

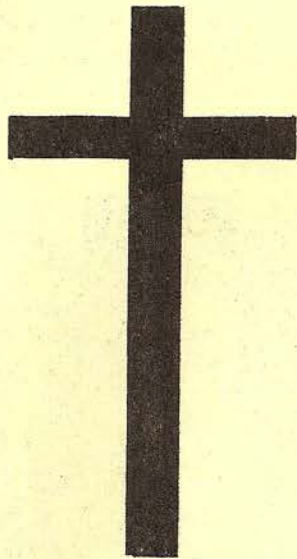
The Handshake

As One That Serves

Issue No. 14

Easter Edition

March 90



I Am The Resurrection And The Life

President Bob Reports

Much has been said in recent weeks about our modern society entering into a new decade - the 1990's. Perhaps AOTS also should give special attention to the needs and opportunities in the next ten years. It will be an exercise that will be good for the National Council to address, but Clubs and District Councils could also be doing some planning for the period. Generally it is useful to prepare by looking back over the past ten year period and noting major achievements and disappointments. My assessment of the 1990's brings to mind, first and foremost, the National Hospital Project where, through fine support of many clubs and individuals, we have seen over \$50,000 gathered for the purchase of equipment and staff training, for use in the remote areas of our great country. I think it also can be



The Exec. at work. Pres. Bob Lewis-Pres elect Lloyd Richards-Rec. Sec. Maurice Wright

said that we have seen some growth in membership at a time when church membership is dwindling. Not to be overlooked are the very successful RoundUps, conventions, and men's retreats some of which are interdenominational. I have had a number of highs at these meetings, and know that others have as well. As I travel I also become aware of the many, many club projects that serve a need in the community while providing funds and fellowship for the AOTS movement and the Church to which it belongs. All in all it has been a good ten years, and I congratulate the numerous successful Clubs, remembering that success is not always measured in numbers, but rather in quality and depth of personal relationships. Good luck to all of you for the 1990's!

Bob Lewis

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Ontario	P 2
Al Diston-Sask.	P3
B.C. Page	P4
Hospital	P5
National Notes	P 6-7
NFLD -Maritime	P 8
Alberta-Manitoba	P 9
Advertisements	P10



Bay of Quinty AOTS : That,s Craig Watson our reporter and Conference AOTS President over there. He's presenting the David Sherwood Memorial trophy to Pres. John Whatley of Lakefield AOTS Oct. 27 saw the Belleville Presbytery RoundUp held at Grace United. About 70 attended and celebrated an evening of fellowship, sharing of faiths, and song. Ron Welch Pres. of Belleville Presbytery AOTS chaired the meeting. Guest speaker was Reg Cooper Sid Bagnall leader in song, and entertainment by the "Grace Singing Group. Craig reports of AOTS Pancake Breakfasts throughout the communities, Ladies Nights, and Installations to which he has been invited. Do you suppose the President's terms of reference include putting on weight ? Good on you Bay of Quinte. From Craig's report. WGH

Bellefair Toronto Newsletters Work!

Harry Olfrum reports their chief claim to fame is their Newsletter with copies on file back to 1979. It comes out monthly, containing all of the data for that period. Harry says "put it on paper". Much interest is generated as it goes out to most all of the men of the Church. "New faces keep showing Up. Harry reports an increase in club membership. Nice going Bellefair. Put the handshake on your mailing list. eh! JAC



Reg Cooper - Ron Welch - Sid Bagnall - Craig Watson



South Raleigh Ont.

This club draws it's membership from eight churches: Fourth Line, Cedar Springs, St. Lukes, Charing Cross, Grace, South Buxton, Merlin and Fletcher. Named after the township it is by geography centered around St. Lukes about two miles north of lake Erie in Southern Kent County. We learn here of the theme for the 1991 National Convention it is "Challenge For Commitment". The speaker is Rev. Robert Duthie of Charring Cross. The reason for the executive looking so bright eyed and bushy tailed so early in the morning is that they have just finished a "Farmer's Breakfast" Photo Back row Charles Mifflin, Tom Matthews, Keith Mifflin, John Smith, Fr Row: Murray Mifflin, Bill Maris Clark Mifflin, President.. Looks like a Mifflin conspiracy to me.

WGH

**Ontario Round-Up
Geneva Park April 20-22**

Register Now!
Lorne Thornely
7 Innisdale Drive
Scarborough Ont.
M1R 1C4



AOTS Pioneer



We grant he was all of these: but he was much more. He possesses that very rare quality of leadership. Knox Presbyterian

Church of Regina soon recognized this quality and named him to the session in 1927. At 25 years of age, he was the youngest person to be named an elder. He has demonstrated his faithfulness and dependability in that he has completed 57 years of unbroken service in that post. What a rare record! Truly here is "One that served". But there is more-much more.

Al took his training as an accountant in to the dairy business but along with it he took a work ethic that was to stand him in good stead for 48 years. He was to retire from the Co-op as company treasurer. Besides his formal training in dairying his general expertise was learned on the job. Witness the duties of management in the 1930's. In the depression he had to do all kinds of "joe-jobs" such as relieving the cashier, checking in drivers, checking bottles, washing cream cans, etc. etc. The economics of the times saw no one arguing about working overtime with no pay. Men were only too happy to have any job.

Al had another career as lay leader in his church. He provided the leadership that started the AOTS in his city and his province. Al realized the important work that a group of dedicated men could do for the church. To an effective program of Christian service He welcomed DR as he brought AOTS to the prairies. Welcoming him to his home and hospitality.. It was mostly Al who escorted DR. but the major portion of his(Al's) pioneering was done in the company of such AOTS greats as Judge Thompson, Fred Hill, Fred Saunderson and Earl Eisnehaur. They travelled the length and breadth of Saskatchewan and were known to cover as much as 200 miles return in order to found a club.

In just 2 years there were formed 28 clubs and by 1957 they had established a total of 60. They also established district councils in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and Regina. In 1957, with

Al Diston

Daryman

Frank Hill as President and Al as secretary they organized the Saskatchewan's Men's Conference at Fort Qu'Appelle, By 1965, Al was name vice President of Saskatchewan AOTS. While serving ten years in that office he kept in contact with all the clubs in the Conference. He also served two years as the Sask representative on the Board of Men. He is a Past President of the Regina District Council and has been on the Board of UC Housing of Regina since it's inception in 1959. He is a director of Mutchmor Lodge and Hewitt Place.

In a recent letter the salutation goes as follows; As One That Still Serves at 82+. Need we say more.

The photo below shows Al receiving a plaque for service from Al Field of St. Andrews Moosejaw.



Al admits that he owes a great deal of his success to the cooperation and help of his good wife Phyllis. They have a daughter Valerie and two granddaughters

Tom Murray Compiler

The Editors wish to thank all those who helped in gathering the data for this biography. Space is the problem and we wish to acknowledge here and now that Al served in many other capacities. All this and the collected AOTS papers that Al saved through his many years service are in the United Church Archives of the



St. Andrew's MooseJaw

We see in the "Menu" that this club assumed the responsibility of transporting members of the congregation to Regina. They were to attend a series of congregational workshops entitled "Vision for the Future". Conducted by Stewart Mann and Joyce Blake of Regina on the 17th, 24th and 31st of January. Lets hope they didn't run into any blizzards.



Christian

Chronic Illness

(Based on a Vancouver Sun Article by Edited by John Carson

When struck with a chronic illness or disability, often the first thought is "My life is over." Although no one can prepare for a sudden accident, or the onset of multiple sclerosis life doesn't end.

It is possible to build a new life

if you are willing to meet the obstacles and change your goals. Or if you don't have a goal stop and set one. We must learn to cope with an illness which appears to have come so suddenly. Resistance to depression and learning how to deal with it, such as preventing emotional exhaustion is so necessary. For the working man this is so applicable especially in the work place. Adjustments have to be made..

Things are not the same

as they were last week, last month, or last years. Professional counselling is needed in many cases. How do we choose a counsellor? Our Doctor or Minister will be glad to help us here.

When it is a partner how can I help? There are just so many set of circumstances to deal with. We must make adjustments, read books, talk on the telephone, seek counselling and find real friendship in the Church. Seek your ministers help, his love and cooperation can be of great help.

People often feel guilty

for their reactions to a family member's illness, but this is natural. It is not bad or unusual to feel angry". We must continue to be in prayer to our God, continue and increase our reading of the scriptures, get another translation, other books to help learn and adapt to our change of life. Increase your social activity with your church and seek help there. When one door closes another opens

but you must participate

Although we often fail to understand what is happening to us we must always remember God is here and God Loves Us.

Faith is
a laboratory course
not a lecture course

Cowichan News Leader

Nov. 1, 1989

Duncan AOTS Pancakes were perfect

All roads led to Duncan AOTS Men's Club first Pancake Brunch of the fall season. The following Sunday being Laity Sunday saw the United Church Women(U.C.W.) conducting the 9:30 a.m. service, and the AOTS Men's Club conducting the 11 a.m. service

Althea Fraser led the call to worship for the ladies service and the opening prayers. Lorraine Colk read the passage from the Scripture-Loan Gillatt gave the sermon., Lorna Burnside shared in the pastoral prayer and Norma Macdonald sang a solo.

Ernie Stafford was in charge of the second service. Don Burnside read from the scriptures, and Don Morton in giving his message chose Give me this Mountain Joshua 14:12.

Attempt great things for God and expect great things

The AOTS Choir, thirty voices strong, was in attendance, accompanied by Wilson Billingsly at the organ. The regular monthly dinner meeting was our **Annual Father and Offspring**. 60 odd members and guest were treated to a gourmet chicken dinner complete with all the trimmings capably served by the ladies of the Violet Lee Branch of the UCW. Roy Laird presented a devotional that carried a message. Norm Carter read a note of thanks from Edna Brown to the Men's club for the lovely **Thanksoffering Dinner** where they served 92 members of the UCW along with a nice cheque. Support was given for the Cowichan Music Festival and a presenter was chosen.

Entertainment for the evening for our little guests was a singalong time-led by a huge dinosaur on stage and assisted by three humans-one with guitar. Norm Carter program co-ordinator. presented a brief outline of the upcoming Variety Night Extravaganza Event which will feature much music-skits-dialogue-monologue and song. The ever popular AOTS Singers are already in practice. Finally, 17 local seniors in the community were treated to a Sunday afternoon drive in the Country by the AOTS members and it all concluded with a Sunshine Tea served in the Church by the UCW. Don Morton



Reg Atwell

Brechin

New Format

First off congratulations to the men of Brechin for 31 years of AOTS service.

Facing up to their individual situation they decided to forgo the usual monthly supper meetings. In it's stead they have decided on a breakfast meetings of shared fellowship. Sounds like an excellent chance to get into the breakfast prayer study mode. At any rate their first trial balloon saw 11 men out for breakfast 8 from AOTS and 3 not. They have decided to keep their affiliation with National and send in their dues for 1990. There may be sadness in their suspending club activities. There is joy in their new found fellowship with others. Good luck Brechin in this your new venture of Christian Fellowship. We will see you at the RoundUp at Cloverdale and of course the "Celebration of Faith" WGH



Celebration of Faith

May 25-26-27
Trinity Western

Theme
Wrestlers With God

Speaker
Rev. Howard Groom

Island Contact
Roy Jone
384-4640

Mainland Contact
Bill Pike
534-9128

Scouts Help the Food Bank

On Jan 13th over 80 Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, their leaders and some parents pooled their efforts as they called on the residents of the community. Their objective was to pick up papers, bottles and groceries for the Food Bank. In just



under 4 hours they picked up 14 tons of paper, 2 ten ton bins of bottles and around \$1000 in groceries. A tired but

happy group realized a very successful day. They expressed their thanks in the local newspapers to all who donated. They were especially grateful to those who contributed to the Food Bank. In

the photo from LtR Alex Morse, Kevin Stanley, Phillip Hasek Scouts, John Carswell AOTS, and Don Morse Scout leader. This project was taken from a report out of Bloomfield AOTS as reported in the last issue of the Handshake. JAC

B.C. Round-Up-90 Aldergrove United

March 10 Noon until 10 P.M.

Speaker

Dr. Don Farris North Island United

Total Cost Only \$20.00





A Scene from the Alberta Spring Round Up held at Wetaskiwin on March 24-25



A highlight of the weekend was the induction of Jim Dicke into the AOTS "Hall of Honour with a Life Membership". Jim is seen above clutching his plaque in his right hand and hanging on to his wife Ida with his left. That's Wally Shultz our National Spiritual Life Chairman peering between this lovely couple. In the centre looking very proud is our Western Vice President Fred Holberton who did the honours. That's Max Vandenberg on the far left our Alberta President. Next to him is John Carswell (Handshake Chairman) who noted that although it was touted as a Spring Round Up it only managed a high of -7 over the entire weekend.

Welcome UCM Newsletter

Your the new kid on the block. It is out of Alberta under the direction of Max Vandenberg our AOTS President of the Alberta and Northwest Conference. Such Newsletters along with club reports are becoming major sources of news for the Handshake.

There follows in its entirety a testimonial, taken from the Alberta News to the wonders of Christian Fellowship. It is seen through the eyes of a Christian man of the 1990's. Herein is the spirit of our founding AOTS fathers as they gathered in 1923 to build their Church's first gymnasium. These men nurtured this spirit of Christian Fellowship as have their successors the National Council of AOTS. We may not share the same name but we share the same Christ. Are we not therefore brothers in Christ?

Our Men's Group.

It is for some years now that we of the Foothills United Church in Calgary gather regularly every second Saturday morning of the month. We are always between fifteen and twenty in number. The ladies of the UCW graciously prepare a delicious breakfast. The very aroma of it is a

reward for having left the bed a bit earlier on that morning.

Before I joined the group I was a bit sceptical of this separation between men and women at a time, when we become more and more aware of male sexism in our society and in our lives. However I have had a positive experience in the Men's Group that would not have been possible without it. First of all, I got to know other men of the church on a more personal basis. Of course I met most of them before, but could not remember their names, and the short encounters after church were almost always rather formal. By planning something or doing the odd work assignment together I discovered that being a rather solemn face can hide a wonderful sense of humour, or that a very quiet guy can have a deep spiritual commitment, or that despite the joyful appearance of another there is intense struggle and suffering in his life. The second discovery was that I felt more accepted by other men. Despite their friendliness in church gathering, there was this strange distance, which

I thought had to do with my being a newcomer to this country. Or perhaps I had spoken too much about spiritual things in a non Canadian accent. Or perhaps my behaviour was so different than theirs, having come from another culture. I often asked myself, how I could possibly overcome this distance. It was comforting, however, that the women of the Church did not seem to have a problem accepting me!

The main purpose of our gatherings is to have fellowship. A second reason is to serve the church by doing little jobs on the premises: painting, light repairs, window washing, ringing the church bell, setting up tables and chairs for special gatherings and more. It is fun to do these things together. The other night about

five of us served at the annual Advent Dinner of the UCW, moving tables, chairs, cutlery and dishes for about 100 ladies, serving coffee and tea, and washing dishes. What an opportunity to express our gratitude to the women who serve us constantly and without even a sigh, as if it had to be that way. Still, our service to the women is only a token, a symbol of a totally new relationship between men and women, for which we men in the church should stand on the fore front. I felt embarrassed when the ladies applauded us and expressed our appreciation publicly and even sent us a card that was read at our breakfast meeting. For the last two years our group has hosted the annual breakfast of the Calgary Men's Clubs. Sometimes we have a speaker or some form of presentation and discussion. Mostly we just meet and get to know each other better. Our group has so far not become a member of the AOTS organization. I am sure however that its motto "as one that serves" is a major part of our groups and its individual commitment.

A fellow Christian

Saskatchewan

Eldin Jensen reports a very successful Regina Council Rally in Moose Jaw? Despite the name and location swap 90 plus men came. Most of the churches from Regina and Moose Jaw were represented. There were also men there from Rouleau, Francis and Mortlach.

Come Join Us At Banff !

36th Annual Banff Men's Conference Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____ Potal Code _____

Church _____ Registration begins 2 PM October 1990

Special Requests: Handicap, Diet, Requested Room mates, etc.

Age Group: Under 20 _____ 20-30 _____ 30-40 _____ 40-50 _____ over 50 _____

Pre-Registration Fee \$60.00 (enclosed) Total Fee \$ 165.00

Make cheques or money order payable to 1990 Banff Men's Conference

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The 1990 Banff Men's
Conference
C/O Ronald White Registrar
3347-Upton Place N.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2 N 4G9
Do it NOW!!
Tell them the Handshake done sent you.

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And Join AOTS

Take out an Individual Membership

APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

WITH THE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED CHURCH AOTS MEN'S CLUBS

PLEASE PRINT

Surname _____ First Name _____ Initial(s) _____ Nick Name _____

Street & No., R.R. No. _____

City, Town, Village _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Church _____ Telephone - Residence: _____ Business: _____
(Include area code)

Occupation _____
(Be specific, describe the type of work you do.)

Age 17 - 24 _____ 25 - 44 _____ 45 - 54 _____ 55 - 64 _____ 65 & over _____

Annual Fee is 15.00 payable upon application and yearly thereafter in January.

Mail To
G.Allan Smith
61 Nordin Ave.
Toronto Ont.
M8Z 2B4

Do
It
Now!



Division Of Mission in Canada*

This was my first meeting with this new group, due to a time conflict with the first meeting in the spring. We did not deal with the budget (DMC's) but will do so in the next meeting (Mar 16-1890). The meeting was quite informative, but did not have any items directly related to AOTS except that the UCW did mention that they were not in agreement with our position on General Council Commissioners. Apparently they are satisfied with the way matters now sit, and were somewhat upset because we did not consult with them before passing a resolution which included them. I take it they have no objection to what we are asking for ourselves.

President Bob Reporting
* Commonly referred to as the DMC this body is the one that links us with the United Church.. Historically there has always been a staff person to whom we could relate and who had our concerns as a part of his terms of reference. In the last while our only connection is through the Adult Unit of the DMC We have membership on this unite through our National President. WGH

Supplies ! Supplies !

AOTS Pins
Membership-Past President

Life Memberchip Scrolls

AOTS Stationary

Stickers

Banners

Pamphlets

And By The Way this where you send your Officer and Membership Registrations to

Al Smith - Executive Director
61 Nordin Ave.
Etobicoke, Ont.
M8Z 2B4
Phone 416-251-3236

Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generous donations

South Burnaby
Lew Goldsborough
Banff Conference

" We Challenge You!"

The Editors of the "Handshake " challenge you to read the following report in it's entirety. We further challenge you to read it for what it is. An example of the dedication to Christ's work by a National Executive. This is what they do day in and out.. These are are modern day missionaries. They like Christ before them are are fishers of men. Your contributions plus their personaol sacrifices are helping to spread His word so that all men may be As One That Serves.Let the report,in it's stark simplicity, speak for itself.

Sept.19-23 International Plowing Match: Chairman AOts Booth--5 months planning, meetings. communications:two weeks creating display: fairly successful except for getting rid of pamphlets.
Sept.25/89--acting secretary for Tri-County AOTS District Council meeting
Oct.15/ 89---responsible for preparing AOTS service: Club acting as choir and 4 men assisting on the platform.
Oct.17/89---mailed two articles to " National Handshake".

Nov.10/89---Finance Committee met at Trinity U.C. in Windsor. Present: Jim Taylor, Bill Maris(potential member), Lloyd Richards Chairman, Rev. Allan Barns (briefly for accountability discussion--most helpful.

Nov. 15/89-- spoke on National AOTS finances at evening meeting of Erieview AOTS at Ridgerton Erie Street United Church.

Nov.25/89--attended as song leader the Tri County Rally,held at United Church in Tilbury; the usual roast beef dinner; the speaker R.Tschany, Principal of Iona College of the United Church, University of Windsor, Windsor, Ont.

Lloyd Clark Chairman

Faith is the assurance that the thing God has said in His Word is true.
and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word

The

Hall of Honour
We are pleased to pay tribute to two of the best in the ranks of AOTS.. To them has been bestowed a National Life Membership



Congratulations to Layton Stewart above and Murray MacPherson below..Layton hails from Toronto and has been a long and loyal AOTS worker in that Conference. Both men are still active on the Nation Council of AOTS. Murray hails from Winnipeg and culminated his career in AOTS as National President.. Murray has and still does ve in all levels of the United Church of Canada.



Coming Events

1990

B.C. RoundUp on March 10
Aldergrove United
Speaker Dr. Don Farris
Noon Until 10 p.m.

Alberta RoundUp on March 24-25
Wetaskewin

Ontario RoundUp on April 20-21-22
Geneva Park
Speaker Rev Don Smith

Celebration of Faith Faith
May 25-27
Trinity Western Langley B.C.
Speaker Rev. Howard Groom

Banff Conference
Oct 12-13-14
Speaker Herbert O'Driscoll

Convention 1991
August 1-4
Windsor Ontario
Theme Speaker Rev Bob Duthie

" Challenge For Commitment "



Max Hayward Reporting

I have my feet wet and am therefore satisfied to "Launch out into the Deep". I believe there is so much work to do be done and this can be accomplished by the men of the Church.. I have dreams , otherwise. this position would not have been one of my acceptance.

I feel that my first objective is to encourage all churches, regardless of size, to become involved and form an AOTS Club. Those churches with clubs other than AOTS should be encouraged to become a part of the National AOTS clubs.

There should be more interaction among clubs, thus, learning from and helping each other. We are an "Extended Arm of the Church", therefore, we, as AOTS Clubs should promote Jesus and His Work: make sure all men are aware of God's grace:and therefore play a more active part in "Spirit" promotion.

We have two fairly active Presbytery District Councils -1. Humber Presbytery District Council-President, Raymond King, Lascie, Nfld. ; Secretary, Tom Cole and Treasurer, Harry Seward. 2. Central Newfoundland District Council-President Paul Butt, Botwood, Nfld., Secretary Lester Curlew and Treasurer, Bert Butler.

Effort will be made as soon as possible to have a Conference AOTS Council.

At Present, I am making written contact with each AOTS Club in the Conference gathering up information about each and setting tentative visit schedules with each. I feel personal contact arouses enthusiasm Pray for me, I need prayers! Max.

Editor's Note: A hearty welcome to our newest Conference President. Max is an educator at the High School Principal level. He can take pride in the fact that members of his profession have given leadership to AOTS right from it's inception. Indeed some of the original 60 charter members were teachers. WGH

Mug Up *

A Mug-Up is a cup of tea, with toast, or raisen buns: it takesplace after breakfast, and before dinner comes: now dinner comes at lunch time,

and afternoon at 4' o'clock a Mug-Up in between.

A mug -Up is a spell, a rest, for someone on the go".

It comes each day 'cept Sundays for folks around the coves, 'tis a comfort to a working man-while bending o'r the "flake",** and a welcome call -at leisure-while leaning o'er the gate.

We like to have a Mug-Up any day when things are slow.

It sharpens up one's interest, and keeps one on the go: a treat between meals, weekdays, and out classes fastfoodstands; and it's centuries old, so we are told all over Newfoundland.

For people from the mainland or those from out of town, we hope you will "slew' round", "take hold". when Mug-Up time rolls round.

Please have another raisen bun, a piece of toast or tea, and enjoy your Mug-Up with your hosts right here beside the sea.

We welcome you come Mug-Up time,

we owe it to our guest , remeber we're Canadians too, just like the folks out west.

We welcome all you delegates , and have a real good time; we welcome you as you welcomed us in April '49.

* a welcome to Convention 83

by Arch Clark

formerly of Brigus, Conception Bay.

**a "flake" is a fish drying rack

Willard Proud Reporting



The 34th Stanhope Conference me Sept.15-17. 1989 at Camp Abegweit.. Young Men's Hour on Saturday continues to be a highlight

of the weekend and encourages us to hope that this event may continue for many years. The planning Committee for 90 will be chaired by one of these young men.

I was unable to attend Cape Breton Conference October 20-22. Some of our Island men attended and reported the usual high standard.

P.E.I. Presbytery Men's Council met for their Annual supper meeting on Nov. 8th with 77 men enjoying a roast beef dinner. Plans for Stanhope, Youth Speaking, Men's choir and election for the coming year were a part of the business meeting.

During a family visit Al Smith made to P.E.I early in October, he and I were able to attend several local events. First to attend the funeral and extend sympathy to Rev. Henry Tye on tl Death of his wife. Henry was a long time executive of Maritime Conference and is presently minister of Park Royal congregation. On Tuesday morning we attended Royal men's breakfast meeting and in the evening to Trinity, Charlottetown, men's opening meeting for the season. It was a "Jiggs " dinner, an annual event, where the wives join in and the meal is provided by the men. On Oct 12th, Al and I went to Trenton, N.S. for very worthwhile visit with Tom Ferguson, our Eastern Vice-President.

Botwood Gordon Brett Reports The Botwood Trinity AOTS successfully held its Annual Ladies Night on Dec 13, 1989. A full hall thoroughly enjoyed the hot turkey supper served by the UCW.

President Heddy Hart chaired the first part of the evening's activities. Gordon Butt toasted the ladies, thanking them for their ardent support and understanding. Flossie Seeviour responded to the toast on behalf of the ladies. Also honoured were Sheila Hannaford (Cub Leader), Shirley Hibbs (Beaver

Leader) and her assistant Marilyn Curlew. The program was started with a sing song under the astute leadership of A. Jack Baker. A live band and the AOTS choir catalyzed those attending to partake in the joys of song and music. The jolly old man himself provided for surprise excitement as the ladies were called to receive their gifts. A visit by some mummers also added to the excitement.

We celebtrate ladies night once a year, but as far as we are concerned every night is ladies night. Thank You Ladies

Devotional- by Lloyd Clark Reconciliation

Probably no person in history has had a more motley crew of followers than Jesus: rough and tumble fishermen, ambitious for special privileges; a despised tax gatherer; and national zealous zealots. However they were drawn to Christ. He was their source of unity. Jesus loved and trusted them even when they did not respond in a like manner. He did not dwell on their weaknesses but saw in them only the best of possibilities. He loved and trusted Peter. Even when Peter denied Him thrice, Jesus simply looked on him with sorrow, pity and love.

After Jesus' resurrection when He confronted the fishermen disciples on the shore of Galilee, we remember what Peter's replies were to Jesus' question, "Peter do you love me?" In our best moments, our response to Jesus' question is the same. That same sorrow, pity and love has been working on my hurt and anger, regarding the furore in the United Church. Thank God that through our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His amazing grace, it is possible for us human beings and nations to overcome fear and distrust by steadfastly practising His Love and trust in every problem of human relationships. The answer to reconciliation of individuals and nations we find in Peter's loyalty and commitment to the living person of Jesus, the Christ of History, the Son of the Living God, our Lord and Saviour, our King, our shepherd and our friend.



Early Morning Service at Clear Lake

Leadership Recognition

The Manitoba AOTS District Council is planning a leadership recognition event for April 2 1990. This year the Council is giving recognition to United Church Secretaries in Greater Winnipeg's 48 United Churches. A dinner and the issuing of "Recognition certificates will be held in Gordon King Memorial United Church. Clare Baely

Alberta



Breaking Down The Wall

We all have seen much of that wall, the "Berlin Wall" in the news lately. A wall that separated brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers. Friends of course, it is sometimes hard for us to realize the suffering that wall has caused but Hurrah! at last it is crumbling down. Families are reuniting. Tears of happiness are flowing freely. Oh how beautiful. but many scars can never be healed and of course precious years have been lost. Why?

Having attended the AOTS National Executive Meeting in Burlington, Ontario last December 2, 1989, I kept thinking, "Is it possible that we also could have a bit of an imaginary wall between provinces or between East and West?" Well I am happy to report that I feel extremely sensitive about the caring and concern expressed by the National AOTS men right from the President, Bob Lewis, down to the groups of hard working, God fearing men in the local clubs.

That brings me to the wall that could separate us from an eternal place with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ if we would let Satan have his way. Fellow AOTS men, let each and everyone pray for one another sharing the faith to this world of ours. Also remember the national level and their financial need. I challenge each of one of us to make a donation to a

Northwest Territories

cause worthy of our support. After all it is His AOTS and in turn he gives us the pleasure to let us serve. And may we all together never ask what are we paying for or the purpose of our national AOTS. Let's break that wall and open the gate, this time heaven's gate.

Max Vandenbrink, President
Alberta and NW Conference

A New Project From Gaetz?

Under the direction of President Alex Dmetrichuk and his executive this Red Deer Alberta AOTS Club ventured into the field of communication and listening. Directed to the area of pastoral care a core of 12 club members acquired skills to make this come about. Four Sunday evenings sessions were held under the guidance of Rev. Bob Noble of the Red Deer Family Service Bureau. They are now out and about their diverse community practising their new found skills. A progress report is sought so that it can be run in the next issue.

And Dont Forget ALberta

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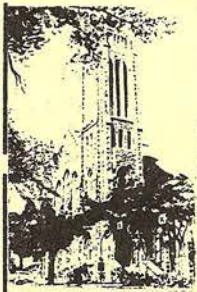
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My pasture: You are Men, and I am
Your God says the Lord God

Ezekiel 34:31