

# The Observer On Tape

A free service  
that records the national magazine  
of The United Church of Canada  
on audio cassettes and distributes  
them across Canada to blind and other  
print-challenged subscribers.



A Project of  
Eastminster United Church (Belleville)  
A.O.T.S. Men's Club

## History

The Observer On Tape Project was started by the Disabled Committee in Winnipeg in 1983. In early 1985, when the project chairperson moved from the area, the Committee was not able to carry on with the project.

At that time the National A.O.T.S. was invited to take over the project. Jack Arthur, then Central Vice-President of the national organization presented the challenge to the Queen Street (Kingston, Ont.) A.O.T.S. Club whose President, Armando Del Gobbo, was himself blind. In July, 1985, the Queen Street club took over the project with 45 subscribers. By 1994, there were nearly 400 on the subscription list.

In early 1997, the Queen Street Club regretfully decided that they were unable to continue with the project. At that time, the Eastminster (Belleville, Ont.) A.O.T.S. took on the responsibility with the help of other members of that congregation.

## Who Are We ?

A.O.T.S. is an association of men's clubs in United Church congregations across Canada. Local clubs are supported by a national A.O.T.S. organization whose officers are elected at its annual conventions. The name comes from the words of Jesus:

'I am among you As One That Serves.'  
(Luke 22:27)

The Eastminster (Belleville) A.O.T.S. Men's Club received its charter in November, 1986.

## How Does It Work ?

Each month, an advance copy of The Observer is delivered to the project volunteers who read its contents onto three 90-minute audio cassette tapes. Readers try to include all articles, columns and news items. They also give verbal descriptions of associated photographs.

The 'master' tapes are reproduced using high-speed copiers. Volunteers then pack each set of three tapes in specially-designed mailing pouches which allow them to be delivered across Canada postage free, courtesy of Canada Post. This service is available only to those who are sight-challenged.

When subscribers receive their tapes, they may be played on any audio cassette player. User-friendly playback equipment is available without charge for any sight-challenged person who is registered with the C.N.I.B. For information, contact your local branch.

When the tapes have been heard, the subscriber simply replaces them in the mailing pouch, reverses the mailing label so that the return address is showing, and drops them in any mailbox.

## How To Subscribe ?

Those who wish to receive The Observer On Tape need only complete the attached Request Form and send it to the address provided. If you prefer, call Eastminster Church at 613-969-5212 or e-mail your request to:

info@eastminster.on.ca

There is no charge for this service.

## How You Can Help

### Spread the word !

This service is provided free of charge to any blind or other print-challenged person across Canada. You can help by promoting it in your congregation and community. Identify those who might appreciate the tapes and then take a few moments to explain to them how the project works. You might offer to help them complete the Request Form.

### Host an Observer Club !

You may find there are neighbours in seniors' residences or nursing homes who, with your help, would enjoy getting together once a month to listen to The Observer On Tape.

### Make a Donation !

The Observer On Tape is produced and distributed by a team of dedicated volunteers. There is absolutely no charge to the subscribers. There are, however, significant expenses including equipment maintenance, mailing pouches and replacement tapes. Donations are always welcome! We are a registered charitable organization so income tax receipts are issued for contributions.

Donations should be made payable to:

**The Observer-On-Tape Project**

and sent to:

**The Observer-On-Tape Project  
432 Bridge Street East  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 1R1**

The United Church  
**Observer**

**links**

us with one another

**disturbs**

our indifference

**encourages**

ecumenical unity

**informs**

and inspires

**reminds**

us that we are a church of  
cohesive diversity

**enriches**

our faith

**helps**

us to face challenges and invites  
our response

**witnesses**

to the saving presence of Jesus Christ  
in the world

Based on a mission statement approved by The Observer's Board of Directors.

## Observer On Tape - Request Form

Your Name

Your Mailing Address

City & Province

Postal Code

Your Church

Complete this form and send it to:  
The Observer On Tape

432 Bridge St. E., Belleville, Ont. K8N 1R1