

The Handshake

ROUND-UP REPORT by ROY JONES.

We had 96 men registered and 115 sat down for dinner.

The theme was Mens' Responsibilities in the United Church today. Bob Bagshaw assisted by Harry Vogel led us in uplifting songs all day.

Host club president Reg Atwell deserves a lot of credit for arrangements made.

Rev David Moddle of Brechin lead us in opening worship. His theme focused on the four men who came with the paralytic man on the cot and set this as an example of what AOTS (As One that Serves) is all about living as Christians in today's world.

B.C. President Bill Cumming thanked all for their efforts and brought to our attention the Dudley McLeod Memorial Jacket which is the uniform of the B.C. President.

Vancouver Island District Council Past President Dick Gale reported on the past year including the visit of National President Jack Arthur.

Lower Mainland District Council President Ken Martin reported on the past year including the visits to a number of clubs by National President Jack Arthur and the upcoming Celebration of Faith hosted by Gladwin Trinity (Abbotsford). The

Christmas Luncheon continues to be popular. The revitalized THE HANDSHAKE is now at 700 copies issued quarterly. It has had

responses from far and wide expressing interest in what it is trying to do and particular from mens' clubs who feel isolated.

The morning theme speaker was Rev. Jim Ware (Duncan). Jim discussed vows taken in church membership and marriage. How we keep our church vows is how we relate to the church

Afternoon speaker was Wayne LeBlanc President of Gordon United AOTS. Speaking on the theme "How Men Isolate Among Themselves", Wayne discussed factors which isolate himself from interaction with other men.

Western Vice President Ernie Stafford emphasized the upcoming National Convention at Regina. We were updated on the Hospital Project especially as it related to Bella Coola.

It is Ernie's sincere belief that God has, is and will continue to bless not just AOTS in the United Church, but men in all of God's Church.

Elections were held and Roy Jones of Esquimalt is

President Elect with Ken Martin of South Burnaby as Vice President Elect.

A motion was passed to oppose the proposal that a fixed club fee be assessed on all clubs rather than a per member fee as it is at present.

1988 Roundup will be March 12, 1988 at Langley United Church, subject to booking confirmation. (Watch THE HANDSHAKE for further details)

Attendance trophies (greatest number and highest percentage) were both awarded to Brechin United Church, our host church.

Dale Perkins, Department of Missions, Adult Unit, 85 St. Clair East, Toronto spoke to us.

His emphasis was that we all need each other and we need time and space to have fellowship and to see what it is all about.

Following a very delicious dinner served by the CGIT and the ladies of Brechin, the Rev. Phil Ross closed the Roundup with a theme of "Where are we going?".



1987 ROUND UP BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH

LANGLEY AOTS MENS CLUB

With a membership of 29, our new executive is looking forward to a new year. Our executive is Graeme Kennedy, President; Bill Pike, 1st Vice President; Vic Murray, 2nd Vice President; John Corsacadden, Treasurer; Art Van, Secretary.

Our projects for 1987 include a scholarship for Trinity Western University, Assisting the Christian Childrens Fund, a special project for the 2nd Mile fund, and increasing the club membership.

108 MILE MENS' REPORT

Jack Witty reports activity with the men of the area. They plan to invite men from the Anglican church to get enough men together in fellowship in the work of the Lord. They are planning to do this over a pot luck dinner and in a brainstorming session after.

Anyone passing through the area is invited to meet with Jack and share in his dream of forming a club at the 108. (Who's game for an overnight club visitation expedition??)

KNOX UNITED (PARKSVILLE)

Knox United Church (Parksville) Men meet for breakfast and fellowship the 2nd and 4th Wed at 8:00 AM. All visiting United Church Men are invited to attend when visiting the area. Contact Bill Hooton 248-3395, Rex Alexandre 752-9092, or Roland Skirrow 752-5110.

FORT NELSON MENS' REPORT

Hillcrest United in Fort Nelson reports 13 men in their group which meets monthly for breakfast. They have a program involving discussion, a speaker, audio-visuals and slides.

Last January they had the immediate past Mayor of Fort Nelson spoke on the highlights of being a Mayor in Fort Nelson.

In February one of the members showed a film of South America with the contrast of living experiences of the rich and poor.

In March the Rev Charles Swan showed his slides of his trip to Israel.

They also do the usual church things, painting etc., and step in on occasion to take the service when the minister is away.

If you venture up the Alaska Highway, make sure you stop in and say "Hello" to the group.

ESQUIMALT AOTS REPORT

Esquimalt have another successful hamburger night. This is an annual event for families within the community to enjoy family fellowship. TV video cartoons kept the children occupied. Musical troupadors with thier omnichords sang and led the singalongs. This annual event is not designed to be a fundraiser. If the receipts are higher than the expeditures, the profit is donated to a worthy cause.

The best way to find a friend is to be one!

CENTENNIAL, VICTORIA A.O.T.S.

Our membership is remaining at 25 this year. We have been able to have our minister Rev. G.A. McMechan as our program committee chairman who has shown an active interest in the club, and receives a lot of relevant information over his desk.

Our "Trolley Tea" in August is an annual event for fundraising. (Word has it that Victoria street cars are present during this event, check it out)

We also have a Plant Sale and assist the UCW in their rummage sales.

Our service projects include:

The National Hospital Fund
Camousun Cubs & Scouts
Victoria United Church "Open Door"

CHEMAINUS - LADYSMITH A.O.T.S. REPORTS

The Irish Night saw about 100 people served Irish Stew and all the trimmings. A concert followed. After all expenses some \$400 was added to club funds.

The Club is giving two (2) \$250.00 bursaries to students in their district this year.

ST. GILES, VANCOUVER REPORT

Jack Harkness reports some activity in revitalizing a club at St. Giles. They are meeting at Oakridge Seniors and eleven men are regul attenders at a luncheon meeting. Pancake breakfasts and plant sales are on the agenda for fundraising.

NATIONAL AOTS CONVENTION GOES WESTERN

Preparations are gaining momentum for Regina Round-up 87, the 15th AOTS National Convention in Regina in the summer of 1987.

The convention will be held at the Canadian Bible College, Regina, July 31 to August 2, 1987.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Maurice Boyd of Metropolitan United Church, London, Ont. The convention theme is THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GRACE.

The convention committee, headed by Ray Silzer of Regina, has already had six productive planning meetings to work out details of this special AOTS event of informational, spiritual and social activities.

The convention chairman says the committee was very fortunate to line up one of the most dynamic and provocative orators in the church in Canada.

Dr. Maurice Boyd has been theme speaker at numerous conferences including the Banff Men's Conference in October 1986. He has also spoken at conferences in the United States, notably Chautauqua N.Y. and Lake Januluska, N.C.

A native of Northern Ireland, Dr. Boyd has served in pastorates in Ireland, Hamilton, Toronto, and Sarnia. He is also well-known for his broadcasts, publications and

involvement in church affairs at the national and international levels.

In addition to Dr. Boyd's theme presentations in Regina, the convention will include workshops on timely topics, social activities and optional activities for family members.

The convention has been billed Regina Round-up 87 in keeping with the western mood of the Queen City during the annual Buffalo Days Exhibition that will be taking place at the same time. The convention will therefore take on the same informal western atmosphere of Buffalo Days.

The facilities feature a chapel that seats more than 1,000, meeting rooms for groups to 200, housing for more than 300, wheelchair access and limited parking for campers and trailers.

The cost of registration varies depending on accomodation and meals required. The maximum four nights, single occupancy, including eight meals (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) cost \$130. The cost for session only is \$25 and meals only is \$70.

More details about the convention or registration is available from the Registrar, Ross Evans, 24 Castle Bay, Regina, Sask., S4S 4X4, (306-586-5313).

NATIONAL AOTS SURVEY

Ernie Stafford, Western Canada Vice Presidente, AOTS is looking for input as to what the AOTS is actually doing in Canada. AOTS clubs tend to do their mission work without blowing horns. If this information were more widely known, perhaps it would stand as an inspiration for clubs looking for suitable projects.

Ernie is looking for:

- 1.) Total amount of funds raised during the past year by your club for service projects.
- 2.) A list of your club's fund raising projects
- 3.) A list of your club's service projects.

DUNCAN AOTS CLUB REPORTS.

Duncan AOTS's 19th Annual Burns Night Dinner was an overwhelming success with a large crowd in attendance.

The new executive is Harold Wingfield, President; Wally Clarke, Vice President; Roy Mahon, Secretary; Keith Bennett, Treasurer; Bill Powell is now the immediate Past President.

New members of Duncan AOTS are Jim Hagen and Brian May.

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Banff Men's Conference

OCTOBER 16, 17, 18, 1987

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LOWER MAINLAND, FRASER VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT.

Council President K.A. (Ken) Martin is looking forward to a challenging two year term. "Men are becoming active again in the church," he stated. "With the renewed emphasis on the role of the laity, men are again seeing that their knowledge, talents and experience are required."

District Council sponsors the annual Celebration of Faith for men of the church. Usually held on the last weekend in May it has been held at the Langley campus of Trinity Western University for a number of

years now. "The campus is a fine setting for getting away from it all, and the fellowship of other men who are also seeking Christian goals is very rewarding."

In the plans for 1987 are the Celebration of Faith in May, and the annual Christmas Luncheon in December. Held at Collingwood United Church, the meal costs a modest amount plus a pair of socks and/or underwear for distribution to needy men by First United Church Vancouver.

Ken is looking forward to getting more clubs involved with District Council. "There are some 100 pastoral charges in the four Presbyteries that the Council covers (Van. South,

Van. Burrard, Fraser, and Westminster) and there are only eleven represented at District Council.

"We know there are mens' groups out there meeting for breakfast, dinner, bible study, etc. One function of District Council is to bring these groups together in a network fashion to assist in the spiritual growth of the men". Another function is to provide men with sources of information about church issues. "If we don't know where men are then we can't give them information that they may need," Ken said.

District Council meets presently on the Third Tuesday of the month (except July, August and December) at Collingwood United Church (41st & Joyce Road in Vancouver). It starts at 6:00 pm with a light dinner. "We are committed to adjourn by 8:30 pm so that our members can get home at a reasonable time.

"Any man is welcome to join us, all I need to know is that he is coming so that we can ensure that there is enough food on the table." Contact Ken to advise him that you are coming to the meeting.

Council President Y Martin can be contacted (office) 433-6199 or (home) 433-7171.

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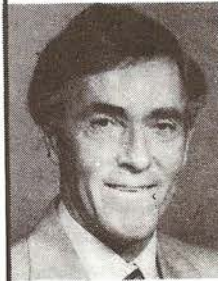
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HANDSHAKE DELAYED.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

READ AND RECYCLE

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

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

GLADWIN TRINITY ABBOTSFORD REPORT

The mens breakfast club meets every 2nd Friday at 8 am precisely at the Park Hotel. The faithful are nearly always there, but we have had a scarcity of visitors. Frank MacLean was the first and, of course, he wanted something! He asked if our fledgling club could act as hosts for the up-coming Celebration of Faith at Trinity Western University May 29, 30, & 31.

It is impossible to say "no" to Frank so we agreed to take on the job. With the help of the organizing core of District Council we will do our utmost to make everyone feel comfortable, informed and at home during the Celebration. It will be a real privilege to greet you there.

CHILLIWACK AOTS

Two new members have joined our group: Ray Barnard and Geogger Chadburn. We are planning a garage sale in the church parking lot on May 2.

We are holding Banff Mens Conference Organizational meetings every 1st Monday at the Church, 7:30 pm. We still need some discussion group leaders.

VANCOUVER ISLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

The travelling gavel has moved from Oak Bay United to Centennial United. (did someone dust it first?)

Camp Pringle is looking for some remodelling this summer including adding some new cabins. 833 campers used the camp in the summer of 1986.

THE THREE "E's"

ENCOURAGEMENT

The B.C. Roundup held at Brechin United (Nanai) on March 14th, 1987 was surely a day of spiritual encouragement and Christian fellowship amongst all those who attended. We were encouraged by all the speakers to look at ourselves, in the past, present, and future.

ENTHUSIASM

One could feel the presence of God in the singing, in the messages, at the tables, and in the laughter. I personally felt the enthusiasm of AOTS men, dedicated to our pledges of service in God's name.

ENDURING

Christ's love, that reflects God's love, has endured since creation the basis of how we should relate in our church. Dr. H.W. Riggs had a vision that has become nationwide in Canada, AOTS has endured since the inaugural supper meeting in 1923, we shall endure, I have no doubts of that.

My personal thanks to all who planned and contributed to a successful Roundup, to the old and new executive. I hope to see them and many more at the National Convention in Regina.

In His Service,
Ernie Stafford,
Western VP National AOTS

Please send all information, club activities, and reports to:

THE HANDSHAKE c/o
John Carswell 707/4134
Maywood St. Burnaby, B.C.
V5H 4C9.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The records show that when gathered at Brechin United this year for the roundup it was 20 years almost to the day since the last one held at Brechin in 1967.

The story continues in 1967 with the chairman leading us through the opening ceremonies, the devotional, and finally to the introduction of our theme speaker. The subject was "Public Relations and Communication" chosen by Roy Bonisteel, the then P.R. Secretary of B.C. Conference of the United Church. (That's right THE Roy Bonisteel of "Man Alive" fame) The trouble was that he never showed. As it happened he had been stricken with a slipped disc. "But fear not," he said, "I have a replacement for you. An Anglican priest by the name of Art Hives who is the Communications Officer for the Anglican Church."

So this was the man the Chairman introduced and it looked like disaster as he came stalking out from behind the screen and took over the pulpit. Well what were we to think? Here we were on a religious high, with spirits soaring and looking forward to an inspiring message. You all know the saying "whats you sees is whats you gets" - what we saw was an apparation dressed to look like the grim reaper. He was attired, if you please, in a mediaeval monk's cassock with the cowl up and his somber face looking out at us.

The customary polite applause never materialized and you could almost hear our spirits sink as we prepared ourselves for a heavy duty message.

His first bit of drama was to push back his cowl and turn his scowl into a smile. He then began to make Point One on IMAGE by slowing removing his cassock (Mr. Doom & Gloom) to reveal a shocking sports coat that was so garish it fairly shrieked (Mr. Loud Mouth). In a few moments he shed this, changed his tie and with a white shirt became Mr. Conservative. Mr. Relaxed appeared in a plaid open-necked sprout shirt. Surely this was it, but no, he removed the plaid shirt to reveal a "Bunny Club" T-Shirt. At this point the applause and laughter shook the Sanctuary right off the Richter Scale.

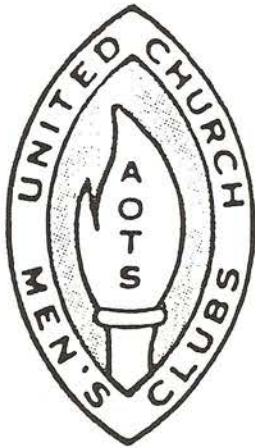
Details of the rest of the day are recorded in the minutes, but I must close with an item that added to Art Hives's presentation. A part of the days entertainment was to be a

concert by a group of young musicians sponsored by the Port Alberni Mens Club. Wouldn't you know it, they chose to have a rehearsal in the hall directly below Art, right in the middle of Art's presentation. Of course their equipment was at maximum volume to be heard over the drums and this had the unsettling effect of raising the floorboards in the Sanctuary. A decibel count was not taken, but they did drown out Art, until a delegation scrambled downstairs to consult on the matter.

Bill Hastings - National Archives



From left to right; Ernie Stafford (Western V.P. National AOTS), Bill Cumming (seated), Outgoing B.C. Pres., Roy Jones (B.C. Pres. Elect). That's Keith MacDonald in background.



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