she asked, "Is it around the house?"

THE 15TH NATIONAL AOTS CONVENTION

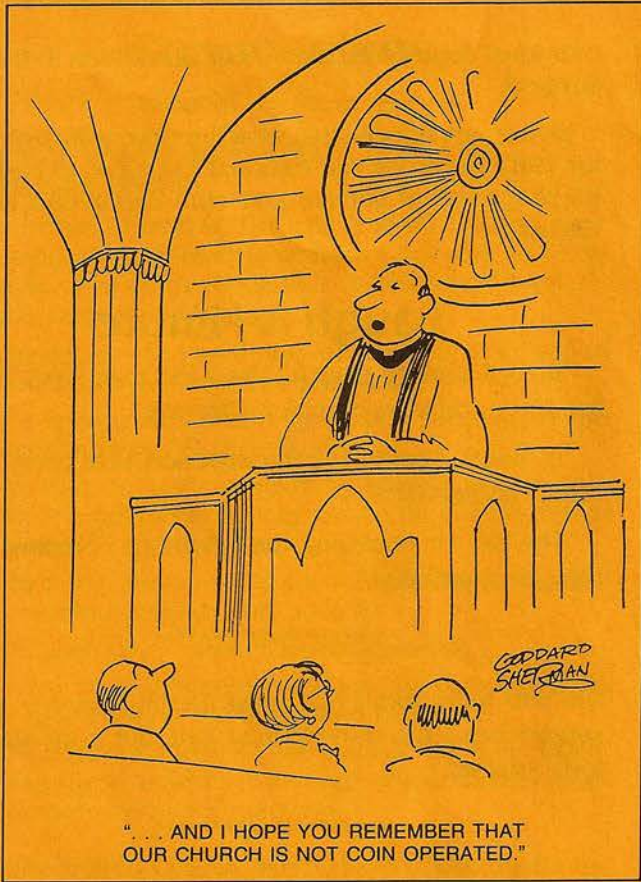
Where: Canadian Bible College
Regina, Saskatchewan

When: July 31, August 1 & 2, 1987

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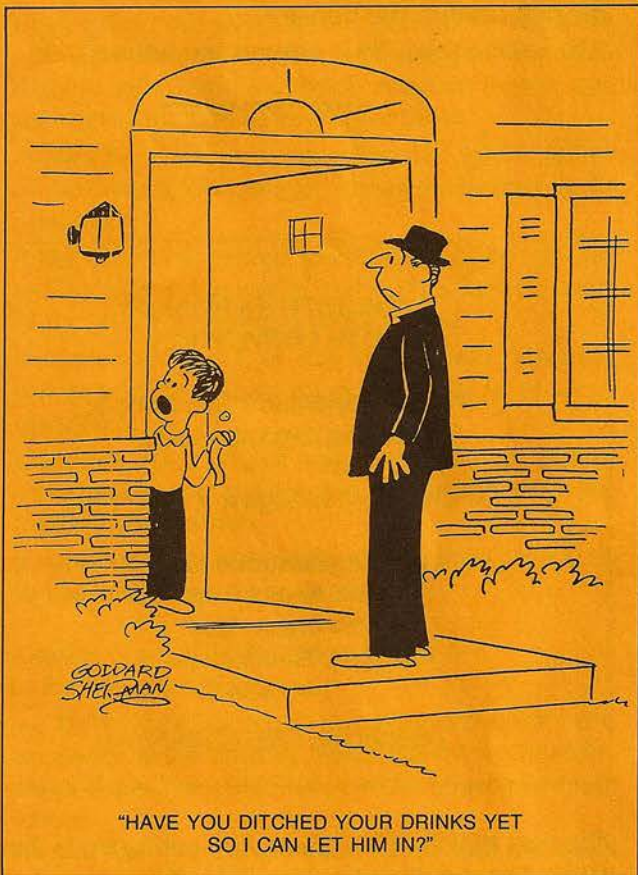
The next NEWSLETTER should be published in January, 1987. The deadline for material is December 1, 1986.



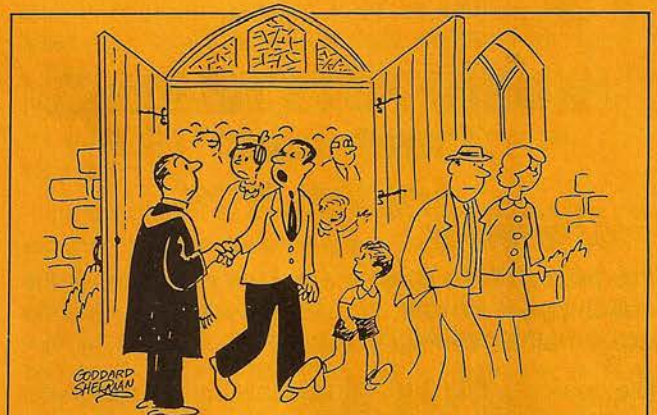
"... AND I HOPE YOU REMEMBER THAT
OUR CHURCH IS NOT COIN OPERATED."



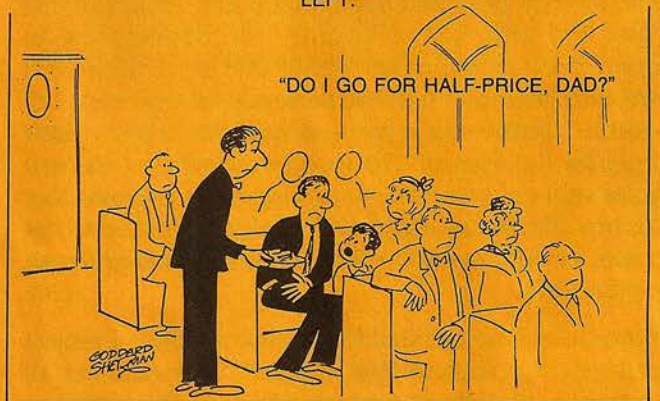
"I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL TWO WEEKS
AND YOU NEVER VISITED ME!"
REMEDY - MORE VISITORS



"HAVE YOU DITCHED YOUR DRINKS YET
SO I CAN LET HIM IN?"



"SORRY, PASTOR, BUT I HAD TO PASS UP THE COLLECTION PLATE
TODAY. AFTER I RENDERED UNTO CAESAR THERE WAS NOTHING
LEFT."



"DO I GO FOR HALF-PRICE, DAD?"