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# The Handshake

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## Where do Men Fit into the United Church Today? (Charlie Shave)

I am sure it can be safely said that in just about every United Church across Canada today there are men who have been at one time, or are presently going through some kind of crisis, or as the Psalmist phrases it... "in the very depths of despair." They cry alone, there are doubts, job pressures, temptations, fears, insecurity, marital breakdowns, abuse of some kind. Thank God the majority see it through with counselling, Bible reading, prayer, friends. Others who become secret alcoholics, drug addicts, and still others commit suicide.

I witnessed one U.C. man give his life to Christ one night in Victoria who, later upon moving to Calgary, took his own life. His marriage breakup and drugs were too much.

How many men do you know who are going through some kind of crisis at this very moment and what are you doing about it, other than saying "HI" on a Sunday morning?

What can church men do?

First of all, they need to know there are brothers out there who care, and the way to do it is through gut level sharing whereby men know that they are not alone. Scary?? .. You bet it is! But you either want to be a channel for Christ

to work through or your channel is blocked because of your own ego. God is teaching some of us His deepest lessons and so often brothers in the same church are going through similar situations and we don't even know it!

And so we help by caring, sharing and drawing closer together in the bond of love.

Secondly, we become prayer warriors and covet to get alone with God. We pray daily in childlike simplicity for the world around us. God is not confined. He has His own resources and can answer prayer in ten thousand different ways.

Thirdly, we throw away our scripts with all our expectations. We have no guarantee we will be alive tomorrow, and so we plan our day around God and not our job. We ask Christ to take over our wills, to speak through us, think through us, hear through us, love through us, see through our eyes, flow through our very being. Paul says "I die daily (to self) yet not I but Christ liveth in me. He must increase and I must decrease..."

Fourthly, accept our circumstances in life. Stop looking for results ... do your best ... Pray and leave the results to God. Remember He is working in us for eternity and what we don't understand now we will later.

continued.....

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NOVEMBER 1987

Fifth, accept people where they are ... never condemn. We are all in different spaces on different levels. When a young Christian fails to come up to your standards or expectations of what a Christian should be, pray that God will reveal the qualities that you see lacking in him or her, and pray for humility in yourself.

Sixth, we are to be "fishers of men", and as such we are to sit quietly in our boats with our lures (testimonies) at the ready, and when the fish (people) approach, we merely tell them what Christ has done in our lives and leave the rest to God.

Seventh ... we learn to accept and love ourselves. To forget past mistakes and to get on with living. Remember God's love is new every morning and He loves us unconditionally. When the father met the prodigal son, he did not ask him if he was divorced, or if he had robbed or murdered. The secret to loving ourselves is to start allowing people to love us ... do things for us, and like a flower opening up to the sunlight, before long we too are expressing love.

Of course there are other ways men fit into the church today through holding

continued on page 2

## Where do men fit in the United Church today

continued from page 1.

various offices, helping with rituals, involved with the politics so to speak, but what we have been dealing with here is the making of saints who empower life to a church. Remember God works through people and He wants to work through you. There are those of us who look for Him on the low ground of feeling and emotion in the world of sense and are frustrated. Christ is saying to men now ... "I am waiting for thee ... meet me in the inner chamber of thy spirit, for I am there, and there is work to be done."

## National AOTS President's Address to the Regina National Meeting

In his address newly elected National President Ernie Stafford noted that in his visits to many clubs from Vancouver Island to Ontario he has noticed that the clubs with an active membership and who begin their meetings with a period of devotions, are usually the clubs who have a success story to relate. With the three fold mandate of Christian Fellowship, deepening the spiritual life of men, and developing an effective program of Christian Service, Ernie expects the organization to grow and be an example to all men of the Church and the Community.

## Meet the New National President

Ernest Stafford now lives in Duncan B.C. where he has been a very active church man. He has been President of his local club, the Vancouver Island District Council and BC Conference AOTS/UCM. For the past two years he has been Western Vice President of the National Organization.

Ernie has been a spark plug at every level of mens' work. He has an excellent executive to work with and we expect to see mens' work continue to expand during his presidency

## Western Reports

WESTERN VICE PRESIDENT AOTS  
MENS REPORT - FRED HOLBERTON

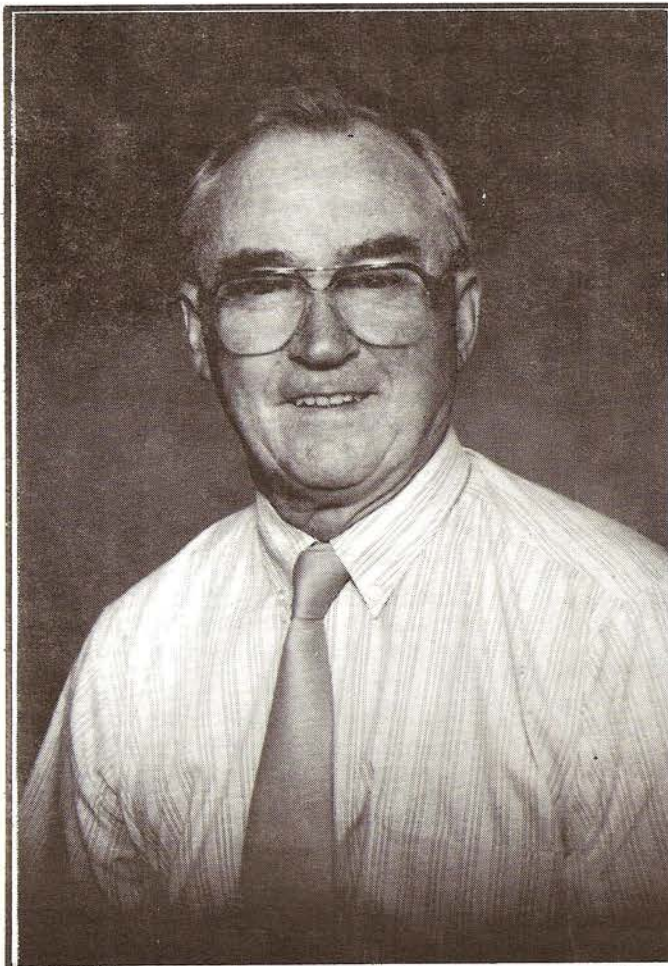
I have already been in touch with the Presidents of each Conference with the hope that I might receive suggestions where I might best serve in the Western Conferences.

I met with the Executive of the Alberta Conference AOTS who are busy planning their First Annual Roundup for Mar 19 & 20, 1988 in Innisfail. They are inviting all mens clubs and groups to attend. Larry Edwards, who was the chaplain at the Regina convention, will be the theme speaker.

One of the Alberta executive said that we have an unique opportunity in church clubs to introduce men to the love of Christ and to strengthen their faith so they may become witnesses for Him wherever they are.

Please let me know if I can be of help in your mens clubs programs.

Fred Holberton  
3328 Morley Crescent  
Calgary, Alberta, T2M 4K9



ERNEST STAFFORD  
National President

## The B.C. President Reports

My first and most important statement to be made is "Congratulations Ernie". All AOTS members in BC wish you well and pledge their support to you. Ernie Stafford from Duncan AOTS club is our new National President.

At the 15th National AOTS convention held in Regina 31 July, 1 & 2 August, BC had a fine showing with 15 men and 8 wives attending.

The following men from BC were elected as Chairmen of the National standing committees: Leadership Development - John Carswell, South Burnaby; Youth Work - Bill Cumming, South Burnaby; Long Range Planning - Wayne LeBlanc, Gordon (Victoria); Archives - Bill Hastings, West Vancouver and Lindell. Thank these members for accepting these positions and I know that with the Lord at your sides, your talents will shine to encourage growth of the the Lord's work in the AOTS and the Church.

The D.R. Poole Trophy (Youth promotion award) was presented to Gordon United and was accepted by club president Wayne LeBlanc.

D.R. Poole Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Cranbrook and Esquimalt Mens' Clubs. I or my delegate will be personally presenting these certificates to the clubs.

A steering committee meeting was held on Aug 22 in Esquimalt United Church with the BC President, Vice President, Secty Treasurer, and District Council Vice President, Lower Mainland

Council President,  
Celebration of Faith  
Committee, Roundup  
Committee, Conference Staff  
person (Family unit). The  
spirit of the Lord was at  
this meeting and I look  
forward at a most fruitful  
term of office.

Yours in His Service

Roy K. Jones

## WHAT IS HAPPENING?

What is happening at your club or fellowship group?

Please drop John Carswell a note to keep the readers of THE HANDSHAKE aware of the activity in your area.

Everyone enjoys news from other groups or clubs, so please send in information on future plans or past events of your club or group.

## ARE YOU SUCCESSFUL?

Program yourself for success, not failure; for joy, not despair; for love, not hate; for giving, not hoarding.

I will live this day as if it were Christmas. I will be the giver of gifts and deliver to my enemies the gift of forgiveness; my opponents, tolerance; my friends, a smile; my children, a good example, and every gift will be wrapped with unconditional love.



## Vancouver School of Theology

The V.S.T. Library is open to the public and is used by the public beyond its own religious constituencies. As a highly specialized library of theological books that have been collected over a period of 60 years, V.S.T. is a significant resource to the University of BC. Almost 20% of the usage of the library comes from UBC. This is also part of the reason why about 400 ministers and scholars from other theological schools choose to study at V.S.T. for some course or other each year.

Use of the V.S.T. library is free of charge to members of BC United Church congregations. This is their contribution to the furtherance of lay education in the Conference. Considering the emphasis now being put on education by General Council through "Learning On The Way", VST is to be commended for this positive action.

VST students and staff are always willing to speak about the School. Invite a student for your meeting. Your costs of a meal or two and perhaps some driving time will be amply rewarded by the enthusiasm the student brings. These students are the future leaders of our church, they want to know what you expect of them and from them. The word "dialogue" is often overused, but if the students don't know what you are needing, how can they get the proper resources to serve your needs?? HELP THEM TO HELP YOU, BRING A STUDENT (and their family) INTO YOUR CONGREGATION ... YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE AND THE CHURCH HAS EVERYTHING TO GAIN!

Collingwood Mens  
Luncheon  
November 28, 1987.

Collingwood United Church  
Joyce Road at 41st and  
Kingsway  
Vancouver

This annual event starts at 12 noon. The cost is \$6.00 PLUS a pair of socks or underwear which will be forwarded to 1st United Church in Vancouver for their social programmes.

Our program this year includes a devotion by Roy Jones, President of BC Conference AOTS/UCM. Charlie Shave will be our speaker who will be bringing a message of his personal faith journey.

Your church should be getting information on this shortly. Your contact for further details is Nelson Ball: 731-3606

**DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMISSIONS  
MARCH 1, 1988.**

Do you have upcoming Church events you wish advertised? Choir Recital? Annual Breakfast? Anniversary Services? Let us know and we will announce it in the next issue of THE HANDSHAKE

Celebration  
Of Faith

BC CONFERENCE MENS  
CELEBRATION OF FAITH  
TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
LANGLEY, B.C  
May 27, 28 & 29, 1988

Our theme speaker will be Rev. Albert H. Baldeo from Kelowna. Albert was our theme speaker 10 years ago and we have asked him back to bring us another challenging message.

Details will be sent shortly after New Years.

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We would hope that the readers will patronize the advertisers, but we do not take responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the services or products offered.

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THE HANDSHAKE is meant to be recycled. Once you have read it, pass it on to a friend for his information.

If your group wants to receive a mailing of THE HANDSHAKE have your contact person write THE HANDSHAKE at the address given, giving us the number you require. We will be pleased to send you copies.

B.C. A.O.T.S. ROUND-UP  
MARCH 5, 1988.  
LANGLEY UNITED CHURCH

Our theme speaker will be Rev. D. Gordon Laird, B. Comm., C.A., B.D. Gordon is presently pastor at Ellesmere United Church in Burnaby. Given Gordon's background we are expecting a challenging message relating to men in and outside the church.

Details will be mailed shortly.

**WHITE ELEPHANTS**

Doesn't every one see elephants coming home from church?

Keith Stainton, John Carswell and Ken Martin saw elephants, zebras, antelopes and horses on Sunday Sep 27/87 when they participated in the service at Aldergrove United Church. (For those who don't know the lay of the land, the Vancouver Game Farm is on the route from the Freeway to Aldergrove).

Keith, John, and Ken had been invited by the Music & Worship Committee, Jack Schenton, & the Rev. Wayne Wattman to bring a message to the congregation. Keith's message dealt with "big M" and "little m" ministers that he had met on his faith journey.

This space is available for  
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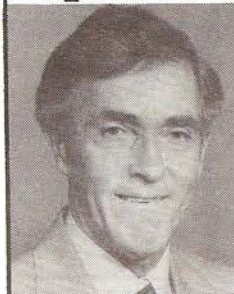
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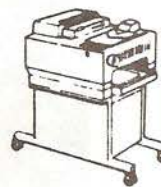
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## "Moments of Grace: Telling the Story"

Men are encouraged to sign up for this event sponsored by the Evangelism Working Unit BC Conference of the United Church.

It will be a time of WORSHIP, MUSIC, DRAMA, WORKSHOPS, STORY TELLERS SHARING THEIR STORY, YOU SHARING YOURS, CONNECTING WITH THE GLOBALS STORY, THE CHRISTIAN STORY, THE CHURCH'S STORY, OTHERS STORY and last but by no means least EQUIPPING PEOPLE TO SHARE THEIR FAITH IN WORD AND ACTION IN THEIR HOME SETTING!

It will be held from 7:00 pm Friday March 11, 1988 to 9:00 pm Saturday March 12, 1988 at the MacPherson Centre 7325 MacPherson Street, Burnaby.

The cost will be approximately \$75.00 per person. Billeting can be arranged. There will be a travel pool for long distance travellers.

Your minister should have information on it now, and should be encouraging members of your congregation to attend. If your budget has monies for CE work, perhaps a portion of the cost could be made up from that source. It will be a worthwhile investment.

BC Conference President Marion Best will be one of the leaders of the weekend.

Contact the Registrar:  
Patti Gunning  
154 Woodland Drive  
Delta, B.C. V4L 2C1

NB: Both the UCW and the AOTS/UCM have moved their spring meetings to accommodate this event, and the executives of both groups are encouraging attendance.

## WRITE MEN OFF!!!!!!

Men shouldn't be written off as not having interest in what is happening in the world. Men are deeply involved in politics and men's secular organizations.

It is only in the church that we find a lack of involvement by the men.

Men need to become more aware of the power the church has in influencing government policies that affect the society in which we live.

## A.O.T.S. CREST IS REGISTERED

Reg Cooper wanted to see how our crest was registered in Ottawa. Upon researching he found that it was not, nor was the United Church crest ... much to everyone's surprise.

The crests have now been registered and protected against inappropriate usage.

## Help Wanted

We need the following for the National Archives. They can cover any AOTS or U event.

PHOTOGRAPHS - B & W or Colour

SLIDES - Copies will be made and originals returned if requested.

PROGRAMS - Any events "PROGRAMS WITH A PURPOSE" we need all copies of this series published by National OTHER PUBLICATIONS Bridge Builders, Conferences, Conventions, Meetings, Roundups, Bulletins, Newsletters

MAIL TO:

Mr. W.G. (Bill) Hastings  
National Archives AOTS  
PO Box 29.  
1995 Lindell Avenue  
Lindell, B.C. V0X 1P0



Induction of men to National A.O.T.S. offices by Phil Spence, in Regina, July/August, 1987.

## From the National Archives

The 15th Biennial AOTS Convention held in Regina is now history and the Record of Proceedings etc. will be filed along side the other 17 Conventions what we have had over some 35 years. Should those numbers confuse you it is because three conventions were held before we became part of the Board of Men under the new banner of UCAOTSMC. This change gives rise to a tale which will bear telling at a later date.

Your archivist who has attended a good many of these gatherings hastens to add that the 15th was top drawer.

Let's go back to 1961 when Vancouver and District Council sponsored the 2nd biennial convention. Charlie Burritt, the first President under the new UCAOTSMC finished out his two year term at the Vancouver event. Members of that convention

committee included Bill Hastings, Charlie Burritt, Dr. Poole, Phil Spense, Dudley McLeod, Fred Middleton, Karre Syling, Alex Gilmore and Gordon Bromlee.

Watching the Regina Convention brought back a lot of memories. We were unable to get a firm number and we ended up in the high 600's with the men and their wives. We had planned a memento for the ladies and men in the form of plates and Indian crafts and of course we ran out of these at about the 500 mark.

One thing Regina had going for it was the closeness of sleeping, eating and meeting facilities. Our Convention in Vancouver was the second on campus location and the first convention that UBC had put on. Confusion reigned when UBC reneged upon the procedures to be provided the night before. Some how under the direction of Fred Middleton we struggled through but not before we had bent a lot of feelings and created some life time scars.

We planned the convention with no terms of reference and resented any interference from the National. How dare they ask for a budget! Who do they think they are criticising our choice of speaker! We finally came to heel and showed a profit of \$500.00 which was spend on the printing of the Order of Proceedings. (We had realized the profit by jacking up the registration fee at the last minute over the protest and near resignation of the committee chairman in charge.

Our opening session took the form of a luncheon complete with the Mayor of Vancouver, UBC's President, a provincial Cabinet Minister, the Lieutenant Governor and one half of the Scarborough AOTS choir (the other half hadn't left the airport by the time we sat down, but praise be they made it in time to sing for us). For the main banquet we sat down close to 700 (100 had to be put in a smaller room with a PA speaker).

Our weather was three days of glorious sunshine. it had cleared just before the meetings started and it started raining again just after the close.

I am looking forward to the 16th Convention in Cape Breton in 1989, the 17th in Windsor in 1991, and the 18th in BC in 1993.

ED. NOTE: 1993 will be the 70th anniversary of the start of the AOTS movement at Ryerson United Church in Vancouver. It seems appropriate that the Convention that year will be in BC. The location is not yet set but you can look forward to some additional memories in the archives as it gets closer.



From left to right Charlie Burritt, D. R. Pool, Dudley McLeod, and Bill Hastings inspecting the UBC facilities for the National Convention in 1961.

## FUND RAISING PROJECTS

Auction Sales  
Breakfasts  
Beef B-B-Q  
Bible Sales  
Book Sales  
Cheese Sales  
Concerts  
Corn Roast  
Fall Fair Apple Sales  
Fertilizer Sales  
Fun Fair  
Lenten Folders  
Nut Sales  
Paper Drive  
Plant & Rummage Sales  
Spring Tea  
Strawberry Social  
Trolley Tea & Bake Sale  
Yard Sales

## SERVICE PROJECTS

Angola Scholarship Fund  
Vacation Bible School  
Boy Scouts  
Christmas Hampers  
Layity Church Services  
Cub Packs  
Crime Stoppers  
Foster Child  
Furniture for Nursery  
National Hospital Fund  
Operation Eyesight  
Ronald McDonald House  
Scholarships  
Thomas Crosby V  
Talking Magazine - Observer  
Tornado Relief Fund  
Variety Club Telethon  
X-Ray Equipment

## Garage Sales

The annual garage sale at Oak Bay United Church (Victoria) raises over \$3000.00 each year for our AOTS Mens Club.

The planning starts in October of each year when we begin advertising for donations to our sale. These donations are stored in various members garages around the city until May when the sale occurs.

One week before the sale, advertisements are placed in the local papers and public service announcements are placed on radio and on cable TV.

Three days before the sale the church hall is filled with tables and the sorting and pricing begins. At 10 am Saturday morning we open the doors letting the crowd fill the hall to buy the assorted treasures. We close the doors at 2 pm. The cleanup takes about an hour. The leftovers are boxed and stacked ready for pickup by the Goodwill.

I am convinced that for the effort involved in the garage sale it is an excellent fundraiser. If you would like more details contact me  
Mike McAuley  
3165 Balfour Ave  
Victoria, B.C. V9A 1R9  
(604) 318-6659

## WHAT IS THE A.O.T.S.??

AOTS is a church-related movement of men initiated in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship, deeping the spiritual life of men and developing effective programs of Christian service.

## HANDSHAKE IS DELAYED

Our apologies for the delay in getting THE HANDSHAKE out this time, but we had to wait for some advertising money to come in to pay for the printing and distribution. These

difficulties having been overcome, we press forward.

Advertising pays for THE HANDSHAKE, so please bear this in mind as you read our advertising policy and rates.

Advertising is solicited to assist us in covering the costs of production. By accepting advertising we can produce a paper at no cost to the men of the church.

Our advertising costs are \$100.00 for four issues for business card size. All material must be camera ready and in one colour.

Advertising copy can be sent to THE HANDSHAKE at the address shown on the last page of this issue.

We reserve the right to refuse advertising if of objectionable nature.

## CANADIAN MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP GROUP

A note from Lorne Whitmore shows how the men are meeting. They are meeting informally in private homes on a monthly basis.

The meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

Contact Lorne at 2280 McMullen Avenue, Vancouver.

If your group wants to receive a mailing of THE HANDSHAKE have your contact person write THE HANDSHAKE at the address given, giving us the number you require. We will be pleased to send you copies.

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