

**UTO Report, April 2006**

It was a pleasure to be invited to speak about UTO at St. John's, Montgomery earlier. They have had ingatherings annually, but there was a feeling that the amounts gathered had fallen. Asking me to speak to the women was an attempt to raise awareness of UTO and to increase interest.

At the Birmingham Convocation, Alleen, Olivia and I were able to inform the attendees about UTO. This was a delightful meeting with the ECW of Trinity, Bessemer, and other member in the convocation.

Most recently, Alleen and I were able to say a few words at the Cheaha Convocation held at Messiah, Heflin. The Cheaha UTO Coordinator, Joanne Pope, has contacted all the churches in the convocation requesting that they hold two ingatherings per year. Several of the churches in the convocation already hold two UTO Ingatherings a year.

As has been stated, our goal for UTO this term is to reach every parish in our diocese to encourage two UTO Ingatherings each year. We want to assist parishes with creating an awareness that we, everyone of us, have so much for which to be thankful and should count our blessings by saying a prayer and placing a thanksgiving token in our Blue Boxes. It would be wonderful if every family in the diocese had a Blue Box in their home to give thanks to our Lord daily for His blessings. There are a number of activities which can be used to encourage children as well as adults to use the Blue Box. We can be first in giving in the nation with your prayers and assistance.

It is important to note that UTO money from Ingatherings needs to be mailed to the diocesan office as soon as possible after receipt. This money will go directly to the national office and will begin earning interest right away. Remember that all money received from UTO Ingatherings is GRANTED.

All administrative expenses for the UTO Committee are funded by the Memorial and Gift Trust Fund and the Bell Legacy through the offices of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

For your information: The UTO Committee approved 131 domestic and foreign grants, totaling \$2,710, 247.22 from offerings, interest income, rescinded/returned grants, and trust funds dedicated to offering. Gifts totaling \$52,400 of discretionary money were sent to two convents in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and 47 overseas mission personnel of the Anglican Frontier Missions, domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Global Teams, and South American Missionary Society, all member organizations of EPGM.

The UTO Committee members ask for our prayers as they review all the grant applications for their granting session this month.  
Yours in thanksgiving,

Tora Johnson, UTO Diocesan Coordinator