

# The



# Handshake

As One That Serves

Issue No. 25

Winter Edition

Dec 1992



## On Earth Peace Good Will Toward Men



### President Lloyd's Message

A very successful annual meeting was held October 23,24,25 at Trinity United Church in North Bay, thanks to the efforts of President Keith Bryer and the hard working members of the Trinity AOTS club.

As well as receiving the reports of the National Officers, Committee Chairman, and the Conference Representatives, quite some time was spent on discussing "Marketing AOTS in the 90's" Some of the highlights from these discussions were:

1. Special Development of men be continued as a prime objective of AOTS

2. A publicity/public relations chairman be appointed to prepare and issue press releases re. the work of AOTS, through Conference Reports, Round Ups, etc.

3. To consider new National Projects, such as supplying water to countries needing a supply of fresh clean water. These were a few of the ideas aired at this meeting.

It was agreed that Ken Lane and myself would meet with the National Representatives of the UCW, to discuss ways and means that the UCW and UC AOTS Men could work together in the years ahead.

It is my belief that we as an organization, are receiving more recognition through the National Church and the local congregations. As we go forth in the 90s it is my prayer that the men of the church, continue to become a stronger arm of the

church, reaching out in fellowship to all men of the communities.

I would like to issue a challenge to every AOTS club that "Some time within the next 6 months, either invite a friend or neighbour to one of your meetings, or, visit a non affiliated men's club in your area" not so much to promote AOTS but rather to extend the hand of fellowship. Each one of us can be a salesman for AOTS. We have a great product to sell.

**May the Spirit of the Holy Christ Child, be with each and everyone during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Lloyd Richards President

**See Convention Insert - Register Now  
For August 13-14-15 at Langley B.C.**

# The Handshake

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## Deadlines

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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 and UCM Clubs, individual AOTS members and any men's groups that are known to the Handshake. Special and regional issues usually accompany each issue but the emphasis in this issue is on the 93 Convention.

## Purpose

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

## The Daily Gleaner

Aug 22, 1922 By Davis Meagher



## Church Moderator Installed

## Christian and Native

Christian Tradition combined with native mysticism Friday as the United Church of Canada installed its first aboriginal moderator in its 67 year history.

## New Moderator

Stanley J. McKay, 50, of Beausejour, Man. formally succeeded Walter Farquarson during an hour and 45 minute

bilingual installation service held at historic Wilmot Church.

For the occasion, Mr. McKay wore a traditional black, blue, yellow and red unity shirt.

## Solemn Tradition

With his wife, Dorothy looking on Mr. McKay participated in a solemn traditional Cree ceremony known as smudging. It involved Alf Dumont of Winnipeg, speaker of the All Native Circle Conference, using a feather to fan Mr. McKay with the smoke of smoldering, tightly-braided sweet grass.

The ceremony represented spiritual cleansing, preparation and pacification. It's intended to teach individuals to respect others' beliefs in "kind and gentle ways."

## Cree Hymn Sing

Fifteen members of the All-Native Circle conference representing various aboriginal nations, sang Mr. McKay's favorite Cree hymn for him. Mr. Dumont presented Mr. McKay with a traditional native talking stick. He also received several Christian symbols of office: a gavel, a cane and the Bible used at the founding celebrations of the United Church in 1925. Mr. McKay, like all his predecessors as moderator, will sign the Bible.

Youth representatives presented him with an off the wall "survival kit," which included Tylenol and novelties.

## Editor's Note.

The news item goes on to include encouragement from the very Reverend Lee whose philosophy was much like his thoughts presented to the Banff Men's Conference. Your National Executive intends to meet with Stanley J. McKay and apprise him of the goals and objectives of AOTS. The editor looks forward to communications which we can share with you from the new moderator similar to those from his predecessor the very Reverend Walter Farquarson.



## God Cares For You Part II

by John Carswell

## God Cares

I know God cares for people "out there" but sometimes I wonder if he cares for ME? As I look around and see people hurting, again the question is asked, "Where is God's Love?"

## God Loves

During times when things are going well it is so easy to say, "I know God loves me", but when everything is going against the system, how can this be allowed?

It appears to me that the result of these hardships is the building of character and the maturing of one's soul

## Walk With God

In order to ease our pain and suffering, we should walk more closely with our Father God. Learn of His ways, follow His direction, share with people and help them when we can. Love them and pray for them. It is in this manner that we will become a better Christian and thus have the inner peace and knowledge that indeed God DOES really care for me.

May God shower you with his blessing every day of your life.

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Special to the Handshake  
17 Sept/ 1992



Earlier this month (Sept) a great Christian Soldier passed to his reward.

**Charlie**

**Martindale** of

St. Luke's AOTS in Sudbury Ontario is no longer with us.

His cheerful face will be missed by all in Manitou Conference. All of us who have been privileged to attend the Ontario Round Up will remember his quiet voice very often silent as he listened to others and then coming forth with the essence of the matter being discussed.

I remember the day when I had been hospitalized after an accident while touring Manitou Conference North of Sudbury as Central Vice President. While I was sliding in and out of consciousness. It seemed every time I awakened there was the face of Charlie with his warm smile. I shall always remember his great generosity of spirit. When it was time to go home it was Charlie who came with others along to the airport to see me off.

Yes he was a great Christian and a kind and loving man who exemplified the very spirit of being One That Serves. Best wishes to his wife and family from all of us. The movement can ill afford to loose men like Charlie

This tribute prepared by Reg Cooper Vice Pres. Wilmer Heights AOTS.



**Bellefair N' Toronto**

From the Bellefair AOTS Newsletter  
**Always Serving.**

"Ivan the Controller" of the sanctuary PA system also tapes the service. The demand for the one cassette produced gives cause to produce multiple reproductions. The AOTS is willing to pur-

chase a tape reproducing machine but feels it must approach this project through the worship committee who will see to its distribution.

**Items for sale:** We've obtained a new board game "Office Politics". Were selling it for \$10.00 it retails for \$30.00. O.K. for 2 to 4 players ages 15 to adults. The supply is stored with the Maple Syrup and Giant Colouring Books at the church. I won't have my Christmas sales at Crown Life this year so we're going to have to take up the slack in other ways.

**Church Bazaar**

Was held on Saturday Nov. 14th.. The club sold the above items. Pres. Ed Cooper was the coordinator with club members not only selling, but supplying the physical know how in helping to set things up. Financial results available for next issue.

**Kingston Road AOTS**

Enjoyed an excellent turnout for a great performance by Gail Elliot Ross and partner Steve. The club is to be congratulated for their efforts to organize and put on this great show.

**Toronto Conference Rally.**

Was held Oct 5 at Wilmar Heights and it went well. AOTS National President, Lloyd Richards brought some men with him from the Tri County area and it was good to welcome them to our midst.. Lloyd spoke about the AOTS scene in his address and answered questions from the floor.

**Bellefair Jay's Nights.**

John Carswell eat your heart out!! Back in June 120 Bellefair people went to the ball game. Then in September Ed Cooper arranged for 50 Beavers, and those associated with them, to go on a Tuesday night.. The following Thursday 153 more Bellefairites saw John Olerud's home run in the 10th inning win the game for the Blue Jays. Would you believe it? 323 Bellefair people bought tickets to get together to watch the Blue Jays play. Congratulations to Pres-

ident Ed Cooper who is the driving force behind all this and who took the chance that he might be stuck with some tickets, having paid for them on his credit card. There is certainly a great spirit around Bellefair these days and I'm one old timer who loves it.

Editor: Harry Wolfrain

**Wilmar Heights**

**Youth:**

Roy Couch attends Hockey sponsoring meeting. Club to sponsor Mural paintings by the Sunday School on excavation board. Sid Bagnall continuing plans for a Junior Choir.

**Projects:**

Plans for Christmas Tree sale. Possible joint action with "Fun and Fellowship Committee". All possible ways and means being investigated to raise funds for the church . One possibility a Canadian Saving Bond Sale.

**Bar B. Q.**

An outstanding success. Held on Sept 12 at Bill and Hazel's place. The Ball Game? on 14th was well attended.

**Toronto Conference Rally**

Club hosted this event. Reg Cooper welcomes attendees. Budd Backer spoke on Office Politics Project. More info under Bellefair News.

From Minutes by Lorne Thornely

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**Convention**

**93  
Or  
Bust**



**14 Ontario Wagons will cross the Prairies and Rockies to arrive at Langley B.C. for Aug 13-14-15**



## AOTS club holds talk with leader.\*

Ken Lane(right), Executive Director of the National Association of AOTS clubs, was in Duncan for two days lastweek.(August 26-27)



His trip to B.C. was

mainly concerned with arranging details of the 1993 National Convention to be held next August at Langley, B.C. He also visited with his cousin, Fred Cummings and met with Ernie Stafford(left) a past National President.



In addition to these two he had a luncheon meeting on Thursday with seven other Duncan past Presidents: Reg Brownsdey, Norm Carter, Keith Faught, Alf Lloyd, Don Morton, Bill Powell and Bill Sommerville.

Attracting particular interest at the Thursday gathering was the "Observer on Tape" project. Beginning in 1985 with 45 recorded "Observers" per month, it has grown to more than 10 times that number.

It is almost entirely sponsored by one club at Kingston, Ontario. It involves reading on to cassettes virtually the whole of the United Church Observer and circulating them free of charge to handicapped persons on request. This national project is proving each year to be more and more successful and will undoubtedly receive support from the local club.

Duncan members though ceasing to have summer meetings in July and August have been extremely active. The club conducted Sunday services on Aug 2 at the Extended Care Hospital and on Aug 16 at Cowichan Lodge with President George Hardwick in charge. On July 18 they sent

a seven man delegation to the Vancouver Island AOTS Council at Oak Bay. The next council meeting will be in Duncan Oct. 17. Regular supper meetings resume on



Sept. 24. Don Morton (right) Reporting \*This report is taken from the city of Duncan's "The Citizen". The Archives have similar newspaper clippings dating back to the 50's with nearly all of them authored by Don.

## Cranbrook AOTS

### President Wilf Prouten Reporting

#### Plans and Objectives

1. To do the work and spread the word of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Assist Peter Brown with his Youth Group as may be required from time to time.
3. Contact "Young Life" through Jack Van Leusden to learn what AOTS can do for the non-churched youth of Cranbrook.
4. Continue to work with other congregations and the elected committee relative to Camp needs and affairs.
5. Work with our Church Committee and Stewards in maintenance of the Church, the manse and as needed with United Church Women where help may be needed, (maintenance or other wise).
6. Invite other United Church men who do not have an AOTS Club in their congregation to join with us at our monthly meetings.

#### Projects

1. Our yearly "White Elephant Sale" is going along and will be held Oct. 17th, 1992
2. We will discuss the feasibility of one or two brunches during the year 92/93 and perhaps go for breakfasts or suppers.
3. We will hold our congregational Ladies Night in March or April of 93.

4. The ladies who serve meals at our meetings will be invited to our meeting and supper of June 93.

5. AOTS National are working on General Council and various church courts to allow presbytery and conference to accept AOTS representation at their functions. If and when it happens we will elect and prepare our members as representatives.

#### Donations

AOTS has over the past several years contributed, by the donation of funds, to several charitable causes. We intend to continue doing so. We are or will be considering the following areas for 92/93.

- (a) Eye sight International
- (b) B.C. & N.W. Territories Red Cross.
- (c) Cranbrook Food Bank
- (d) Rock Lake Camp
- (e) Sponsorship of Children to Rock Lake activities.
- (f) Sponsorship of other causes as may be elected and approved by the club membership.

Presented with Faith in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

\* Wilf is a Presbytery Rep. He reports for AOTS as well.

## In the Next Issue

Camp Pringle Rally Report  
Vancouver Island Council  
Pre Christmas Rally  
at South Burnaby  
and Much Much More  
**Keep it Coming Guys !**

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## Hospital Project



Dr. Peter Reports.

### Divine Intervention?

So said Dr. Newberry the head of the United Church Hospital Services. The occasion was his meeting with four of the National Convention Committee, Bill Pike, Bill Hastings, John Carswell, and Roy Jones, while disembarking at the Vancouver International Airport. The four committee members were returning from the National AOTS Annual Meeting at North Bay. Dr. Peter was returning from a medical seminar on Asthma.

Once we had renewed acquaintances the National Convention Chairman Roy Jones and the Doctor discussed his role at that Convention. The two of them carried on an intense conversation while they were walking up the ramp, going down the escalator, and at the baggage carousel. Dr. Peter asked what was expected and how it was to be presented. Roy promised confirmation of all this by letter.

### The Hospital Fund

One thing for sure the attendees at the National Convention will not only hear but see the results of their support of this fund over the years. By the way the National Executive approved on your behalf the forwarding of \$ 4000.00 to Dr. Newberry. Your donations over this biennium are to be directed towards continuing education of the support staff in our United Church Hospitals.

Stay Tuned: For exciting new concepts of "Rostered Group Practice" and actual filed reports from various areas. Look for it in our Spring issue.

## Update -- Church Government and Related Matters



by Maurice Wright

Our National Corresponding Secretary returns with statistics to emphasize his concerns by stating *"there has been a further membership loss, the largest percentage decrease in the Church's history, as well as a substantial decrease in the number of preaching places. There have also been declines in a number of other areas."*

He goes on to substantiate his concerns with well presented sets of figures from the Church's Year Books, the Observer, and other sources. From these he charts the decline in attendance at Conference Annual Meetings and points out the following:

*"Once again, these numbers indicate that the attendance at Conference annual meetings at which level the commissioners to General Council are elected, is less than 1% of the Church's membership, about 0.75%, the remaining 99+ % having no role in that election and, hence no representation on General Council."*

Throughout the three pages of vital statistics running the gambit from church school attendance to the values of local Church Properties, the reader must share Maurice's conclusions of the state of our church. His closing comments sum up his continuing concerns.

*This concluded what I wish to report on this matter at this time. As you can see, there has been in 1991, a further*

*decline in Church membership and in other areas as well. What is particularly interesting is that the membership decline has persisted since 1965, and in recent years the rate of decline has been increasing, due in part perhaps, to the actions of General Council on the sexuality issue. In any case, the loss of members has been very large and it would appear that it will continue unless something is done to give the membership a proper role in our form of government. "I would welcome your reactions to this report and any comments you would care to offer. It is a matter that we in AOTS should address, and I hope you will be persuaded to do so. I would be very pleased to hear from you."*

Editor's note. This report has been distributed to all of the National Executive. If anyone wishes a copy of the full report you can write to: Maurice Wright, 1454 Willowdown Road, Oakville Ont. L6L 1X3

## The Fellowship and Membership Committee Announces!



The D.R. Poole Youth Award (1) and

### The Dave Sherwood Award (2)



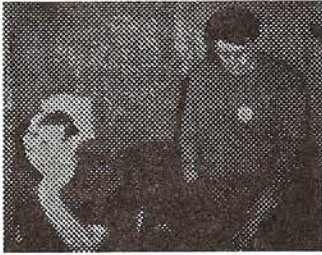
(1) For Youth Work. In memory of the AOTS first Exec. Director D.R.Poole.(2) For Club with the greatest % membership increase. In Memory of 3rd National President Dave Sherwood.Entry forms are in the mail. Find out about Dave and D.R. in the next issue.

**Hear and See Dr. Peter's special report on the Hospital Project  
Where? At the 1993 National Convention Aug 12-13-14 - Register Now!**



## The Annual Meeting of the National Association of AOTS Clubs

### We Gathered:



In the near century Old North Bay United Church. Our President Lloyd Richards (sitting far left) opened the meeting at 6:30 sharp on Friday evening Oct 23rd. He guided us efficiently through a horrendous agenda that took us to the closing "move we adjourn" at 5 p.m. on Saturday Oct.24. Due to more pressing commitments seven members were missing yet they were with us in spirit through their Annual Reports. Some Reports are detailed in our regional pages. All are available through our National Executive Director Ken Lane. Your Editor as a veteran of many such Annual meetings rates the report and the meeting itself with an A plus.

### We Prayed We Listened:

President Lloyd started us off with an inspiring devotional and President elect John Carswell (standing upper left) set the theme of our discussions and questions to the reports with a look at "AOTS Actions In The Future".

### We Reported:

Out of the reports came highlights, questions and discussions, some of which are listed here.

**The National Officers:** These leaders painted a picture of a healthy organization of faith and service. Healthy from the aspect that we have held our own over the last decade despite the overall erosion of Christianity in general and our Church in particular. These national officers who make up your executive reported on visits to groups of men in every corner of this far flung country of ours. They reported new interest here and a non affiliated group there and every now and then a flagging group who needed an infusion of faith and enthusiasm. As they asked Christian Men stand up and be counted and invited them to become a body of one in Christ. It came out that we are still a national organization of serving Christian men who celebrate their faith together in gatherings from Newfoundland to B.C. from the Yukon to Bermuda.

**AOTS Conference Reports:** As the Regional and Conference officers reported we were once more made aware that men were gathering, were sharing, and growing in His presence at men's retreats and within men's clubs. Some of this genius is to be found in regional pages of the Handshake. The hand of Christian fellowship is being extended and gladly accepted even though there is a reluctance to being structured. Our leaders have accepted this as their mission and within our purpose. As Ones That Serves are searching to bond all the men within our church.

### Committee Reports

**Financial Summit:** The two gentlemen at the far right in deep discussion are Ernie Orpin on the left National Treasurer and Ed Edwards our National Finance Chairman. It's a tight fiscal ship but we do manage to keep our head above the water.

**Church and Community Service.** Taking the Chair from retiring Al Smith was our old friend and a Past National President Murry McPherson. Ongoing projects such as the Hospital Fund, The Harry Colnett Fund, and the "Observer on Tape" come under this committee. All three are doing extremely well.

**Constitution:** Some general housekeeping was done here. More importantly the office of President Elect was put up to scrutiny, perhaps elimination. It was voted not to eliminate this office. All other changes will be put before the Convention for approval or rejection.

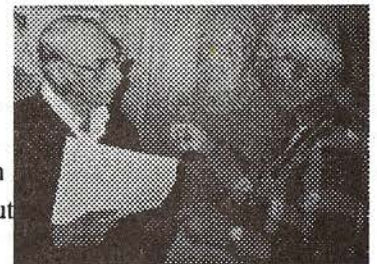
**Conventions:** 1993-Note details throughout the Handshake. A full report by Chairman Roy Jones covering every aspect was presented. Everything is falling into place. The 1995 Convention Committee is negotiating for a location.

**Spiritual Life.** The Handbook for 1993 was displayed and sums up the efforts of this excellent committee. Copies for each club to go out soon. **Marketing AOTS in the 90's** See President Lloyd's report on page 1 for the recommendations that came out of this two hour discussion.



### Thanks

To Trinity United of North Bay. That's Rev. Murry Arnill (left) representing the Church and Keith Bryer President of the AOTS Club. Thanks for supplying those billets, the meeting place and a double thanks to your ladies for lunch and that excellent turkey dinner. North Bay are supporting amongst other things the drive against wife battering. More on this in the next issue.



Convention 93 to Host  
AOTS Annual Meeting

Next Annual Meeting precedes Convention 93. Interested individuals may sit in as observers. Starts Thursday Night August 12 and runs through Friday Aug 13

## Western Vice President Reports



The Alberta Executive met in Calgary Aug 11/92 with Western Canada Vice President Wally Shoults(left) attending. He presented a copy of a letter of thanks

which went out to each minister in the Alberta Conference for announcing the Annual Round Up last spring. The letter also contained the names and addresses of the Alberta AOTS President and Vice President for future reference.

Plans were laid out to hold an AOTS meeting at the Banff Men's Conference. This happened as planned.

The date of the Alberta AOTS RoundUp in March is to fall on the weekend after the B.C. Round Up. Wally hoped that the Saskatchewan Round Up could fall a week after that so that a National Officer could attend all three functions.

Reports have come in that McLures United in Edmonton wants to strengthen their men's club and are seeking assistance.

Jack Shaw the Alberta AOTS President is endeavouring to have AOTS Reps sit in Presbytery and become a part of that church court. He also discussed the possibility of AOTS becoming involved in Habitat for Humanity. Jack reported much activity of men throughout Alta.

Ross Evans contacted Walley in March with respect to attending the Annual Saskatchewan meeting on April 10 in Regina. He agreed to deliver the devotional for this function, which included some one hundred men from across southern Saskatchewan. The clubs in Regina seem to be functioning well.

Wally contacted Jacek Romanowski earlier this spring with regard to Manitoba activities. Invited to a special gathering in Southern Manitoba for Oct 3 to 5. Accepted invitation and expected to be included in the activities. See Manitoba page for their and Alberta's activities in Habitat for Humanity.

Wally Shoults  
Reporting

## Saskatchewan Report

Regina men running Banff Men's Conference for 1993. Active cubs holding their own.. Regina Cross Town Club holds September Corn Roast. Good turnout.



Al Diston Honourary National President  
Reporting



Jack Shaw  
Alberta  
Conference  
President  
Reports

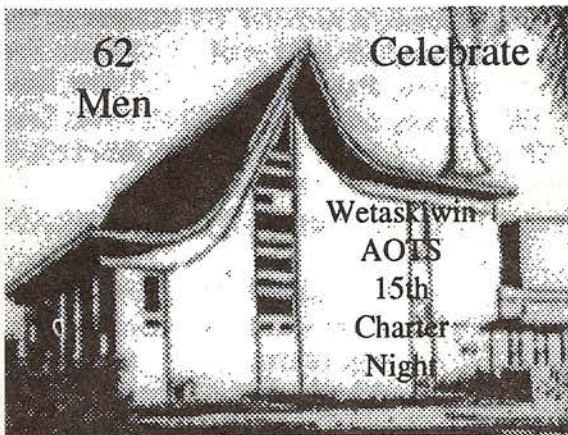
Reports activities in all Alberta Clubs. Aside from the Wetaskawin who reported this page, no reports or minutes out of any other club.

Dates for Alberta Spring Round Up set for March 13 with B.C. Round Up on March 6th. Non affiliated Foothills club of Calgary to be the hosts for this years Round Up.

Sees a unifying force in Habitat for Humanity amongst the clubs and men of Alberta. Some men already interested as per story on the Manitoba page.

Found Banff and National Annual Meeting full of men who were open and responsive to the needs of the clubs.

From Reports by Jack Shaw



### From the Minutes

Funds were dispersed: \$1000.00 to the memorial fund for a new Piano. \$150.00 to the second mile of the National AOTS. \$600.00 dollars to the education of students in Kenya, \$32.00 each to ten men to attend the Alberta Round Up in Calgary.

**And finally:** Wetsakawin AOTS served a sunrise breakfast on Easter Sunday and provided

pancake breakfasts on the city's 100th Anniversary, Aug 1st 1992.

### From Charter Night Bulletin

33 active Charter Members, 9 Honoured and remembered charter members  
Jim Dickie a Past Honourary National President installed a full slate of officers with Don Busse as President. 6 clubs were represented with 19 from the Red Deer Club

**P.S.** They supplied financial support for the attendees at Camp Kasaota to the tune of \$100.00 per child.

Jim Larson  
Secretary  
Reporting

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See the Hall of Memories at Convention 93  
AOTS Archival Artifacts Photographs and Mementos



**Habitat  
Canada  
News**



The Handshake brings you an update on Habitat Canada. We are most appreciative for the material and the photographs that we have taken from the "Habitat Canada News". A special thanks to Dr. Murry McPherson for bringing this all to our attention and to the role the AOTS and men of the United Church are playing in this most worthwhile endeavor.

The News tells us that there is exciting things happening in Alberta,



Edmonton, Saturday July 25th 1992. Dedication of the Whitnack's new home built during Homes Across Canada '92

Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. In the later case we are running a most interesting article from the News that relates not only to Habitat but to a specific United Church. It is reported hear under the heading

**Koocheching Gains Support**

Pproject Koocheching is attracting support from three Ontario organizations and a Manitoba company.

The Cloverleaf Charitable Foundation, established in 1988 and based in Don Mills, expresses the desire of the family of the late William Henry Carter to undertake charitable projects. The Clover-

leaf partnership is a natural, since the family construction business has been active in the north employing and supporting people.

Bridge Street United Church Foundation in Belleville was set up in in 1973 and has distributed more than \$2.3 million to local national and international outreach programs. The Good Foundation Inc., Breslau family based organization has supported charitable programs in the province for nearly two decades.

Also facilitating the Koocheching endeavour is Air Manitoba, which is offering Habitat Canada a discount on "positive space passenger traffic" anywhere in their system, including Sandy Lake, the destination nearest the

**Habitat Home  
AOTS 1993**

Manitoba District Council has agreed to sponsor the construction of an AOTS United Church Habitat home during the 1993 summer. The Church Covenant Program calls for the clubs of Manitoba, working through the council to sponsor a "Habitat Family ". Their terms of reference are as follows.

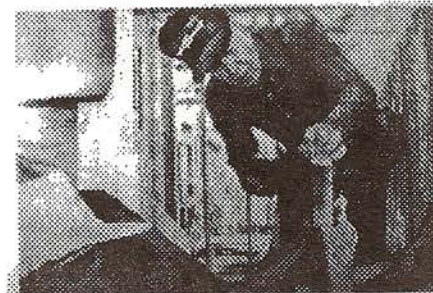
- (a) assist in the selection process
- (b) raise funds (40 to 50,000 over the next two years.
- (c) serve as mentor for the family for at least three years.

and  
to construct a home during the building blitz in July 1993



**AOTS  
Habitat  
Home**

Sponsored and built by the Manitoba AOTS Council in 1989. The shingles applied by Gov. General Edward Schryer and Walter Jones Bishop of the Anglican Church.



President Jimmy Carter, Honourary Chairman of Habitat 93, seen here lending a helping hand.

**Habitat For Humanity**

**What is Habitat for**

**Humanity ?** It is a non profit, Christian housing ministry working together with the poor.

**Capital Not Charity:** The capital is provided through long term no interest mortgages.

**Sweat Equity:** Habitat homeowners contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" towards the construction of their home and the homes of others.

**People Helping People:** Support for Habitat comes from the private sector, individuals, churches, businesses.

**Family Selection:** A local committee screens and interviews applicants, selecting buyers on the basis of their present housing condition, family size, ability to pay an willingness to contribute sweat equity.

**Global Perspective:** An affiliate of Habitat International , like Winnipeg, contributes 10% of its donated funds to support housing projects in other countries.

**How Can You Participate ?**

By communicating with with  
Winnipeg Habitat For Humanity  
181 Church Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2W 1B6



**Habitat Is Coming to Convention 93  
With Information Videos Consultants**







**B.C.** Whole Province gearing for Convention 93 under the chairmanship of Roy Jones. Reports in from Duncan, South Burnaby, Vancouver Island Council. Pre-Christmas Luncheon planned for Dec.12th at South Burnaby. Chilliwack is welcomed back into the fold. 100 attend Camp Pringle Rally.

## Alberta

300 men attend Banff Men's Conference. Spring Round Up on March 13th Host Club Foothills United. Habitat for Humanity on the move.

## Saskatchewan

**Regina Clubs** responsible for 1993 Banff Men's Conference. **St. Andres of Moosejaw** Fowl Supper on Oct 30th well attended both by Congregation and the public. Meals on wheels rolling along. Work party at Camp Caperman. Planning for new wooden bunks for the cabin they are responsible for.

## Manitoba

See Manitoba Page

## Ontario

For the next issue we will have: **Howard Wills** with reports out of St.James Rosemount Kitchiner, First United Cambridge, St.Pauls, Oakville. **Out of London Conference:** Reports from Fullerton, Comber, Belgrave, and Harrow. **An update** from Wilmar Heights and its building project. Pictures with lots of Good Heads in Hard Hats. **And O Yes!** We haven't forgotten you Hope AOTS nor you Victoria AOTS. **Then there is Bob Brewster** and his attendance at the 6th Computer Application for the Ministry. Stand by to hear of "The Future is What Used to Be" which was the theme of this Conference. To poke a bit of fun at these computer individuals I quote a sentence. "The Maritime AOTS Conference has joined the Toronto Conference as a member of AOTS Link through UCANNET, (formerly UCHUG) on the N.A. Church Computer Network (ECUNET)."

## Nova Scotia New Brunswick Prince Edward Island

Maritime Conference Men were treated to two successful conferences in September 1992 - the 37th Stanhope Men's Conference and the Twelfth Annual Cape Breton Men's Conference.

At the Stanhope Conference approximately seventy men were inspired by an old friend and theme speaker, the Rev. Doug Woods as he explored the theme "Here I AM Lord, Send Me! In his four addresses, Rev. Doug discussed the lives of a number of Biblical characters (Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jerimiah, Samuel, Joseph, David, Paul, and Peter as they responded to God's call and went on to a life of service to God and man.

On Saturday afternoon the Conference was addressed by the President of Maritime Conference, the Rev. Henry Tye. He challenged the men to ponder "What is My Father's Business, that I may be about it.

The Conference closed on Sunday Morning with Communion and an opportunity for individual prayer.

This reporter was not able to attend the Cape Breton Conference but he has reports from a reliable source that it was very well attended and very enjoyable. This is the second year that it was held at the Mira Pines Retreat Center. The theme speaker was the Reverend Victor McLeod. The Rev. Henry Tye also visited the Conference on Saturday.

The Next event for men in the Maritimes will be the Fredericton Christian Men's Retreat scheduled for Feb 19 to 21, 1993.

This has been a good year for the men of the Maritimes, and I wish to thank all those who have given so freely of their time to organize the events listed above, and the many other activities in which the men of our church are involved, A special thanks to three men who represented United Church Men on different occasions this past year, Lorne Harding the Biennial Conference; Ralph

Sams Maritime Conference Annual Meeting; and Bob Bartlett, General Council.

Wilson Jones Reporting  
Maritime Conference Men's Representative

## Newfoundland

Represented AOTS at Volunteer Fireman's Ball

Installed Officers at Grace United AOTS in Springfield.

Attended Humber Presbytery District Council Meeting and AOTS dinner meeting at St. Pauls

Attended AOTS dinner meeting and church service at Bethany UC in Baie Verte took part in service and brought greetings from AOTS.

Attended regular AOTS dinner meeting at Bishop's Falls as guest speaker. Attended AOTS Rally at Woodstock UC with Reverend William Colburne as guest speaker.

Attended funeral of Brother Frank Boyles, Springdale, who was a long time AOTS member. Brought recollections and words of sympathy and comfort to the family on behalf of AOTS.

Attended the meeting of the Humber Presbytery at Grace UC in Sprindale. Raymond Gray Reporting Conference Representative

Editors Note. Hey! Grace United, St Pauls, Bethany, The Woodstock Rally, and Bishops Falls how about sending us your minutes like Deer Lake does? The rest of Canada is dying to hear from you.

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## " A Son Is Born "

Scripture: Matthew 1:18 - 25

*Mary will have a son, and you (Joseph) will name him Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.*

**Opening Prayer:** O Heavenly Father: Our lives are filled with expectations as we await the coming of your Son. In this season which is filled with so many gifts, let us not forget the greatest gifts of life that touch our hearts and deepen the spirit within us.

We thank you for the gift of human love, which draws us together in family and friendship. Let this love which we feel for one another move us in need. For Christ came into the world to seek and to save the lost. Amen

**Lesson:** The years come and go quickly for AOTS members as well all people everywhere. Another year is just around the corner but before that page is turned there is that joyous event of Christmas to remember and to be refreshed in our minds.

Our world is busier to-day than ever before, and as this Holy season of the year approaches, no doubt events on the political scene will overshadow the celebration of The One Event that continues to shape our world. No doubt the news headlines will focus on Yeltzen and the tremendous changes sweeping Eastern Europe like a fire across a Saskatchewan wheatfield. Nothing else on the international scene seems any more significant to-day, from Moscow to Berlin.

Meanwhile babies are being born in all corners of the world, Britain, India, Japan, etc., but who is interested in babies and bottles, cradles and cribs, while history is being made. Who cares about infants, this year Europe is in the lime light.

Thirty or forty years from now people will look back at some famous names who drew their first breath in 1993. Others will say, all that and more happened in 1993 but who cares. The destiny of the world is being shaped on the political

battle fields all across Europe.

### Or is it ? I don't think so !

Only a mere few history buffs will ever remember, but who will be able to measure the impact of all the other lives ? What appeared to be super significant to the world will be no more exciting than an afternoon chit chat. What seemed to be totally insignificant was, in fact, the genesis of an era

Let us go back some 2000 years. Who could have cared then about the birth of a baby while the whole world watched Rome in all its splendor? The Roman empire was as vast as it was vicious. Political intrigue, racial tensions, immortality, and military might captured the attention of everyone and in their conversations Caesar was the name of the day.

At that time who was interested in a couple making an eighty mile trip south from Nazareth? What could possibly be more important than Caesar's decisions in Rome ?

Who cared about a little Jewish boy born in Bethlehem ? Let me tell you God did. Without realizing it mighty Caesar was only an errand boy for the fulfillment of Mica's prediction. He was only a pawn in the hand of Yahweh. A piece of lint in the pages of prophecy. For, while Caesar was busy making history, God arrived. He pitched his fleshy tent in silence on straw, in a stable under a star. The world didn't even notice.

It was reeling from the wake of Alexander the great. The world completely overlooked Mary's little lamb. It still does.

As a member of the AOTS family, this Christmas, let your heart hold fast to His words; keep his commandments and live.

And whatever you do in word and deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your father who is in heaven.

Christian friend, walk in a manner that is worthy of the calling with which you have been called.

Richest blessings to all at this blessed time of the year.

The Devotional Committee\*



The above devotional was taken in part from the 1993 Spiritual Life Outreach Handbook. Produced by this committee under the chairmanship of Gil Reashore it is intended as a guide for club devotional. Missing from this particular one is the suggested discussion period and the closing prayer.

The committee and the Handshake welcome your favourite devotional and are prepared to include it in either publication. In the mean time clubs are encouraged to have their membership to conduct the devotionals making the above mentioned handbook a basis for this most important club activity.

**Let's Talk Devotions at the National Convention with Gil Reashore  
August 13-14-15 At Langley, B.C. Register Now !**