

# The



# Handshake

As One That Serves

Issue No.30

Spring Summer Edition

May 1994

## Greetings from the President

Health and strength can be seen in regards to AOTS across this great country with new clubs being chartered and considerable interest seen in different areas.

I presided at the installation of officers in Duncan, B.C., in late January. At that time it was evident that this club is involved in the church activities, the youth and the city or town in general.

At a pancake breakfast in the city of New Westminster, discussion came up regarding AOTS and interest is shown with a club at that church. Such interest indeed, that one man immediately applied and received an Individual Membership in the AOTS.

Such Hospitality is not often seen as was appreciated in Winnipeg at the National Council meeting in late February. All council was billeted and everyone enjoyed their stay in that fair city. There was considerable amount of business to attend to so a meeting was held on the Friday night prior to the all day Saturday meeting.

The meetings were productive with some sensitive subject matters being discussed quite openly.

Local AOTS men joined the meeting and it was noted that three men came from Brandon and a couple more from Carberry, to join the discussion. Saturday evening, after a hearty dinner, a rally was held and the wives of many AOTS men joined us. There was singing, short speeches and some discussion. A very good time was had by all.

On Sunday some of the AOTS men assisted in the service which was much appreciated by all. Immediately following the service your President was whisked away to "Coffee Time" at

another church and following this was taken to a third church where lunch was served. A very "Churchy Sunday" indeed!!

In early March the B.C. Round Up was held at Langley United Church. The theme speaker was Rev. Jim Elliot President of the B.C. Conference, and the



President John speaks to Duncan with one of the new AOTS posters in the background. Duncan's new President Alan Taylor (left) Past President Bob Waddy on his right.

Minister at Vancouver's downtown First United. His Topic was "Man on the Move". A most interesting Round Up with participation by the Vancouver Island District Council President, the B.C. President, the Western Canada Vice President and yours truly.

The following week saw us at the Alberta Round Up which was held in Edmonton. At this meeting an exciting new club was chartered as AOTS, numbering 35 men. The new AOTS poster, which can be seen behind me in the photo above was given to them by their sponsoring club of Wetaskiwin. How good to see a club of young men become a part of the AOTS body.

A greater involvement of men can be seen. i.e., in Vancouver a Men's club sponsored the service in the Canadian Memorial United church and are showing interest in the AOTS organization.

Cont. bottom column 1 page 2

## Coming Events

**Celebration of Faith**

**May 27-28-29**

**Trinity Western**

**Langley, B.C.**

**Theme**

**"Yesterday Speaks"**

(Insights the past for yesterday & tomorrow)

**Speaker**

**Rev. Al Skinner**

**Cape Breton Island  
United Church Men's  
Conference**

**Mira Pines**

**Aug 26, 27 and 28**

**Speaker**

**Very Reverend**

**Dr. Angus J. MacQueen**

**39th**

**Stanhope Men's Conference  
Camp Abegweit  
Augustin Cove PEI  
Oct 1994**

**40th Annual**

**Banff Men's Conference  
October 14-16, 1994  
Banff Centre**

**Theme Speaker  
Right Rev. Dr. Stan  
McKay**



**Music Leaders  
Rev Samson Cho  
Mr. Vernon Mergatroyd**



## The Handshake

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### Deadlines

April 30-Jan 30-Aug 15

Fax- Fax- Fax

We are pleased to report that the Fax-wires are humming. Please try the President's number first.

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The Handshake is sponsored and financially supported by the National Association of AOTS Clubs. Further support comes by donations from companies and individuals. Over 3000 copies are distributed across Canada, to AOTS Clubs and Individual AOTS members plus any men's groups that are known to the Handshake. Regional inserts are used when the work load so dictates .

### Purpose

Is to share inspiration in service in His name with all Christian Men regardless of where and under what banner they gather.

President's report Continued from page 1  
Langley AOTS club put on a church service which proved to be a very active time , and the South Burnaby Church conducted a Sunday service with many of the AOTS men participating. This type of participation is most good indeed.

Through the eyes of your president, a healthy AOTS can be seen but it will not continue to grow without a great deal of involvement from each and every one of us.

May God richly bless you as you continue in His Service.  
President John

## A New National Approach

The National Council consists of 33 AOTS men from across Canada and its National Executive have taken a new approach to their meetings. This Council has only one paid member the Executive Director who is appointed every two years.

The council itself meets once a year and will convene in Regina in the fall of 94 and in Bellville in 1995 just before the National Convention. The executive a much smaller group of approximately 10 to 15, meets three times a year. It has already met in Toronto in November of 93 and in Winnipeg on Feb 26, 1994 . The next executive meeting is slated for Burnaby in the greater Vancouver region on June 11 1994. What is so new about that you say? Well hold on a darn minute. Your National President John

Carswell has moved these meetings across Canada where before they were almost exclusively in Toronto. Aside from the table officers the make up is varied from region to region.

There is yet another new innovation, you the ordinary club member are invited to attend and contribute when they meet in your bailiwick. Come out and meet these dedicated and hard working men. They are so dedicated that they now assume half the expence of their travelling cost. Any offers of billeting will be greatly appreciated. Its just one more way of making your \$15.00 membership go farther and believe me it is stretched to the limit. The National Council is willing to go the "Second Mile", are you?

## For Men

### Its All In The Family

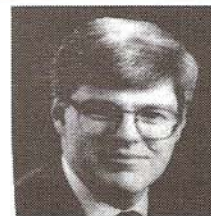
AOTS and the publication "For Men" are both part of the Division of Missions # 3 family as are some twelve or so other important parts of the United Church. The Handshake is conducting a survey for DMC3 relating to the "For Men" publication that some of you receive through your connection with the DMC and the United Church.

There are some people who feel the articles in "For Men" are helpful while others are not too receptive of this material. Will you take a moment right now to send me a letter answering the following questions:

1. Will you read it if it comes to your home at no cost?
2. Do you like or dislike the reading material it provides?
3. Would you pay for a subscription?
4. Would you like to write for this paper to help control the material published?
5. Is the reading material too heavy for you to digest?
6. If you have any other objections and or positive suggestion to make please submit them as soon as possible to John Carswell c/o the Handshake. Your reaction to these questions will go a long way toward determining the future of "For Men" publication.

John Carswell

Ministry of Men-AOTS-For Men



## Bibles N' Prayers 900!

Yes indeed 900 Christians gathered in Vancouver on May 22, 1994 at the British Columbia Leadership Prayer Breakfast to hear the Honourable John Manley Minister of Industry for the Federal Government. He was enthusiastically received as he traced his career in law and politics with christianity helping as his guiding force. Prayer Breakfasts have been held in Saskatchewan on April 6th, in Ontario on May 4th, and in Alberta on May 11th.

The National Prayer Breakfast is planned for May 26. 1994. In accord with tradition the Prime Minister, Leader of the Official Opposition, Leader of the Reform Party, the Chief Justices and Speakers of the House of Commons and Senate are all expected to participate. There will be many M.P.s, Senators, and representatives from diplomatic corps from countries around the world. Dolores Coulome, s.g.m who heads up La Maison Grise de Montreal, a shelter for itinerant and homeless women will address the meeting.

Bill Hastings reporting.





**Sorry!!** To the fellows at Wilmar Heights and indeed to our readers all across Canada. The worst boo boo of many was the caption under the photo shown right where John Carswell offers congratulations to Lorne Thornley on the opening of Wilmar Place. I was fighting with my desk top publishing program and obviously I lost. You will be glad to hear that it has been reinstated. A special "sorry" to my proof readers who do such a



darn good job only to see me blow it again. WGH

### Serving the Community- Harrow Malden AOTS



Bob Lewis on the left, a Past National President, congratulates Merle Shepley the newly installed President of Harrow Malden AOTS. The other officers installed at the same time for 1994-1995 were John McKinley Past Pres., Larry Wood Treasurer, Lawrence Bridgen 1st Vice Pres, Doug Rayner 2nd Vice Pres., Russ Brown Secretary.

### Service to Youth through four and a half decades

Yes that's right, some fourty five years ago a Harrow Scout leader requested and obtained, space in the church in which to conduct meetings. The Men's class which consisted of nine members worked hand in hand with the scout leaders. These men saw the need for a woodworking shop in which the scouts could construct various "merit winning" projects and also do a number of projects for the church.

In late 1949 a workshop was built by volunteer labour, on church property at a cost of \$1150.00. A three man committee from the stewards of the church board was responsible for the operation.

Enrollment of this woodworking operation had a steady growth with 12 members in 1951, 18 in by 1953, 26 by 1945 and 65 by 1990. In 1955 the club was organized as the Harrow-Malden AOTS Men's Club. The Church board appointed the Club president to act on the workshop committee.

In 1993 it was necessary to increase the floor space of the shop. This was completed and paid for by club members, The club now fully funds the

workshop and projects. An average enrollment of the last three years has been approximately 65, of which 50% are boy scouts and cubs who construct the "Kub Cars" with many of the scouts and clubs continuing with personal projects.

The enrolment is interdenominational and for boys and girls 9 to 13 years of age, the young people are encouraged to assist with projects of their choice among which are footstools, spiceracks, bird feeders, etc. They are encouraged to enter their completed projects in the annual Agricultural fair.



Russ Brown, workshop director, in middle with clipboard alongside the expanded workshop. The then President John McKinley on his left. showing the workshop to some visitors.

### One Who Served

**Walter Hamilton**  
Died on Feb 12 1994  
Walter was born and raised on a dairy farm near Huff's Island and attended school and church at Mountainview. Served in the Canadian Army in WW II. He established his own contracting business with the slogan "We Move the Earth". His company built parts of highway 400 and 401. Competed in the Hastings County Plowing Match as late as last summer. Served his town as a councillor for several terms in the nineteen sixties. One of his passions was old machinery. He ended up with an amazing collection of antique steam engines and vehicles. Accompanying this was his interest in history which was paralleled by his interest in flying.

Walter loved life and he liked nothing better than to meet and talk to people. He took an active part in the bridge street Church serving several terms as elder on the Property, Stewardship and Finance Division of the Congregational Board. He was an active member of the AOTS Men's Club.

He is survived by both his daughter, Elizabeth, and son Bob and their families.

David Thompson Reporting  
Vice President Toronto Conference  
UC AOTS MC.

### Club Is For The Birds

With cheese prices undercut by the local stores Tilbury-Quiarnhas AOTS has gone to bird houses to support: (a) 2 foster children in S.A., (b) Young people in our church and (c) Christmas appeals. Made out of old barn boards 90 units were built and sold this last winter. Contribution to Wild life, Environment and our Treasury.

President Doug Buchanan Reporting





## 41st B.C. Round UP Langley, B.C.

March 5, 1994

Attending the function were men from Duncan, Nanaimo, Victoria, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Aldergrove, New Westminster, Burnaby and Calgary.



Reports were given by our National President John Carswell of Burnaby, Western Vice President Wally Shouls, from

Calgary, Don Baycroft (left) of Langley, B.C. AOTS President, and Bruce Martin of Victoria President of Vancouver Island District Council.

A progress report on the Celebration of Faith was given by its chairman Roy Jones of Victoria. Registration forms were distributed. A report on the Handshake was given by Bill Hastings with a further plea for the clubs to send him their minutes.

The Sing-a-Longs were conducted by Bruce Cox of Grandview United and we thank Bruce for lifting our spirits in song

and for putting us in the right frame of mind for the Theme Speakaer .When we were singing "Rounds" Bruce was ably assisted by Jim Upbright and Theo Roberts.

Rev. Doug Alexander of Langley United, who was our speaker a few years ago conducted an inspiring opening devotional. Garry Weerts welcomed us as President of the host club, Langley



AOTS.

The Theme Speaker was Reverend Jim Elliot (above) from First United in Vancouver and the present President of the B.C. Conference. His theme was

"Men on the Move" Both of his presentations were excellent as he spoke in the morning to the men and in the evening to a mixed group. Jim challenged us at every turn with leading questions and suggested ways and means that we might answer them. To select but a few he asked: "what we might be prepared to give up to serve our God? Were we prepared to show our emotions accept transition and different values and rules.

Some of his answers were, increased bible study, accept the fact that big men are allowed to cry, to love one another and seek only the joy of serving.

Are we trying to kill ourselves to do what society wants of us? we must learn to laugh at ourselves, laugh at each other and learn to grow up. " The Reverend Jim asked "whose church is this?" What message are we giving? And where are we going?" . He said " we must all work harder and a church without evangelism will die. As men of the church we must always remember Luke 22:27 " For who is greater? One who sits at the table or one who serves?" It is not the one at the table. Christ says " But I am among you as one who Serves.

John Carswell Reporting



## To All Men 38th Annual Celebration of Faith May 27-29, 1994

Theme Speaker Rev Allister Skinner  
Theme- "Yesterday'Speaks"

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# Across Canada



## Manitou



Great News out of Northern Ontario and all of from the computer of Gil Reashore (left). Two

epistles of note one a Happy New Year devotional asking for your prayers of re-dedication for the great AOTS cause for 1994 and two a three page edition of the Manitou Men's News wherein he describes attending a meeting of the National executive in Toronto with the Manitou rep for AOTS Jack Thompson. His observations run the gamut of praise for the new 12" by 20" white vinyl, UCAOTSMC crests which are getting a good reception from the men's groups across Canada, to concern over the financial picture of our National organization. The last time we heard of individual clubs way up there in the north was when Reg Cooper visited them some two or three years ago. Hey fellows if you are still meeting send us your minutes . We want to here from you.

## Regina Saskatchewan

Two sets of minutes from Wesley AOTS plus a report especially for the Handshake as follows:

Wesley AOTS has upwards of 30 men in attendance at our meetings and we are an active group. Last year when no one would accept nominations for the Executive it was agreed that the Club would be run by committee. A committee of eight volunteered and each was responsible for a meeting. We have adopted the same arrangement for 1994. We did not intend to convey in our minutes that we were a club of only 8-10 members. The running of a club by committee is not an unusual occurrence and while you still need a treasurer and Secretary, the rest of the work can be evenly divided. We would like the Editors\* of the Handshake to know that Wesley AOTS is an active and involved member of "AOTS National" and will be so for many years."

## From the Minutes of Wesley

Served 128 at a Pancake Supper with a profit of \$110.00. Held a book sale from April 7th to April 9th. At their March meeting they had a first hand account of the Mississippi floods from a on sight volunteer, Mary Fowkes. The April meeting plan was to take in the Regina-Moose Jaw Rally on April 8th at Lakeview United. How about a full report on the Rally Lakeview? May we give next years Rally some publicity? Finally Wesley AOTS conducted the regular church service April 17th.

Paul Bolivar Secretary Reporting

\* The editor of the Handshake stands corrected and extends the hand of Christian fellowship to his Christian Brethren. After all the Hastings clan arrived in Regina when there were only 1500 residents and helped to build the first Methodist Church where the editor publisher attended Sunday School before 1930, You will have to forgive this native son of Regina for his transgressions.

## Prince Edward Island

### 38th Stanhope Men's Conference

The Island United Church Men hosted the above Conference on the Weekend of Sept. 17-19 1993 at Camp Abeqweit, on the shores of the Northumberland Strait, at Augustin Cove, P.E.I.

"The Call to Holiness" was this years theme, and it was addressed by the Reverend Andrew Bryce. In his three presentations, Rev Andrew talked about our need to be connected to God, the obstacles that stand in our way, and how we can overcome the obstacles. The 65 men participated in small group discussions after each theme address.

### Faith Stories, Worship, and Song

On Saturday afternoon the group was privileged to hear the faith story of the Rev. Dr. Henry Tye, minster at Park Royal United Church, the past President of Maritime Conference. Saturday

evening the "young men" led in song and worship and one of their number, Robert Avery, told his faith story. All present were inspired and blessed by these two stories.

The Music team of Doug Ezeard on the organ, soloists Brad Chugg and John Wilton, and leader Wayne Proud provided many hours of joyful sounds over the weekend.

The Conference closed at noon on Sunday with a Communion service led by the Rev. John Bennett, followed by a time for individual prayer needs.

Wilson Jones Reporting

Maritime Conference Rep.

## So Long Bill

At a memorial service held in Kingston Road UC on Feb 3 our AOTS Club said so long to Bill Meechim.

How he lived up to the AOTS Motto. Whenever the need was present so was Bill. From meals on Wheels, to Shut in Shopping, or part time Church Caretaker. As well as a Seniors Driver helping those in need keep their Doctors appointments. Quietly going about doing the good things as if everybody did. No, Bill was special.

The Ontario Government had honoured him as Volunteer of the year.

He loved the Ontario Round Up, especially the singing. He was a man, a gentleman and we will miss him as will his Legion Comrades.

Bud Maxwell  
Kingston Road AOTS  
Toronto.Ont.

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**Church & Community Service**



**Harry Colnett Fund**

As all members know the Harry Colnett Scholarship Program was established many years ago to encourage able and interested students to prepare for service in areas of food production and related research in developing countries.

This year the Colnett committee has selected one candidate as of this date and plans to name another recipient by September 1. The Candidate selected is Allison Tuffs of Calgary, Alberta. Allison has been studying at the University of Manitoba under Dr. Sevenhuysen. Upon graduation ( Master's degree) she plans to take up research work in Central and South America. During her earlier years at the University of Saskatchewan she visited these countries and is continuing affiliations with the research personnel she met at that time.

I am certain that all AOTS men across Canada wish her well as she assumes tasks designed to improve food services to needy parts of the world.

Murray McPherson  
Chair, Colnett  
Selection Committee



P.S. I am informed this A.M. that Allison is now in Indonesia engaged in a summer research project. She will return in September.

**Hospital Project Update**



**Where There is a Need**

On a windswept coast deep within the rain forests of British Columbia, there lies the R.W. Large Memorial Hospital, about halfway between Vancouver and Prince Rupert. Enter a new born baby who decided to come into our world two or three months early. Such a premature baby needs and incubator to sustain her life. With such stormy conditions there is no way that we can get to one of the major cities in time. But wait, how about our own twenty year old incubator it has helped before. Now a twenty year old incubator is just waiting to pack it in and when if does our baby may die. Although Bela Bella is connected to the outside world by both boat several days a week and by aeroplane the former takes at least 24 hours the latter can't get in or out during such bad weather conditions.

A worst case scenario ? Well perhaps, but it was one that the staff at the R.W. Large Memorial saw as a real possibility when they chose as their first need priority a new new-born incubator with a bilirubin light system. If we had the space we would give you Dr. Peter' description of just what an incubator does for a premature baby besides supplying oxygen and a warm environment. Simply put many of these babies have immature livers which can not get rid of the toxins that can eventually kill them. A bilirubin light system gives off ultra violet light which penetrates the baby's skin and breaks down the toxins until the liver matures enough in a few days to handle the job by itself.

The need is there and under the direction

of the hospital staff and Dr. Peter, that is where your funds have ben directed. We have been promised a photograph of this medical instrument in action so we can show it off all across Canada. In the meanwhile feel good about yourselves.

One more thing, you can also be proud of the fact that your support of the Handshake and the production of the Hospital Brochure has caused a retired physician and his wife to offer their services as relief at one of the United Church Hospitals. Our readers will remember our appeal for help from physicians some issues back. This topped by the most recently published hospital brochure has triggered a doctor to help, The two of us, namely myself Bill Hastings and John Carswell want to thank the rest of you for your support and help to get this information out and we share the feeling of accomplishment with you.

W.G.H

**Observer on Tape**

Just write to:  
Queens St. AOTS  
Postal Bag 5117  
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K7L 5P4  
or to Ken Lane below.

**For All AOTS Info**

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**Is it Your Turn to do the Devotional? No Problem!**



Gil Reashore (left) our National Spiritual Life and Leadership Chairman has prepared three booklets of devotionals and has mailed them to your Club President. Never heard of them you say . They can be ordered from Ken Lane whose address is on the right. And don't forget you can modify them to the allowed time frame.





## President Elect Craig Watson

Is experiencing a busy schedule of club visitations for Ladies Nights, Installations and regular meetings.

**Out of the Ashes:** A recent fire at Westminster leaves church and club without a home. Club is still meeting and has plans for an auction, a strawberry tea, pancake breakfasts et al., and always under the banner of AOTS.

As co-chairman of the 1995 Convention Craig reports that all is going well.

## Central Vice President Keith Arner Reporting

The opportunity to serve AOTS in the Central region is both challenging and frustrating. Challenging as the opportunities of real growth are so numerous and frustrating due to the lack of finances.

On a personal basis I have been involved in the following: The Observer on tape for individuals - "A Retreat for men" facilitated by Dr. Michael Kaufman. Attendance included an equal number of clergy and layman - a district Rally with 87 members enjoying good fellowship and spiritual uplift - Contact with the six conference reps in central region regarding AOTS - Acceptance of an AOTS commissioner at General Council for each Conference .

And there was more.

## Hamilton Conference President Howard Wills

Excerpting from this report there is St. Pauls, Oakville club who participated in the Annual UCW Bazaar with a wood working table which netted \$750.00- St. James-Rosemount went "Nuts" over christmas selling nuts and Christmas cakes. - Harcourt Memorial Men's club has an individual member Richard Deitriche who will do all he can to get

the men and or club to follow him into joining AOTS.

Meanwhile Howrad chaired the 1994 Ontario Round Up. See report on page 11. Howard continues to be the voice of AOTS in Halton Presbytery and Hamilton Conference.

## London Conference President Ron Welsh

Ron had two new hips put in. I wonder if he knows where a fellow can get a brain transplant ? This man has travelled far between hips.

Attended the Tri County Fall Rally with 95 present. The speaker was Don Langford, London Conference's representative to Ethiopia. Amazing what one cob of corn means to "Food Grain Dollars" in a 3rd world country!

Worked on Walkathon with Lloyd Richards on the 18 Kilometer part, from Chatham to Blenheim, in the over all walk from Windsor to Toronto. Its the "Men Walk Against Violence to Women."

Saw an idea of his own happen when four clubs, Parks St., Victoria Ave., St. Andrews, Sprucedale and Harrow' joined in a Pot Luck Supper. Installation of Officers and a card night followed. Good Fun!

And there was more.

## Youth Ministries & AOTS by Member at Large Bruce Martin Also President of Vancouver Island DC

In response to President John's letter of October 1, 1993 I contacted the Victoria Presbytery Youth and Young Adult Ministries Co-ordinator Cathy Wallace and she provided me with a very good report re the status of youth and young adult groups at all 22 churches in the

Presbytery. Her report also contained good comments from most of the leaders.

## Comments

Statistically 8 churches had leaders and groups, 2 had groups but no leaders 12 had no groups at all. A relatively sad picture leaving much room for improvement.

Several leaders expressed dismay at the lack of understanding and appreciation by their congregation for the youth and vice versa. There is a need for greater interaction between youth, young adults and adult congregations.

I was present at a meeting of the "Friends of the Interfaith Chaplaincy at the University of Victoria. I was given five minutes on their agenda to speak about AOTS and the desire of our National Council to be more supportive of youth Ministries etc. Henry Lock, the United Church Chaplain of the University of Victoria, sent me a letter and expressed appreciation for our recognition of youth and the young adults and the Campus Ministries.

## Conclusions

My observations are that many of our clubs are putting their energies into supporting and raising money for physical things around their churches instead of "Investing in people not Things". National should encourage clubs to offer scholarship funds to their Conference C.E. Institution and or give encouragement and financial support to even 1 or 2 youth in their congregation to enable them to attend youth religiously oriented gatherings.

**For the Summer of 95 Think " Convention 95 "**  
**For the Place To Be Think " Bellville Ontario "**

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## Ontario Bellefair has Survey

Its catch up time on this Toronto club of which Harry Wolfram is one of our most faithful correspondents. Although Harry always gets his reports and minutes in by our deadlines we ran out of space in the last issue. Harry also collects minutes from the Toronto AOTS Conference and member clubs and ships them to us when they are available.

Before we get to the survey your editor wishes to share with you a short but poignant modern day Christmas Story with service to others as its central theme. Harry writes "Led by Brent Haldane and fellow " Break the Silence" members, Dave and Bill as a musical trio which spent the pre Christmas season entertaining Shut-Ins. Harry goes on to assess their talent of singing to the strumming of a guitar by exclaiming "and what a trio they were". I don't know about you but just hearing of their efforts and using their name to "Break the Silence" with those shut-ins by caring and sharing left me in a glow of the feeling that at least we Christians care.

### The Minutes

Within the two pages of the finely typed Newsletter and minutes were items such as the installation of officers with Ed Cooper as their new President, a Variety show that was held Feb 12, a healthy treasury and a planned congregational invasion of the Dome to watch the Blue Jays win sometime in May. And oh yes the boys are going to look after the meals from now on.

### The Survey

Conducted under the question of "What happens next with Bellefair's AOTS Men's Club" the survey's purpose was to create fellowship between the AOTS, The "Break The Silence Group, and the many Bellefair men who have a membership in neither group but eagerly support the congregational activities of the AOTS club?

An overall analysis of the observations recorded saw them accepting changing times within the church and how to cope with it. Not to become insular but to be a

part of the National body of men in the Church. The obvious reason for bringing the three groups together may not be realized under one organization but the exercise of reaching out by AOTS will assure a deeper caring fellowship between all men of the Bellefair congregation.

## B.C. Duncan AOTS

### Doing It the Right Way

The 1994 list of table officers, committees, and committee members for the Duncan Club is in. With a roster of 60 plus members and 15 Committees we find everyone is on a committee. Their new President Alan Taylor made page 1. Also featured are excerpts from two articles from the Duncan Citizen authored and supplied by Don Morton

### Duncan Remembers Its Many Helpers

Duncan AOTS began the 1994 year of activities with a devotional period dedicated to the memory of five strong members who had passed away during the previous twelve months.

Four of them, Fred Cunnings, George Hardwick, Jim Jackson and Bill Martin were past presidents. The fifth Dr. Russell Ross (see Photo right), was a much beloved member of long standing. The address was based on the character of the disciple Barnabas who is described as "a man who encouraged". The leadership and encouragement given by such a group is commensurate with the loss suffered by the club. Four of the men died of conditions related to the heart, so it was considered fitting in Heart Month to follow the devotional with an address from a representative of the Heart and Stroke Foundation one Marion Johnson R.N.

Under new business and reports a substantial donation was made to the local heart fund. Alex Wilson reported on Burn's night which was an outstanding success which realized a \$700.00 profit.

Coming events announced by Ken Slade were a Pancake Brunch, March 20th, a Garage and Auction sale on April 9 and the 40th Annual Spring tea on May 7th.

## Moose Jaw Saskatchewan

Like day follows night the Menu Newsletter arrives month by month and for this we are truly greatfull. The first meeting every year is Ladies Night and this year it is number 40 something. As usual they installed their officers and played host to some 20 widows of former members. With the crocuses in bloom and the meadowlarks singing on the fence posts they are trekking to Camp Capernaum to see to the cabin they sponsor. On the menu for the spring were the Pancake Supper & Bake Sale and the Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast. In the fall its the Chuck Wagon Dinner and the Banff Men's Conference.

## A Moment In Service Circa 1960-70-80



For three decades the AOTS Clubs of the Vancouver Lower Mainland entertained the less fortunate men of Skid Row on Saturday Evening at First United in downtown Vancouver. This old snapshot shows the entertainers in the foreground and standing from left to right are Gordon Bromley the President of West Point Grey AOTS the club entertaining that night. Harry Murphy the managing director of First United Welfare Services and President of District Council and Duncan Ross the Minister and Director of First United Church Welfare Services.





## British Columbia

### Langley AOTS

The Langley Club Under the Presidency of Garry Weerts hosted the B.C. Round Up on March 5th and they did a bang up job. Aside from their membership taking excellent care of us right to the end, they also supported the event in sufficient numbers to win the trophy for over all attendance and for the best percentage attendance. Well done Langley every effort will be made to solve the mysterious disappearance of the Mark Grimmett Trophy and get it back into your hands. The Handshake suggests that the search should begin in the minutes of last years Round Up.

### From the Minutes

Congratulations to Langley's new secretary for supplying us with such excellent minutes.

Lets start with the Auction. Nels Hindle and Bill Pike of the Auction Committee assured all members that the organization is in capable hands. Bill will have announcements in the bulletin, skits in the Sanctuary for two Sundays, and commitment forms for volunteers. All other details for a successful auction on May 14 are left to the committee.

Treasurer Bill Turner reviewed the fiscal commitments for 1994. \$405 to National for membership dues, \$600.00 for two foster children through the Christian Children's Fund Inc. \$500 to \$1000.00 to the Scholarship Fund of Trinity Western University and \$200.00 for the Stepping Stone Society.

Jim Boyd reported that four selected volunteers would be cooking on Friday as well as Saturday for the May 14th Spaghetti dinner and Auction. Don Samson is to be the Auctioneer A visit to the White Rock Club is planned for October.

## Ontario

### Wilmar Heights

The National AOTS Photographic Archives are most grateful to Wilmar Heights AOTS for a series of

photographs taken on the sight of Wilmar Court. The Handshake assumes that those individual AOTS men wearing hard hats had temporarily put their brooms and shovels aside while their pictures were taken. The Handshake was going to run a last picture of this project showing the building committee complete with identification. Alas upon looking for said picture the editor suddenly realized that it had been shipped along with the National Archival display to the Ontario Round Up. Sorry guys maybe in the next issue.

### From the Minutes.

Although we are not up to date in this department as the latest minutes are not in hand we can update this clubs activities through the last part of 1993 and the planning for many activities in 1994.

The attendance roster for the executive meeting of November 93 has eighteen present, four with regrets and five absent. Like Duncan it looks like they have everybody working.

Speaking of Membership the chairman of this committee Sid Bagnall congratulated the executive and credited it with helping the club in winning the Dave Sherwood Memorial Award for the best record for increasing membership through 1992-93.

There were reports of a successful Ladies night, a change in the

chairmanship of the publicity committee and plans for the January Hockey Team Game and lunch were well under way.

### Other business

Keith MacFayden reported on a mostly successful Toronto Conference Annual Fall Rally in October at the Ina Grafton Gage Home. He also reported on a club chartering at St. Pauls United in Tillsonburg accompanied by Lorne Thornely and Reg Cooper. It brought back memories of a club sponsorship of Carlton Street United only one month after Wilmar Heights itself had been chartered. Plans were put forward for general meeting from Dec. 1993 to November 1994. Further reports were made on the Christmas Concert and all the varied details that a seemingly simple project entails. I guess the old adage applies to all like projects. "Nobody said it was going to be easy". Sid Bagnall turned in \$830.00 with another \$400.00 in process from the Florida Fruit sale.

**40th Anniversary-** Like all other groups in the church AOTS will sponsor a special event. The executive approved to develop, organize and administer a Photo Directory. Sounds like a horrendous undertaking fellows especially if you add a few church related historical notes for each individual.

## South Burnaby B.C.

### Charlie Burritt Scholarships

Since the Charlie Burritt Scholarships were established ten years ago the fund has distributed \$9740.00 to 26 students averaging approximately \$380.00.



South Burnaby United AOTS Installation of Officers for 94. From Right to Left National Pres John Carswell Installing Officers. Ross Caeviel-Past President Trevor Dawson New President for one year term. Don Staley-1st Vice President Yosh Yashunaka-Second Vice President Rus Shairpe-Treasurer. Rev. Russel Bearisto standing in for Secretary.





**7th AOTS Round Up  
First Millwood United  
Edmonton Alberta**

Everyone who attended this 7th Annual Round Up enjoyed it to the fullest. Reverend Tom Sawyer, the host minister, expressed greetings and gave the devotional. He spoke on continual changes in our world, new rules to live by and how we men need to adjust to this. They have a beautiful church and Reverend Tom boasted of a Sunday School with 240 children, of a candle light service with 500 in attendance and of a church with more people than seats. The Housing for Habitat was addressed by Hank Fast of the Edmonton Chapter and he posted us on how well things were going. It was good to hear how we can help the less fortunate in finding and building homes.



Rev Paul Mullen from First United Wetaskiwin spoke on the theme: "Upping Our Commitments"

He suggested that "Nothing fails Like Success" Our Strength and our greatness come from our future". He asked us to think on the life cycle of the Congregations, men's work especially. It goes as such A-Energy, B-Infancy, C-Adolescence, D-Prime, E- Maturity, F- Aristocracy, G- Bureaucracy, and H-Death. Reverend Paul spoke on each of these topics if you please, a very thought provoking message.

George Dowler, from Wetaskiwin spoke on "Sharing our Faith" and how the Holy Spirit is working in his life. What a true and wonderful message

Arnold Bendich was the Master of Ceremonies and in the afternoon he brought in the church choir to sing for us. It was beautiful. We were entertained by a most talented lady on the piano who has impaired vision.

At the banquet, in the evening, the host club was given an AOTS Charter. The new Vinyl AOTS sign was also given to the new club at this time. Dave Cragg was installed as President along with his new executive. He forsees an

active and performing club.

The New Provincial Officers were elected and installed at this time, They are Jack Shaw Past President, Ray Witt President, Bill Love President elect and Arnold Bendichas first Vice President.

John Carswell\* Reporting

\*The Theme addresses as reported in it's entirety are filed with the archival records of the 94 Alberta Round Up.



National President John Carswell (left) congratulating new President Dave Cragg of first Millwood United's new AOTS club with members looking on

**The 40th Banff  
Men's Conference**



The Theme speaker is the right Reverend Stan McKay (left) backed up by two outstanding song

leaders Samson Cho and Vernon Mergatroyd. The right Reverend Stanley J. McKay was ordained in 1971. He has served in Fish River and Norway House, coordinated development in the United Church's national consultation process for the Native council, and worked in Native Ministry for Winnipeg Presbytery. He now is director of the Dr. Jessie

Saulteaux Resource, a training centre for native ministries. In 1992, the 34th General Council of the United Church of Canada elected Stan Moderator, a position he will hold until the 35th General Council meets in August 1994. Rev McKay writes.

"In my mind it was an act of faith that they would risk having someone like me as Moderator of the United Church"

**Registration Form: 40th Annual Banff Men's Conference. October 14-16, 1994,**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Requests ( Diet,disability,room mate, etc). \_\_\_\_\_  
 This my \_\_\_\_\_time at Banff Men's Conference. Age \_\_\_\_\_ Under 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20-30 \_\_\_\_\_ 30-40 \_\_\_\_\_ 40-50 \_\_\_\_\_ over 50

Please include pre-registration Fee (\$50.00 ) or total Fee (\$240,00), payable to Banff Men's Conference. Fee includes full accommodation and meals, Banff Society membership and GST. Pre-Registration Fee not refundable after Sept. 1, 1994. Mail to: Registration and Payment to:

**Ray Witt- Registrar  
C/O Wetaskawin United  
5115-51 Avenue  
Wetaskiwin, AB  
T9A 0V3**





## Chilliwack B.C.

### "For Nemneveh's Sake ! "

Chilliwack AOTS sponsored this Cross-Canada National Tour of "For Nineveh's Sake" which is a musical based on the Story of Jonah. It has just completed its western swing and will cover Ontario and the Maritimes before it winds up in Newfoundland in July.

Putting on the hat of its theater critic the Handshake as a member of the audience recommends this lively high spirited, well produced and entertaining religious musical. The cast is young and talented and holds your undivided attention from beginning to end.

Plan to catch them as they perform in your presbytery. You will not be disappointed. Support them and they will be back next year. The Chilliwack club will attest to the production being a great project. All you have to do is sell 200 tickets which covers their operating expenses and garners you a comfortable profit.

Dick Haythorne Reporting

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## Ontario Round Up 94 Report\*

"Me and My God" was the theme of the 1994 Round Up which took place April 15 to 17 at the National YMCA Conference Centre, Geneva Park, near Orillia Ont. Some 101 men in all shared in the weekend of enlightened a spiritual study ( the Psalms ), musical uplift, fine food and accommodation and above everything great Christian Fellowship.

The weatherman was rather fickle teasing attenders with sunshine and temperatures between 65 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit on Friday after noon but by Saturday morning there were 1 1/2 to 2 inches of snow on the ground ! However the snow was gone by Sunday afternoon. The weather did not detract from the overall program.

Rev. Theodore "Ted" Lutz an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada but for twenty years a

professor of Hebrew studies at the University of Toronto, with his own translation of the Bible, spoke on how to analyze the four main categories of Psalms - Laments, Pleas, Thanksgiving, and Praise and thus appreciate the greatness of Yuhweh, the Hebrew form of God. Following each of these presentations covered respectively in the above mentioned categories, discussion groups of about ten analyzed particular Psalms. By Sunday all had an increased awareness of the different categories and a greater insight into what the Psalm writers were expressing.

The Cheverim group of youth singers delighted all on Saturday evening with their inspired and superbly presented music in which they expressed their Christian Faith. They have been booked for the 1995 Round Up which testifies to their great talent. Part of the Sunday morning offering was donated to the group who will be taping and marketing their songs of celebration.

President Elect Craig Watson spoke briefly of National and acknowledged the presence of eight other members of the National Council during the business session on Sunday morning. The attendance award was won again by the Harrow Malden Club. The Art Harding award which recognizes outstanding individual service was presented to John D. Harris of St.Pauls, Oakville, a member club of the host Conference of Hamilton.

It was encouraging to see a wide range of age among the assembly. The oldest person present was Phil Spense, 85, a former National Executive Secretary, attending his 25th Round Up. The two youngest were 15 and 17 respectively. The Music Director for the Sing-a-longs was Sid Bagnall who can boast of being 83 years young. Sid was director of the Scarborough Glee Club for 25 years. He was accompanied by Jim Guest on the piano who is also advanced in years.

Rev. Richard Burgess of St. James Rosemount, Kitchener Ont., conducted a most fitting and inspiring Sunday morning worship and Communion

Service.

Howard Wills Round Up Chairman reporting

\*The Handshake receive not only the above report but one by our Executive Director Ken Lane well before the deadline of April 30th. Both were via the magic of Fax.



## The Upper Room Abbotsford B.C.

How was your trip asked the boys of the Upper Room Breakfast Club? Maniam Kuppusamy (above) a member of the club answered by saying that the three months stay seemed like three years.

The setting up of the Lab was not too bad but I was frustrated at every turn. Those who I was to teach were eager to learn of the technological marvels that the wonderful machines would produce. The project itself was sponsored by a American Hospital Society. The equipment was donated and it was either out of date, broken or had been robbed of essential parts along the way. In a impoverished country where stamps are removed from envelopes medical equipment has its essential parts removed. What use is a microscope without its magnifying lenses.

The people in the country were honest and friendly. The people in the city were street smart and were out to steal or deal you out of your worldly goods.

The last part of his trip saw Maniam going back to his roots in Malaysia. His grandfather had been shipped there as an indentured worker on a plantation . From then on I remembered him in my prayers of thanks for taking the family to Canada said Maniam.

In the next issue we witness the Parable of the "Good Samaritan" in a Brahman setting.



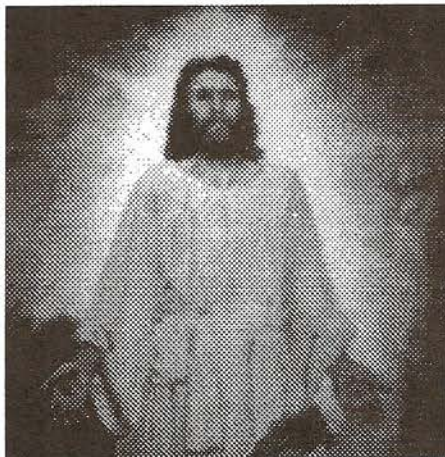


## Believe It Before You See It.

The apostle Thomas has often been criticized for his lack of faith concerning the the resurrection of Jesus Christ. During one of Jesus' resurrection appearances , he came to the disciples when they were hiding together in a room in Jerusalem. Thomas was not present. Later the disciples told Thomas what they had seen. Thomas boldly declared.

"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hands into His side, I will not believe." (John 20:25). Thomas was a man of conviction.

Eight days later, Jesus again appeared to the disciples still in hiding. Only this time Thomas was present. Jesus said to Thomas." Reach your finger here, and look at My hands ; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving. but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me, you believed.



**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**  
(John 20:27-29).

A characteristic of Thomas has often been overlooked. Earlier in Jesus' ministry when he received mounting resistance from Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, all of the disciples tried to persuade Him not to return to Judea. Thomas was the only disciple who boldly proclaimed,

**"Let us also go, that we may die with him" John 11:16**

Thomas was able to make a decision and stick with it. The difficulty for Thomas was not his lack of faith in Jesus, but in his concrete thinking.

When Jesus was alive and there was no hope for a political messianic kingdom led by Jesus, Thomas was willing to die for His cause. But once Jesus was dead, Thomas' dream of freedom from the Roman overlords was finished. His locked in thinking kept him from envisioning and believing in an even greater kingdom.

Thomas teaches us not to pour our plans in concrete. Allow God to do the impossible in your life. Expect a miracle. Commit yourself completely as Thomas did. But do not allow locked in thinking to keep you from anticipating the impossible. You have to believe before you see it.

Please Print			
<b>Application For Individual Membership with the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs</b>			
Sumame	First Name	Intial (s)	Nick Name
Apt # R.R. No. Street			
City, Town, Village	Province	Postal Code	
Church	Code-Telephone Residence	Phone-Code-Business	
Occupation	Retired from	Age	
The Annual fee is \$15.00 payable upon application and yearly thereafter in January.			

**Cut Out Mail**  
**Ken Lane**  
**44 Paris Drive**  
**Elliot Lake, Ont.**  
**P5A 2L9**

**Do  
It  
Now!**

