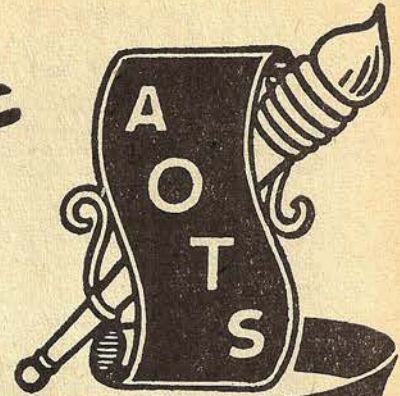




# President's LETTER



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AOTS CLUBS

A Department Of The Board Of Men Of The United Church Of Canada

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## President's Message

As we get into the first few days of the New Year, I am sure we do so with mixed feelings.

During the past year we have been saddened by the passing of some of our most beloved members and co-workers who, over the past years, have contributed in no small measure to the success of AOTS and I am sure we who are left are better men for having been associated with them.

At the same time, 1956 has been one of success to us as an organization, our membership has grown steadily and now extends from the shores of Newfoundland to the far reaches of the Yukon. As your president, I would like to pay tribute to all for the co-operative efforts in making this possible.

As we enter the New Year I would like to extend the most hearty greetings to each member of every club and urge that we all resolve, not to rest on our laurels, but look to new horizons for greater adventures in Christian services.

What is the coming year? It is a door  
By which we reach new fields  
Of service for our God and fellow  
men;

A door by which we can explore  
Wide spheres of usefulness our world  
to bless

And reap the sheaves God's work of  
witness yields.

Dave Sherwood

## Would You Pass Test Of Good Salesman?

A good salesman's attributes can be summed up in the following sequences: attitude, initiative, thoroughness, concentration, constructive imagination, decision, adaptability, organizing ability, leadership, expression and knowledge.

Are you a good salesman for Christian fellowship in your community, church and employment? Can you improve?

New Series No. 2

FEBRUARY 1957

## AOTS Club's 'Hilarious' Party Receives Nation-Wide Publicity

AOTS received nation-wide publicity in December when Weekend, a supplement which appears in 12 Canadian daily newspapers, featured a two-page photo-story on the New Year's eve party of Metropolitan club in London, Ont.

Weekend, whose readership of 4,000,000 is said to be the largest in Canada, headlines the story: "These United Church members prove a dry New Year's need not be dull." Candid pictures of the merry-makers proved the point.

The story was written by William C. Heine, an AOTS member on the staff of The London Free Press. Pictures, by Jack Schenck of the same paper, showed church members of all ages dancing, blowing horns, clunking coffee cups, singing "Auld Lang Syne" and worshipping in the New Year.

Mr. Heine wrote: "The party was a hilarious affair. A lot of people 'made perfect fools of themselves,' as they cheerfully put it afterwards. The reason for this almost abandoned hilarity and gaiety would interest psychologists. It didn't matter how wacky people behaved; no one could accuse them of having too much to drink. So they all cut loose and had a fine old time."

Besides describing the festivities, Mr. Heine told about the group's worship service: "While the wine flowed free in hundreds of other parties across the city, these men and women heard their minister suggest that in 'our search for a faith in the year ahead we might remember it often takes a lot of little acts to make a great event.'

"We should not forget", said Rev. George W. Goth, 'that a man who does little, gentle things HAS a faith.'

"It took fair helpings of faith to launch what the men of the church billed as 'something new in New Year's parties.' There were those who object-

ed to a dance in the church; some said it wouldn't go over; others felt different age groups wouldn't mix. The originators stuck to their convictions and gradually hammered out a carefully-balanced program, built around the midsummer booking of square-dance caller Norm Lindsay, 'the best in seven counties.'

"Tickets (\$3 a couple) went out to the men through their AOTS Club. From his pulpit, the minister urged a 2,000-strong congregation to give support.

"By the time dancing started at 9 p.m. New Year's Eve, success was sure. As first couples moved into a waltz, insurance manager Cam Scott (he dreamed it up), driving-school owner Fred Gosnell (he organized it) and branch manager Tommy Thomson (his club backed it) were already discussing next year's event."

The Met club's party in 1955 was such a success, tickets were sold out early in 1956.

This type of party could very well be put to the test by other clubs when next winter rolls around.

## Clubs In The West Keep Phil Hustling

By now, most of the smoke has cleared away after the visit of our new National Secretary Phil to a fair number of clubs in the Western provinces and from a quick perusal of Phil's report of his trip the boys in the west kept him on the move.

Some interesting comments have come in from districts visited with some solid meat to chew on at National level. At the meeting of your National Executive in January, I am sure at least some of the questions will be answered and all and sundry informed as soon after as possible.

# AOTS Activities Across Canada

**BELLEVILLE, Ont.**—Bridge St. club planned a sparkling New Year's Eve celebration in Albert College. Dancing, cards, games, a candlelight service and a buffet supper were the attractions. New president is T. K. Franklin with Ray Gunsolus as vice-president, Dr. Donald Scott, secretary and Jim Seekings as treasurer.

**BIRCH HILLS, Sask.** — Delegates from Nipawin, Melfort, Prince Albert, Kinistino and Birch Hills met here in December for district council meeting. Officers elected were: president, T. Barrie, Prince Albert; secretary-treasurer, F. Gulp, Prince Albert; convenors, extension organization, E. Cook, Birch Hills; project and program, W. McCosh, Melfort; education and finance, S. Potts, Nipawin; convention, A. Grier-son, Prince Albert.

**BLLENHEIM, Ont.**—Barrister Jack Kerr will lead this club through 1957. His executive includes George James, James Vessey, Oscar Bell, and Rex LeGros. Three new members were inducted.

**BURNABY, B. C.**—West Burnaby club sponsored a musical program to help raise funds for the new \$85,000 Christian Centre.

**CLARESHOLM, Alta.**—New skipper at the helm of the 'Holm club is Earl Steele. His executive mates include Dr. J. E. Lloyd, vice-president; S. Scaman, treasurer; Dr. Ken Graham, secretary.

**DUNCAN, B. C.**—Ten members of this club delivered the Vancouver Island travelling gavel to Centennial club at Victoria in November. Art Mann, Jr., Duncan president, made the presentation to Hugh Bancroft, Centennial prexy.

**EDMONTON, Alta.**—All groups took part in a Nut Sale drive in which over 20,000 cans were sold. Profits will be spent on construction of a permanent church camp at Pidgeon Lake.

**ESQUIMALT, B. C.**—Alec Richardson, Duncan, is president of the Vancouver Island district council. He was elected at a meeting here in October. Vice-presidents are Allen Crouch, Esquimalt, and Edward Hess, Chemainus, and secretary-treasurer is C. Morton, Duncan.

**EXETER, Ont.**—James Street club visited the county home at Clinton to entertain inmates before Christmas. Garnet Hicks and Tom MacMillan arranged the program. In November, members donned aprons, cooked and served a hot supper, netting \$180. Carfrey Cann was in charge of this project.

**GANONOQUE, Ont.**—Grace club elected Les Bowman president. Other officers are vice-presidents Jack Petch, Don Chapman and Gordon Rombough; secretary, John Conley; treasurer, Geo. Drope; jester, Les Cummings. Members aided the town's "Operation Christmas Cheer" by supplying toys and a dozen drivers to distribute treats to needy families.

**KELOWNA, B.C.**—Members of this club cooked themselves a turkey Christmas dinner with plenty of trimmings, at their December meeting. Even the tomato juice served was canned last fall by the members. Seventy-five enjoyed it.

**LETHBRIDGE, Alta.** — Southminster club's boys' choir sang carols at the Galt Rehabilitation Centre and the Senior Citizens' Home.

## Personal Prayer

Light of the world, permit each of us this day to illumine some despairing pilgrim's darksome path. As we have lighted our candles at the altar of Thy love, help us to go forth with compassion for others. In our Redeemer's name, Amen.

**MINNEDOSA, Man.**—Reports the fund-raising idea of a Spare Rib Bar-B-Q supper. Club members didn't eat up all the profits either—proceeds were \$216.

**MOOSE JAW, Sask.**—At the November meeting of Zion AOTS club, Saskatchewan's conservation program for natural resources was parallel to the Biblical exhortation to "leave the inheritance for our children's children", R. G. Young, director of conservation, Department of Natural Resources, told the club members.

By using a map and colored slides, he outlined the great "renewable resources," particularly in regard to forests, fish, fur and game. Research and publicity, he said, played a large part in this conservation program.

Smoke jumpers who dropped by parachute to battle forest fires were playing a big part in resources conservation by reducing the losses in timber.

Careful checking on lakes and streams to conserve the fish for commercial and sports fishermen was also an important part of the regular program.

**NORTH BAY, Ont.**—Members of St. Andrew's club served a banquet to the public. And I have a picture to prove it with H. Walker and C. Souter serving pie.

**MELVILLE, Sask.**—First United Church club sponsored a Christmas carol festival with funds going to the Christmas stocking fund.

**PARIS, Ont.**—Warren Beatty, Brantford, was elected president of the Grand Valley district council early in December. Other officers include: honorary president, E. C. Ross, Paris; vice-presidents, Ken Gordon and Russ Goodwin; recording secretary, Alf Porter; corresponding secretary, Les Snyder; treasurer, Earl Griffin, all of Brantford.

**FORT WILLIAM, Ont.**—Broadway United Church club held a pancake supper for the public. (I wonder who did the cooking?).

**MONTREAL, Que.**—The Valois club in Pointe Claire heard the industrial commissioners review expansion highlights

**NANTON, Alta.**—Ladies night attracted a crowd of 100, who enjoyed "football" contests. President G. P. Loree and his executive were re-elected.

**PARIS, Ont.**—George Arthrell succeeded Dick Emerson Jr. as president of the St. Paul's club. Other officers are: honorary president, Rev. Wm. C. Kitton; vice-president, Herb Lindsay; secretary, Tom Woodnutt; treasurer, W. J. Haggett; district rep, Jack Allison. A bus campaign was planned for January.

**PRINCE ALBERT, Sask.**—New president of the Wesley club is Ted Jones. His executive includes Chuck Ford and Wes Hannah, vice-presidents; Len Sleather, secretary; Syd Smith, treasurer, and directors Al Leland, Harold Tomlinson, Jim Murdock, Don MacPherson and Percy Avram.

**RIVERVIEW, Ont.**—Sold Japanese oranges from door to door.

**REVELSTOKE, B.C.**—The third anniversary meeting of the AOTS of the United Church was held in the church hall on Tuesday, December 10, with over 50 in attendance.

The Women's Federation gave the supper and also presented a birthday cake to mark the anniversary.

Christmas carols led by Harold Switzer were enjoyed with Miss D. Lundell as accompanist.

New officers elected for the coming year were: President, E. Donaldson; secretary-treasurer, G. Gigiuk; vice-president, H. MacKay; membership, Albert Abrahamson; youth work, Dave Mitchell; finance, Wilf Hobbs; fellowship and reception, Sid Cary; program, Fred Durrand.

**ROSSLAND, B.C.**—This club learned all about the wave relay system from T. E. Brett of the B.C. Telephone Co. at a November meeting. Five new members were initiated. Members manned the gates as their contribution to the success of the Golden City Fall Fair.

**RUTLAND, B.C.**—This club donated \$100 to the church building fund and financed the trip of a delegate to boys' parliament. Thomas "Scotty" Angus, former president, told stories of his early experiences as an immigrant in Ontario, Manitoba and B.C.

**SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont.**—Charter officers of the new Central club include president Ken West, vice-presidents Dr. George Harvey and Lloyd Sippell; treasurer Verdun Yeomans, secretary Don Mortson. National Secretary Phil Spence was guest speaker at the inaugural banquet and Sudbury clubs presented the charter. Officers were installed by Rev. E. L. Bishop, Central minister and honorary president.

FORT FRANCIS, Ont.—Knox United Church held its annual father and son supper in the church auditorium on November 2 at 6.30 p.m.

Fathers and sons of eight years and over registered for the happy event and the guest speaker for the gala evening was Mr. Phil Spence, National Secretary of AOTS.

SOUTH RIVER, Ont.—The Chalmers club picked up \$93 in a light bulb sale, participated in the evening service on Laymen's Sunday, overhauled tables in the church hall and purchased a new vacuum cleaner for the manse.

TRAIL, B.C.—Clubs assisted in the annual welfare canvass.

WINNIPEG, Man.—Gordon club celebrated the sixth anniversary of its charter early in December by hearing an expert in TV. Tom Barnes was installed as new president. Executive members include Jack Ferrar, Al Clark, D. G. Brown, Wally Foster, Mike Croft, Wally Beveridge, Alf Cansdale, Harry Wright and Dave Brown.

STURGEON CREEK, Man.—A. Kaiser, executive member of the Winnipeg council, was guest speaker for election night of this new club. J. Thompson was selected to wield the gavel and D. McLellan is his assistant. Secretary is I. Moore; treasurer, R. Harvey; membership chairman A. Drayson. St. Andrews River Heights club installed the officers at the January meeting, when the group received its charter.

## Three More Clubs Receive Charters

According to word received by your Ed up to press time, new clubs have been chartered at the following points:

St. Paul's Church, Estevan, Sask.

Applewood United Church, just outside Port Credit, Ontario.

Central United Church, Sault Saint Marie, Ontario.

If, when new clubs are chartered, word is passed on to your Editor, I will endeavor to keep a running list of them. Some of our members across the country are the travelling kind and it may help to know that there is a club of fellow AOTS'rs that one can turn to when time hangs heavy.

## Salute To Sarnia's 'Curly Top'

With all due respect to some hard-working AOTS'rs in the Sarnia, Ont. district for assistance to many clubs in the past three years, your Editor takes time out to give a pat and shove to Salesman Sam Oldham.

Aubrey, as he is well known to many in church and service clubs in Western Ontario has been recognized for his capabilities and good qualities by his firm (no advertising please), an insurance firm of long standing, and Aubrey leaves this part of the country for virgin AOTS territory in Ottawa.

He has served his community in many fields including YM-YWCA, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Commun-

## The Editor's COMMENTS

By ROBERT DUNLOP

Response to the appeal for funds by the treasurer of the National Executive was very good. Grateful thanks are extended to all clubs who rallied on the occasion. Special thanks to the Estevan club in B.C. for its donation immediately on being chartered.

Not much reaction to the offer for the film strips of the National Conference. Let's hear further from the rest of the clubs and District Councils on some first class advertising (flesh and blood with familiar faces to be seen).

A National Convention motion, 1956: Moved by Roy Johnson and Dr. J. W. Simpson that the national council office be responsible for billing the clubs regularly on the basis of \$1.00 per member and that copies of statement sent to clubs be mailed to the provincial and district councils in which the club is located and that the club contributions be remitted directly to the national office, which in turn will advise the provincial and district councils of collections received. Carried.

Some word of the activities of the clubs in Newfoundland and the Yukon would be appreciated. We know that you are on the move but would like to let the rest of the clubs across Canada know of your contributions.

Press deadline for issues of the Letter during the year 1957 will be the middle of February, April, September and October so govern yourselves accordingly.

Just couldn't resist this one:

Wife: "My husband has no bad habits whatsoever. He never drinks and he spends all his evenings at home. Why he doesn't even belong to a club

Friend: "Does he smoke?"

Wife: "Only in moderation. He likes a good cigar after he has a good dinner, but I don't suppose he smokes two cigars a month."

How many cigars do you fellows smoke?

ity Chest and the Sarnia Library Board.

He has been or is connected in his church with YPU, Session, Sunday School superintendent, past president of National Council on adult work in the United Church, a strong link in AOTS circles locally and on the National Executive of AOTS clubs.

He has contributed to many religious papers with well accepted articles and averages 100 platform and radio addresses yearly.

All best wishes go out to Aubrey and his family in their new home and may success continue to follow their footsteps.

WESTVIEW, B. C.—Dr. Harry Grant, Vancouver, addressed this club in October when the men decided to organize and affiliate with national.

VANCOUVER, B.C.—A group of men representing the congregation of Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake United Church met on Thursday evening at the Mill Bay Church hall under the leadership of the Rev. H. Turpin to discuss the formation of an AOTS club.

Guests from the clubs at Duncan and Chemainus were present to supply information and to offer assistance in organizing the new club. A. V. Richardson and D. C. Morton spoke on programs and projects and on the history and development of AOTS since it was founded in 1923.

E. Jackson and E. Hess outlined the procedure in starting a small club and gave some of the highlights of the provincial AOTS Round-up at Naramata at the beginning of the month.

It was agreed to have a supper meeting when Chemainus club would arrange the devotional and Duncan would supply the entertainment.

Forty to 50 clubs took part in the annual nut sale in the Vancouver District early in December. All proceeds went to boys and youth work of the District.

VALOIS, Que.—The Valois AOTS men's Club played host to members' wives at the December meeting held at Valois United Church.

In keeping with the occasion, Mrs. V. W. G. Wilson, representing the Canadian Association of Consumers, was invited to be guest speaker. The speaker at the outset drew the attention of the audience with her infectious enthusiasm and capable manner in which she presented the work done by the C.A.C.

It would appear that due to the watchful eye of the women who are members of the C.A.C. much has been done to improve the standards and equality of the goods bought from the lowly potato to the colour of children's toys. The speaker pointed out that 3½ million women who spent 85% of the consumer dollars should and did have considerable influence over the quality and type of merchandise being sold in Canada.

A question and answer period followed the address and many interesting and enlightening questions were put to the speaker. A film from the Better Business Bureau on fraudulent practices being tried on the modern housewife and a singsong rounded out a first class evening.

## LETTING OUR LIGHTS SHINE

Laymen's Sunday was sponsored in churches all across our land in the fall just past. Clubs in all provinces did everything from taking over the whole service for the day to have slates of officers installed by the minister.

What better way to render service and at the same time let our lights so shine that other men in the church can see what our clubs mean to us?

IS THE BIBLE ON THE TABLE DURING ALL MEETINGS OF YOUR CLUB?



**SUMMER'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER**—It won't be long before warm weather's here and young boys and young girls will be looking forward to their summer church camp. AOTS clubs across the nation help to sponsor these important programs for the church's youth. Last year, St. Andrew's club of Moose Jaw, Sask., presented a \$300 check and a \$200 boat to the United Church Camp committee in that community. Above, Verne Hoover, left, presents the check to Dr. Gillespie, right, while Ron Sutton, assistant minister, tries out the boat.

## Are We Failing In Stewardship?

Men are failing to face up to the challenges of the church because they are taking it for granted, National Secretary Phil Spence told a fall round-up of Manitoba Council clubs in Winnipeg.

Phil, who's seen the church at work in extensive travels with the Welles organization, said the problem is one of stewardship.

"We are forty-third on a list of giving," he said. "We've done more on stewardship of dollars than the other side of stewardship. We are not doing

a good job in giving of our time.

"There are 300 vacancies for ministers in the United Church of Canada today. Why this lack of interest? There must be some reason for it," he said.

"Thou shalt know no other gods before the church," the secretary reminded the 70 men representing clubs in the district.

"Basic fault is we have taken the church for granted all our lives."

Phil challenged his audience to take three pieces of paper and write the following questions on each:

1.—We need a church in our community because . . .

"If you can't write down at least 12 reasons to this one there's something wrong."

2.—I feel I need the church and what it stands for because . . .

"Sixty-five to 75 per cent of the people of Canada who agree with No.1 don't think they themselves need the church. If your church attendance is 37 per cent you have a better than average church attendance in Canada.

"It's about time we took a stand," he said. "If you find you don't need the church for heaven's sake get out—don't pretend you do. If you find you need it, then do something about it."

3.—My churches job is . . .

"Mounting traffic toll, mental health, handicapped—are they the churches job? This one will weed the men from the boys, the secretary stated.

Touching on the subject of prayer Phil was of the opinion that historians

will say this generation lost prayer.

He stated that out of a group of 36 boys and girls from 15-18 years, and which had an average attendance of 29 for three years showed more interest in prayer than we adults.

"Is there anything to this business of prayer?" he asked. "We have to show some leadership in this matter—something which the teen-agers haven't been getting from us.

"What you do will affect the whole of Canada. The United Church of Canada said it is going to lead the rest of Canada in a crusade over the next two years—whether it does or not is up to you."

### KNOWLEDGE BUILDS FAITH

In order to properly understand and carry out our duties as men of service in our church and community, we must first have some knowledge of the faith we try to serve. How many of us have given consideration to reading of the Bible and other publications covering various aspects of Christians in day to day living? Many good pamphlets, books and other printed material are available through the publishing house in Toronto.

Have you ever tried out the idea of having two or three members of your club give a talk on their work or hobbies? It is surprising how much you do not know about your next door neighbour or the fellow you take up collection with on Sunday.

## Plan Now To Attend National Convention

We understand that the spade work is already under way for the national convention in Saskatoon, Sask., with the very capable hand of Mr. Torrie S. Tollefson at the helm. Is your club sending a representative?

Start now, not in April of 1958, to consider the business you would like to see on the agenda.

As information is forthcoming from the committee, all clubs will be informed through the medium of this paper.

Judging by the number of District Council reports reaching this office, much activity is under way in all parts of the country. Good work on the part of all clubs in a district is required to make your District Council efforts a success. Are you doing your part?