

THE HANDSHAKE



The Voice of the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs



Westminster UC, Regina, Saskatchewan



Beach UC, Toronto, Ontario



Central UC, Brandon, Manitoba



Trinity UC, Newmarket, Ontario

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Got a good photo send it to the Handshake

AOTS, “As One That Serves”, is a church-related organization of men initiated in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship, deepening the spiritual life of men and developing effective programs of Christian service.

The Handshake © is published by the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs which was established January 8th, 1923, at Kerrisdale Methodist Church, now known as Ryerson United Church, Vancouver, British Columbia.

The Handshake contains news and announcements of the AOTS Men's Clubs and other men's ministry groups or individual members and from a variety of other contributors who are interested in sharing their ideas and interests with other men or groups. It is provided to AOTS members twice yearly by the National AOTS office. The views, comments and opinions published in the *Handshake*, both printed and electronic forms, are not necessarily those of the National AOTS Association and/or individual clubs.

All submissions are subject to editing.

Photo submissions: If you want your original photo returned, please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope with your submission.

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The AOTS web page can be found at <<www.aots.ca>>
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The deadline for submissions to the next edition of the **PRINTED Handshake** is **April 2011**

The Drumathon at Trinity UC, Newmarket, ON

Trinity United Church made a lot of noise - 24 hours of noise - in a very good way, and, amazingly never had the police show up and put us all in jail! It was the “Drumathon” - 7 pm October 1st to 7 p.m. October 2nd- and we did it! Not only did we do it, but all the folks involved had a wonderful time interacting with their percussion instruments, enjoying breaks now and then, dining and snacking, coming and going, in some cases just trying to stay awake - but the beat never stopped.

We had three guests come and entertain us. Sandy Carruthers and her band - the “Georgian Drum Circle” performed with great rhythm and skill for about an hour on Friday evening. Lindsay Prior came and gave a great show at 4 pm Saturday, followed by Eddie Zeeman also giving an amazing performance, pounding his drum set until it should have disintegrated.

Our Juno award winning Eddie and his wife Josephine, are wonderful new folks here at Trinity, having found-us-out by way of a visit to our “Canada Day” Open House four years back.

Another ‘up-and-coming’ drummer was found in the talents of Trinity’s own Brendan Calverley, a grade 10 student who “percussed” for many, many hours.

Thanks to the talents of Tony Hodge & Brian Calverley, a “web conference” (see page 11) was created. This process allowed other Drumathon sites to be interactive with one another. The time required getting this up and going was considerable, but the end result was certainly worth it!

Of course, the most important people to praise are our drummers and supporters, without them, the current to-date total would be a tiny little zero.

Well, Trinity has so far banged, hit, rattled, shook, knocked and struck its way to over \$6,289.00! Well done, everyone, well done!

Submitted by Jonathan Wardlaw



The Dondi Project Steering Committee Update and Summary – November 20, 2010 – In Gratitude

When the Dondi Project was initiated in the spring of 2009, the Steering Committee identified four broad aims:

- Enliven, strengthen and unite the men of the United Church of Canada
- Raise \$1 million to rebuild the Lutamo School at Dondi in Angola
- Raise \$100,000 (10%) for the United Church of Canada's M&S Fund
- Inspire a renewed spirit of learning and sharing through community drumming events

Now that the Dondi Project event tours and the Drumathon are completed, the Steering Committee wishes to share with Drumathon Animators, enthusiasts and donors a report of the project's accomplishments and plans for its future.

We are pleased to report the following:

- Prior to the Drumathon in October 2010, donations for the Dondi Project totalled \$160,000.00
- To date, \$60,000 has been raised through the Drumathon itself, bringing the project total to approximately \$220,000 (see <http://dondiproject.com/dondi-drumathon-2010.htm> for stories about the Drumathon)
- Since the Drumathon, more donations have been received
- A donor has generously pledged to ensure that project costs are covered and that his gift will be received by March 31, 2011
- 90% of all funds raised through donations (\$220,000 and growing) will go directly to our partners in Angola for the rebuilding of the Lutamo School and 10% will go to support the M&S Fund
- There are ongoing efforts to raise additional funds from foundations and other sources
- United Church of Canada staff person, Wendy Gichuru, is now responsible for managing the United Church's relationship with IECA in Angola and will be our liaison with the church

While it is clear that we have not met our audacious financial goal of \$1 million raised, the funds that will be received by our partners in Angola will go a long way toward rebuilding a school for the young people that have been at the heart of our fundraising efforts. Equally as significant, we know from your reports and stories that a renewed spirit of learning and sharing has been inspired in many communities across the country through drumming and other community events. We are convinced from what we've experienced across the country that the project has helped to enliven and strengthen the men of our church.

We are grateful to the Rev. Lloyd Paul who offered leadership to this project from its inception until his departure from General Council Offices on July 31st, 2010. Lloyd's departure was the result of a mutual agreement among all parties and his continued support of the project and deep affinity for our friends in Angola is greatly appreciated.

Between now and March 31, 2011, we will continue to seek donations to increase the total funds available to send to Angola. No new project expenses will be incurred, so all new donations will increase the total available for our partners.

We hope that you will join us in celebrating a successful national United Church fundraising initiative. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the AOTS (As One That Serves) organization whose members were instrumental in this achievement. The Abbey North Drummers, their talents and devotion to the effort, were central to our strategy and the successes we achieved.

We anticipate that the United Church men's organizations will decide to keep this project and all its wonderful new relationships alive beyond March 31st, so stay tuned.

For more information, please contact our Steering Committee or send a message to dondidrumathon@gmail.com. To inquire about booking Abbey North Drummers for a Dondi event contact Chris Cullen (phone and email below).

Dondi Project Steering Committee

Co - Chairs: Jim Patterson – (647) 274-1891 or jkp@interlog.com & John Patterson – jpatterson@abbeynorth.ca
Allan Reeve, Bill Love, George Bishop, Harvey Douglas, Jim McKibbin, Jim Upright

Dondi Project Support

Barry 'Bazza' Hayward, Chris Cullen and Joe Truss of Abbey North Drummers – 705-854-0362 or zetaechriscullen@yahoo.ca

Dave Ross

Thought for today...

Jesus on masculinity

Matthew 21: 12 – 22

12-14) Jesus went straight to the Temple and threw out everyone who had set up shop, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of loan sharks and the stalls of dove merchants. He quoted this text: 'my house was designated a house of prayer; you have made it a hangout for thieves'. Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them.

15-16) When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing, and heard all the children running and shouting through the Temple, "Hosanna to David's Son!" they were up in arms and took him to task. "Do you hear what those children are saying?" Jesus said, "Yes, I hear them. And haven't you read in God's word, 'from mouths of children and babies I'll furnish a place of praise'?"

17) Fed up, Jesus turned on his heel and left the city for Bethany, where he spent the night.

18-20) Early the next morning Jesus was returning to the city. He was hungry. Seeing a lone fig tree alongside the road, he approached it anticipating a breakfast of figs. When he got to the tree, there was nothing but fig leaves. He said, "No more figs from this tree – ever!" The fig tree withered on the spot, a dry stick. The disciples saw it happen. They rubbed their eyes, saying, "Did we really see this? A leafy tree one minute, a dry stick the next?"

21-22) But Jesus was matter-of-fact: "Yes – and if you embrace this kingdom life and don't doubt God, you'll not only do minor feats like I did to the fig tree, but also triumph over huge obstacles. This mountain, for instance, you'll tell, 'Go jump in the lake,' and it will jump. Absolutely everything, ranging from small to large, as you make it a part of your believing prayer, gets included as you lay hold of God."

The Message

A men's movement has appeared into the Christian scene, picking up men bored in the pews and toughening them up with the other side of Jesus' image – the table-tipping side.

The founder of the movement, Brad Stine, states that anything that's masculine is considered misogynistic, suspect, trying to be oppressive. In this movement, men come together to do "guy stuff" like watching sports screw-ups or witnessing a man bending a wrench with his bare hands – but the integral part is the raw talks on topics such as sex, pornography and substance addictions. Stine notes that as men, "We're flawed, we're messed up, we're not perfect – we're on a journey but we screw-up every single day." But this movement gives men the chance to make that journey with other men - and to be "fully men" on that journey.

David Murrow, author of 'Why men hate going to church', applauds this movement, noting that in his opinion the church has become a hostile environment for men, particularly "masculine men" who are uncomfortable in the typically feminized church. Churchgoers are taught to reflect the meek and mild image of Jesus Christ. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also, churches often preach. One man responds with, "I'm running out of cheeks. I'm going to stand firmly for what I believe."

And Stine says, "A meek and mild Jesus....eventually is a bore."

In our scripture passage, Jesus enters the most public place in the city, makes a huge scene in a most public way, and rejects the entire social, cultural and religious order. He then performs a number of healing miracles on a group of people that were forbidden from entering the temple. So much for “gentle Jesus, meek and mild”!! Jesus came for sinners, he associated with the poor and the sick and the outcasts. He went to places where there were needs, great needs, and he met them. He went as a man. But he rejected all the pursuits that normally characterize the lives of men on earth – pursuits of wealth and safety and high status.

Jesus calls us to radical discipleship; complete, sold-out, hold-nothing-back discipleship. He demonstrates his determination, his willingness to upset things that are wrong. And this worries me. I guess I find it threatening because I like my comfortable life. I like most things the way they are. And I’m worried that Jesus might come and cleanse my temple.

But we need Jesus to come and clean us up as individuals, as a men’s group and as a church. We need him to come and tear down any of the barriers that keep us from intimacy with him, any barriers that keep others from coming to know him. We need him to come and cleanse us, make us whole, and then fill us with power.

What barriers are there in your life?

What things keep you from getting closer to God?

What barriers do we as individuals, as a men’s group and as a church put up that keep other people from approaching God?

Let us pray –

God, sometimes we get so frustrated we would like to tear things apart.

Sometimes we want to follow your example and build.

Sometimes we are afraid.

Usually we don’t see the barriers.

Are we welcoming?

Do we have the power to move mountains?

Do we have the gift of healing?

Help us to know, as men, what you would have us do.

May we encourage one another in our work together for your kingdom.

In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

From George Bishop – Spiritual Life and Leadership Chair

Happy 80th Birthday to Howard Wills



Friends from St. Paul's United Church, Oakville Ontario, Oakville Salvation Army Corps, Pathfinders Hiking and many others joined Howard in celebrating his **80th birthday** at St. Paul's Church.

Howard became a member of St. Paul's AOTS Men's Club in 1982 when his source of employment changed from Toronto to Oakville. He served as President in the late 90's.

Howard has attended the Annual Central Canada Round-up for many years. He has been part of the organizing committee for the Round-up each time Hamilton Conference was the host for the event.

Currently he is Co-Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and as such is a member of the National AOTS Council.

He is a member of St. Paul's Unified Board, a member of Halton Presbytery, and a National Life Member since 2002.

Grace United, Sarnia supports Lambton Community Living



Community Living Sarnia Lambton was given a cheque for \$700 in June from the Grace United Church AOTS Club. This is the fourth year that about \$700 has been donated. The club operates a fish fry and donates the proceeds to the respite camping program of this charity which serves the needs of mentally and physically challenged adults. Marvin Bildfell, Club Treasurer is seen here presenting the cheque to the charity's Assistant Director.

Minnedosa United, Minnedosa MB AOTS make Another Contribution



On the left—This electric fireplace was built from salvaged material from our burnt-out church. The men of the AOTS rescued the bricks for the project and will finish this “quiet room” with new chairs for all the congregation to enjoy.

Page 4 of the 2010 Spring/Summer issue of the Handshake shows the new church nearing completion.

At the right—Bazza Hayward, Alf Iverson, Don Jones, Chris Cullen, Elgin Hall, Harvey Douglas and Joe Truss relax after a Spaghetti Supper enjoyed by some sixty participants to “show off” the new facilities.



The National AOTS
Report to All Members
Proposed Changes to the Constitution & Bylaws
September 2010

Executive Summary

After the 2009 Biennial Conference, the National Council undertook to revise and update the Rules of Government of The National AOTS. This work culminated in a substantial revision of both the Constitution and Bylaws documents. The National Council endorsed the proposed new documents “with concurrence” in April 2010 as the first step towards final approval. The process for change requires that the membership and clubs be advised of the changes at least 4 months in advance of the Biennial Conference scheduled for April 2011. To meet this requirement, the proposed new documents will be circulated with the Winter 2010/2011 Handshake and be available on the AOTS website. They will be presented to the membership for debate and approval at the 2011 Biennial Conference. All members are encouraged to review and discuss the proposed changes in the months leading up to the Convention.

Rationale for Change

The original “Rules of Government of The National AOTS” was a four-part document including the Constitution, the Bylaws, the Rules of Order, and the Standing Rules. The Constitution was amended several times and the 1988 revision was published as a booklet that is widely available amongst the membership. The Bylaws were revised in 1999; but were not widely communicated. The Rules of Order and Standing Rules were never adopted as operating documents. There are a few key reasons for proceeding with change at this time. Over the years, the number of active clubs and members has diminished substantially. The National Council agrees that it is time to restructure The National AOTS to provide effective administrative structures and processes that are commensurate with the size and nature of the organization. In addition to the administrative structure, the current Rules of Government provide for a National Office and Staff that are no longer needed. Another concern is that over time, some of the rules became obsolete and there is a need to update the Rules to reflect the current mode of operation.

The National Council recognizes that implementing change is not always easy; but we look forward to respectful discussion and debate that will lead to the final product. We also want to say that the proposed changes are not intended to imply any disrespect to the original documents, those who created them, or the National AOTS. In fact, the existing Rules of Government have served the AOTS very well and we appreciate the good work that was done to create and amend the Rules of Government over the years.

Summary Of The New Documents

The major elements of the revised Constitution can be summarized as follows:

1. The AIMS of The National AOTS remain the same.
2. Membership remains open to both Clubs and Individual Members.
3. A new Executive replaces the National Council as the AOTS administrative body. The Executive consists of 8 Officers elected at a National Convention and 3 members-at-large appointed by the Executive. The Executive is responsible for transacting all AOTS business that arises between National Conventions.
4. The National Council serves as a consultative group to the Executive. The National Council consists of the Executive, Regional Council Representatives and Committee Chairs. It meets at least once per year.
5. The Executive is empowered to establish Committees as necessary to carry out assigned tasks. The current Standing Committees will be transitioned into the new committee structure.
6. The President-Elect chairs a Visioning Team to prepare recommendations on the future direction of The National AOTS.
7. The relationship between The National AOTS and the United Church of Canada (especially the Men’s Ministry Network) is clearly stated.
8. Regional Councils replace Conference and Presbytery Councils.
9. The Rules of Order for all business meetings of the National AOTS will be as published in the United Church Manual.
10. National Staff positions are retired.

Continued on Page 8

Continued from page 7

The major elements of the revised Bylaws can be summarized as follows:

1. Conditions of membership are largely unchanged.
2. New sections describe the rights and privileges of Clubs and Membership.
3. National Convention procedures are updated and simplified.
4. Officer responsibilities are updated and simplified.
5. Regional Conference Representative responsibilities are updated and simplified.
6. The National Secretary role is retired and the responsibilities moved to the appropriate Officer or Committee.
7. The Sub-Executive body is retired.
8. Guidelines are provided for establishing, operating and dissolving Committees. Committee "terms-of-reference" documents must be approved by the Executive, reviewed annually, and posted to the AOTS website.
9. Financial Guidelines and Miscellaneous Procedures are updated.
10. Bylaws regarding the AOTS, Logo, Pins and Flag are largely unchanged.

The new Constitution and Bylaws are intended to provide more operating flexibility and effective decision-making in support of the AOTS aims. We believe this will be achieved through:

1. The administrative body will be reduced in size by about 50%.
2. Committees will be focused on the priorities and needs as established by the National Convention and the Executive.
3. Regional Councils provide flexibility in how Councils are formed and operated, and will reflect the needs and interests of the Clubs and Members in the region.
4. A strong relationship with the Men's Ministries Network will allow leveraging common resources while focusing on the aims of AOTS.

Next Steps

The National Council is serving notice that the proposed changes will be presented to the National Biennial Convention in April 2011.

The proposed changes are now circulating to the membership in advance of the National Convention through publication in the Handshake and on the AOTS website.

A series of motions to accept the proposed changes will be presented at a business meeting of the National Convention. The membership will be asked to debate, amend as necessary, and approve the proposed changes.

We realize these proposals are extensive and will likely raise many questions, comments and concerns. You can respond in the following ways:

1. Direct questions to John Cooke by email, mail or telephone using the addresses listed below.
2. All questions/answers will be published on the web site (and possibly in the Handshake) before the Biennial Convention.
3. We are tentatively planning to host an information session prior to the business meeting at the Biennial Convention.
4. Discuss the proposals with fellow members and your club.
5. Discuss the proposals with one of the National Council members. Contact information is available on the AOTS website.

Contact information for John Cooke

Telephone 519-869-2908

Email cookejc@ebtech.net

Address 1945 Huron Ave, Sarnia, ON N7T 7H4

44th Riding Mountain Conference of Churchmen Men's Camp 2010



*Riding Mountain
Conference of Churchmen
Men's Camp 2010*

**COMMUNION
SERVICE**

44th Riding Mountain of Churchmen's Conference - Camp Wanacumbac, Clear Lake MB

Thirty nine men attended this years camp and are wondering why more didn't come to hear the inspiring story of a very popular radio broadcaster, Mr. Larry Updike, and how he came to choose to leave a six figure income to work for the Siloam Mission in down town Winnipeg. Larry's story, his wonderful talents with the guitar and beautiful singing voice led the men in a most inspiring way.

Rev. George Davidson, retired Canadian Forces Padre now preaching in Charleswood United led the men in the Sunday morning Communion Service. George referred to Moses, Isaac and Jacob and the need for individuals like this today. Moses the believer, Isaac the doer and Jacob the schemer.

*The 45th camp will be held June 10,11&12, 2011
If you live in MB or Eastern Sask. watch for updates on next years program.*

Submitted by Harvey Douglas

We Remember

AOTS has lost yet another valued member, **Gilbert (Gib) Waite**. He was a long time member of Westminster AOTS in Belleville, Ont. He passed away in July 2010. Many will remember Gib for his ability with the sound system. When the Bay of Quinte was responsible for organizing a function such as the biennial convention or spring roundup or just a fall rally, it was always Gib that was called upon for his expertise, knowing the job would be done with perfection.

Gib was also very supportive of the United Church, Camp Quin-Mo-Lac, having served on camp committees for the past 30 plus years overseeing many property projects. He also served for a time as chairman of the corporation.

Gib leaves his wife Eileen and two daughters, Heather & Marie. He was grandpa to four granddaughters.

Gib was honored by an AOTS Memorial Service attended by 42 AOTS men. His final service filled the church to overflowing which included many AOTS members. He will be missed.

Respectfully Submitted by Al Anthony



Robert 'Bob' Everett LaSalle

Bob LaSalle was born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario. He worked from age 16 with the same company for over 45 years, including moves to Ottawa, Montreal and Newmarket. Upon retirement ten years ago, he encountered some serious health issues but battled them with sheer determination. Bob's family was always his number one priority. He loved walking at the mall, both in Newmarket and

in Barrie and his time with his coffee buddies was precious to him. Bob was an avid supporter of girls hockey and a faithful worker at Northwest Barrie United Church. He was a giant of a man and will be remembered in so many ways, mainly by his smiles and his always available hugs. He will be missed by so many of us. He has left us with wonderful memories and has set an excellent example to us all of a life well spent.

He leaves his wife Dorothy, a son and a daughter.

Minnedosa AOTS Men do it again

These fellows just completed another successful Pancake Supper Nov. 19, 2010 raising another \$550 for youth work projects. Earlier in November, the fellows provided all the kitchen labour by preparing and cooking the Church's Fall Supper. 285 people enjoyed a full turkey supper with all the trimmings in the new church auditorium. The church ladies helped by supplying the pies and jellied salads. The men's next big event will be the Christmas Supper, Dec. 3, where all proceeds will be forwarded to the Dondi Project.



Drumathon Web Conference

I was approached to investigate using the internet to connect the various Drumathon locations during the event. I've been employed by Cisco Systems for a number of years and am a member of AOTS at Trinity United Church in Newmarket, Ontario. I got the approval of Cisco Systems Canada to use their Webex conference servers.

Needless to say we were under a time crunch and managed to get most of the Drumathon locations connected for various times during the 24hr Drumathon.

What is Webex and how did we attempt to connect locations.

Webex is a software application that allows anyone connected to the Internet to meet in an online session and works as an alternative to face to face meetings. Webex can allow participants to share information, either via audio conference, web conference or video feed or all three simultaneously. Internet conferences are used widely today in industry and connecting people around the world.

Basically all you need is a host to set up a webex session then invite various participants to attend using their web browser on their PC or smartphone and a connection to the Internet. I had set up a Webex Event session to run during the Drumathon then sent out email invites to participants.

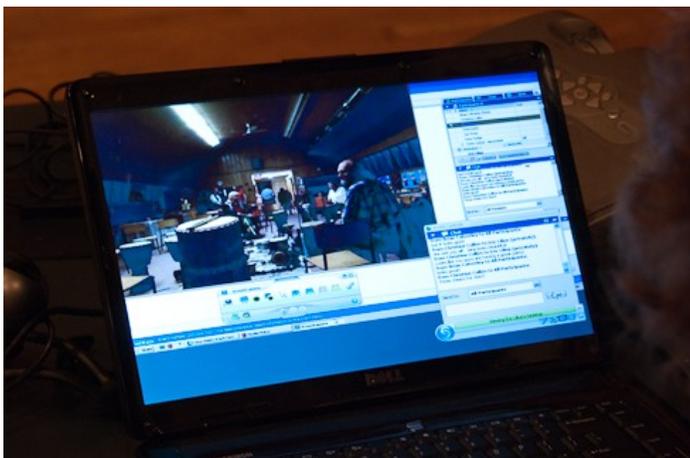
Cisco Webex Conference has the following benefits:

- Meet over the web real time from anywhere
- Deliver large-attendance web-based events
- Ideal: for all-hands company meetings, webinars, and surveys
- Up to 3,000 attendees, scalable beyond
- Host and manage multimedia events

For more information you can go to the following location: www.cisco.com/go/webex

We had a few hiccups during the Drumathon but all in all we did manage to get a number of sites connected to at least the Webex chat and also able to view some live video feeds from various sites during the event. We ran out of time to do a full trial and in the future if we attempt to connect sites via web conference, it would be good to publish some guidelines on how to connect and site requirements for best viewing and presenting of content. All in all it was great to see various activities from other Drumathon locations and really helped make us feel connected during the event.

Brian Calverley



Video stream from Newmarket
at Beach United in Toronto

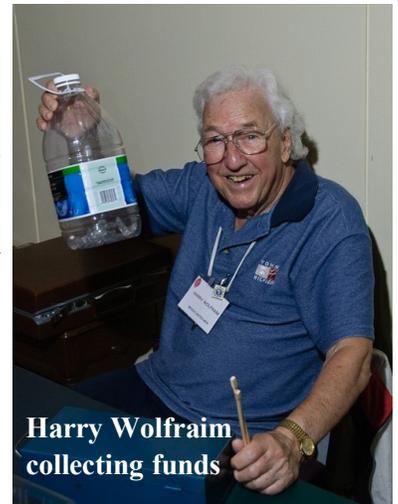
Editor's Note: Perhaps the National Executive could meet "face to face" using this type of hook-up.

BEATING THE DRUM AT BEACH UNITED, TORONTO, ON

Beach United Church held a successful 24 hour Drumathon on October 1st and 2nd raising over \$5,000 for the rebuilding of the Lutamo School in the Dondi Region of Angola.

Beach was one of 25 separate venues that organized Drumathon events from coast to coast (Victoria to St John's). The school was destroyed during a 27 year long civil war which left 500,000 dead, thousands of refugees and the destruction of the country's infrastructure. The Lutamo school was originally established by Christian missionaries almost 100 years ago (1914). The United Church has been involved with the Dondi school and other schools in Angola for many years and maintains fraternal relations with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (IECA).

The Lutamo School site is on land owned by IECA, a United Church partner church. Luis Samacumbi, director of the church's Department of Social Assistance, Studies and Projects, will oversee the rebuilding of the school.



**Harry Wolfrain
collecting funds**



**Drumming circle in
"full ahead" mode**

During the Beach event, the Abbey North Drummers (Bazza Hayward, Christine Cullen and Joseph Truss) led various drumming sessions throughout the weekend beginning with a coordinated kick-off on Friday evening. Broadcast facilities were established so that various drumming sites could see each other. The Beach event included time for one film (The Visitor - about drumming) and as well Rhythmic Dancing with Glendyss followed by a Jazz Vespers Service on Saturday afternoon.

Previous to the Drumathon, some \$160,000.00 had been raised by the Men's Ministry Network, which includes As One That Serves (AOTS) through the organizing of drumming circles and individual donations. See page 3 for the national summary.

All in all, the event was very successful and a tired bunch of drummers joined the rest of the congregation on Sunday following the Drumathon to continue the drumming enthusiasm during the regular morning service and raise more money for the project.



The calm before the storm