

The Handshake

34th Annual Banff Conference of United Church Men

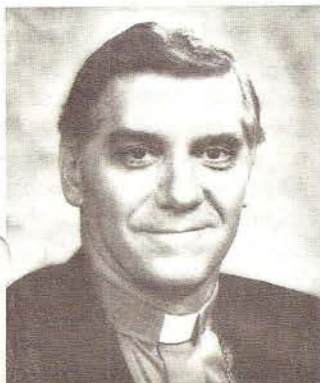
THEME SPEAKER

RIGHT REVEREND J. Barry CURTIS
Anglican Bishop of Calgary

Theme:

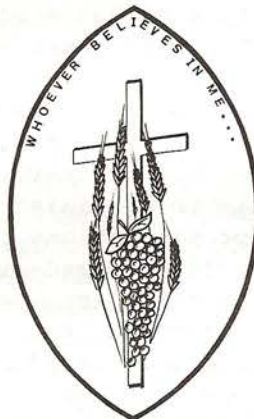
WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME . . .

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 14, 15, 16, 1988
AT THE BANFF CENTRE



**Attention all
United Church
Men!**

**The 1988 Banff
Conference of
United Church
Men . . .**



. . . promises to be one to remember. The Right Reverend J. Barry Curtis will address the theme "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME . . .". As the Anglican Bishop of Calgary, Bishop Curtis brings a wealth of experience with which to make this theme come alive and be meaningful to the men of today's church. The conference will also provide workshops, discussion groups, devotions, worship, fellowship, good meals and free time to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Banff Centre. If you do not need the registration card on the reverse, please pass this on to a friend and bring him with you. Please be sure to complete the bottom portion of this side of the card as well.

Be sure to register early as the conference is expected to be well attended. The 1988 committee looks forward to seeing you there!

RIGHT REVEREND J. BARRY CURTIS ANGLICAN BISHOP OF CALGARY BANFF CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Rt. Reverend J. Barry Curtis, Anglican Bishop of Calgary, has been named theme speaker for the United Church Banff Men's Conference to be held Oct 14, 15, and 16, 1988.

Bishop Curtis will speak on the theme "Whoever Believes in Me" and his vast

experience is sure to make the theme come alive and be meaningful to all those who attend. The conference will also provide workshops, discussion groups, devotions, worship, fellowship, great meals and free time to enjoy the

ISSUE NO. 7
MAY 1988

beautiful surroundings of the Banff Centre.

Bishop Curtis has served in the dioceses of Ottawa and Calgary. He is a member of the National Executive Council of the Anglican Church of Canada and of the National Church's Committee on Ministry. He was consecrated Bishop on October 6, 1983.

NATIONAL YOUTH WORK COMMITTEE FOR A.O.T.S.

Since Issue No. 6 of THE HANDSHAKE we have had some opportunities to say something for youth and get some response in return.

Some members of South Burnaby United AOTS were asked to come out to Chilliwack with the Travelling Gavel and have dinner on the occasion of the Bell Fund Raising evening. Their historic bell is to be placed in a new tower. I was please to have a few minutes to say something on behalf of Youth.

Frank McLean from Langley AOTS and I made a day trip to the Kamloops - Okanagan Presbytery meeting at Ashcroft. This was a 430 mile trip. We had lunch with the presbyters. Frank talked about the Celebration of Faith and I covered some history of mens' work in slides and taped comments. Here again the chance to brief, and request, input

continued on page #8

GOD INSISTS ON MATURITY

The Father is full of wisdom and there are times when he forces us from our "small box" mentality to His "larger one" in order to broaden our vision to see as He sees.

What Father does't what His child to grow?

Someone once said that when Christ returned to heaven, the sign on the family business was taken down and changed to read God and Sons. God the Father wants sons as partners ... sons who will participate with Him in His eternal purpose, to get to know Him intimately, to discuss daily our needs and concerns with Him ... to know how to operate how to operate the family business.

Are we ready to operate the family business?

The Father allows hard times to come upon us to give us a new quality of life, to make us more like Christ. It's called the University of Adversity. Jesus learned obedience through suffering (Hebrews 5:8). If Jesus, being without sin had to endure suffering, how much more do we have to trust God in our suffering? We must expect to suffer. "In this world you will have tribulations. But be of good cheer: I have overcome the world." The purpose of our lives is training, not security and comfort.

Many people turn from God when He lets them suffer, or allows a loved one to suffer. They allow the dregs of life's problems to weigh them down and they end up defeated and bitter. It takes time to become a mature christian.

Yes, the storms of life will come. Maybe it will be a bitter disappointment, the

death of a loved one, or a crushing defeat of some kind. "Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me". Do we really mean it? Look at the empathy you now have for the weary, broken, and battle-scarred. How your thinking has changed!

H.C. Trumbull tells the story of a man who had his home and mill washed away by a flood. As he stood on the bank brokenhearted and discouraged, he saw something showing in the bank which had been washed bare. It was gold and the flood which beggared him had made him rich.

Everything in Paul's life and experience was shaken to the point where he no longer counted his life or possessions dear to him. Joesph had more sorrow than all his brothers and it led him to a ministry of bread for all nations. Moses had difficulty understanding why the forty long years in the wilderness but he still trusted. David underwent a long and paingfull discipline to learn the almighty power and faithfulness of God and grow into faith and godliness. Where does that leave you and me?

There is a limit to affliction. Trials are only for a season and only then "if need be". We would not be tested if Christ did not see the precious ore of faith mixed deep in our nature.

And so the Father is developing our graces and educating us for the future ... for the family busines. And what is the family business if not to judge nations, rule and reign with Christ on the millennial earth. Do we have what it will take? If not, then we must allow God to prepare us

in the school of life, bearing in mind that you and I should be able to trust a man who died for us.

Submitted: Charlie Shave

PRESIDENT REQUESTS

Read John 15: 12-17 and bear in mind the term "Friend".

At four gatherings of men I have attended in 1988, the following titles were used by the theme speakers: "A man and his faith", "One on One", "Each one reach one", and "Feed my sheep". We in AOTS have a choice to do something about our faith, by witnessing to one another, reaching one more and feeding that person with the love Christ commands us to do. We should always strive to be As One That Serves, then we shall become a true friend, or as other translations from the Gree state friend as "fellow" or "pal".

There are many, many potential members and clubs waiting for the invitation to become part of our great Association, and they don't have to be United Church men. AOTS is growing, young men are being attracted by our stand on Christian principles and acts of service, with this in mind I urge all men of the church of Christ to unite and prove that we are an effective arm of that church.

At Roundups in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and with men I have met in the U.S.A. and corresponded with in other provinces of Canada, discussion have proved again that God answers our prayer and tells us that "You d. not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear

continued-----

fruit, and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, He may give it to you. This I command you, to love one another" (John 15: 16 - 17).

We are in a time of challenge to all followers of Christ, let us pray that God will guide us and all who strive to be As One That Serve.

Submitted: Ernest Stafford
National President AOTS.



B.C. PRESIDENT REPORTS

I wish to start off this report by thanking the men for their time and dedication of talents in preparing, planning and carrying through with their visit to the Cariboo and those involved in this year's roundup. They were both a success in men sharing the Lord with men. Again I thank you.

I have visited and spoken on AOTS in BC at Ellesmere United, Cordova Bay mens group, St. Aidens United, Vancouver Island District Council and United Church BC Conference Executive, Esquimalt (including a slide show) and attended an interdenominational bible group.

The BC executive would like mens groups or clubs to make contact through THE HANDSHAKE and we will arrange a visitation. We like to visit and talk about men working with men in the church.

To further promote mens work events (AOTS/UCM) we are creating a colour slide presentation of the special events of clubs and groups in BC. Events are such items as fun fairs, garage sales, special evenings, etc. It

would be appreciated if mens groups and clubs would forward these to THE HANDSHAKE. Colour slides, negatives or prints, will be duplicated and the originals will be returned to you

[Handshake Editor #1 to Handshake Editor #2 -- do you think we can charge this Jones character a remailing charge for all this re-forwarding of his mail? Seriously THE HANDSHAKE will act as a clearing center if you do not know the address of the person you want to contact]

Don't forget:

1. Celebration of Faith in Langley, May 27, 28 & 29.
2. Island District Council Rally on June 5th.

Both committees are expecting a large turn out this year. We who attend, would love to share with you who have not attended before what God is doing in our lives. Only if we go in God's way can we know God's will for us.

As One That Serves
Roy K. Jones BC AOTS
President

CONCERN OF A LAYMAN

As I visit and correspond with AOTS men and clubs across Canada and visit with leaders of mens groups in the USA., I am questioned repeatedly about the United Church and its problems. This is embarrassing at times, for I don't have all the answers. I can but suggest these questions be answered by the views expressed by the majority of the church members, not by a minority of Clergy and Lay People. I do try to point out that the United Church of Canada has its blessings too, not just problems. We have truly concerned people who have a simple faith in God's love as told in His

Holy Word and through His Son Jesus Christ who taught us to love one another and that the Church is for sinners, not just for those who feel they are the righteous.

The Bible may be old but the Scriptures contain the moral standards by which our country's laws are based upon, and the United Church became a mooring place for so many people to worship together. The Bible is still a best seller and the inspirational messages it contains will help all to find release from their sins.

It is the minority whom we should be concerned about though, they spend our money and can influence the commissioners at critical voting times. The commissioners vote as they wish, not as the congregations, presbyteries or conferences majorities wish the commissioners to vote.

Because of this voting as they wish, I urge all members of congregations, men's clubs, U.C.W., and all truly concerned people, to write their own petitions and letters directly to the Moderator of the United Church, Anne Squire, (85 Saint Clair Avenue East, Toronto Ontario, M4T 1M8), to briefly express their thoughts on the Sexual Orientation and Lifestyles issue NOW. A matter of five minutes of your time and thirty seven cents in postage could make the difference of having a United or a divided church.

Some individuals and, sadly, some congregations have stated intentions of withdrawing financial support for M&S and their local bugets. This only

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ROUND UP 1988

"Some good things happened after I got on my knees my desk was my altar ... I never knelt to pray before ... I'm talking about the pit." These are a few quotes from Gordon Laird who told how it was before he became a United Church minister.

A chartered accountant by profession, Gordon spoke to some 80 men at the annual BC Roundup held at Langley United Church, March 5, 1988. He shared how he became a prosperous accountant, and how the world fell apart until he got serious with God. We don't often hear men sharing like this. His topic was very well received and gave us a lot to think about, mainly that men should get together and open their minds and hearts to God.

Other highlights included a panel discussion on lay involvement featuring AOTS National President Ernie Stafford, Western AOTS Vice President Fred Holberton, Past National President Dr. Bill Hastings, BC AOTS

President Roy Jones and Rev. Gordon Laird.

Three workshops were held, a bit of a change from the previous formats of Roundups, and they were well received.

Reports were given by Ernie Stafford, Fred Holberton, Roy Jones and by District Council Presidents Dave Farnden (Past President Vancouver Island) and Ken Martin (Lower Mainland Fraser Valley)

Attendance trophies (both largest number and highest percentage attending) were awarded to Langley.

The meals were excellent and we do appreciate the effort put into them by the Ladies of the UCW.

As far as we know everyone got back on the right ferries and arrived home safely

Submitted: Roy K. Jones
BC President

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SOUTH BURNABY REPORTS

Pancake Breakfasts are exciting money making activities at South Burnaby United. On April 23, the AOTS Club served pancakes and sausages from 8 am to 1 pm realizing a profit of over \$437.00 With around 35 men assisting, the function was most successful and a good time was had by all.

In conjunction with the Breakfast, the Lower Mainland District Council had a plant sale. Ken Martin reports that they realized a profit of just under \$100.00. Next year Ken hopes to have a larger sale with an increased advertising structure.

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.



Bill Pike, Harry Vogel, Bob Bagshaw, Langley Roundup

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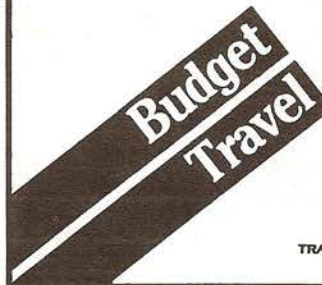
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CELEBRATION OF FAITH 33

It all started in Vancouver in 1926 when Vancouver and District AOTS Council held their first Rally, a prototype from which evolved many models.

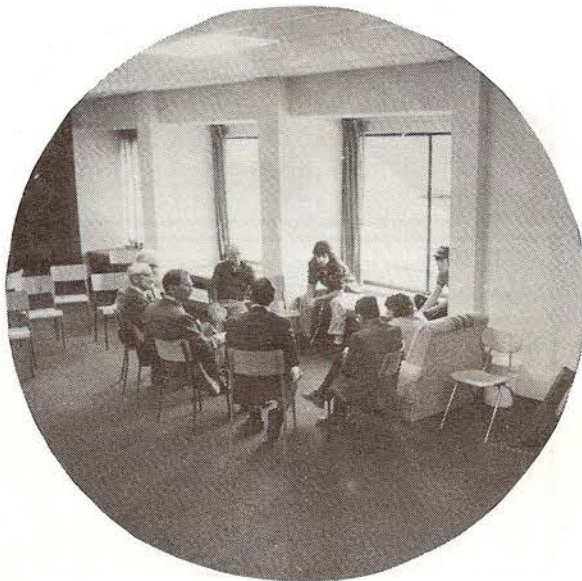
From this original model, the men across Canada designed their own sharing, developed their own venue and last but not least their own name. It was a Rally, a Retreat, a Round Up which took on names like Keswich, Banff and Qualicum to name but a few. We gathered under the Lord's umbrella, Our Cup Runneth Over....

What is the genius of this type of a religious experience? Where could the answer lie? For me it was found deep within the files of the AOTS Archives. A single document by the founder of AOTS, Herbert W. Riggs, in which he challenged the newest of the new AOTS Men and they in turn passed it on and on and on.

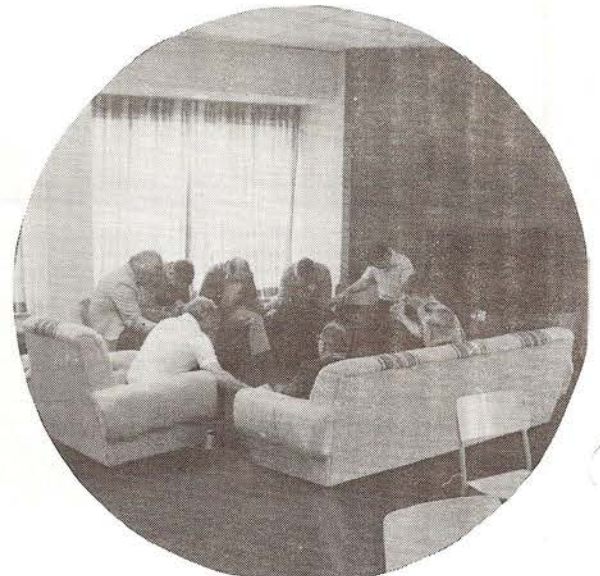


Go out he said and find your faith with your brother Christians. His message was underscored by an obscure non-biblical, but God-inspired, verse that exudes spiritual well being, and could, if applied, set the spirit, when two or more Christians sit down to discuss the Lord's Word. Now we challenge you in 1988 to heed this call made in 1924 and prove to yourself that it can help you to better share, pray and worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

The verse below may not be from God's Holy Word but it is God speaking through the poet.



NO ONE COULD TELL ME
WHERE MY SOULD MIGHT BE;
I SEARCHED FOR God --
BUT GOD ELUDED ME;
I SOUGHT MY BROTHER OUT,
AND FOUND ALL THREE --
MY GOD, MYSELF AND THEE.



CELEBRATION OF FAITH

It all started in Vancouver in 1926 when Vancouver and District AOTS Council held their first rally, a prototype from which many models have evolved. From this original model the men across Canada designed their own sharing, developed their own venue and last but not least their own name. It was a rally, retreat, roundup that took on names such as Keswick, Banff and Qualicum to name but a few. We gathered under the Lord's umbrella.

What is the genius for this type of religious experience? Where could the answer lie? For me it was found deep with in the files of the AOTS archives. A single document by the founder of AOTS, Dr. Herbert W. Riggs, in which he challenged the newest of the new AOTS men and they in turn passed it on and on. "Go out", he said "and find faith with your brother Christians." His message was underscored by an obscure non biblical but God inspired verse that exudes spiritual well being and could, if applied, set the Spirit when two or more Christians sit down to discuss the Lord's Word. Now we challenge you in 1988 to heed this call made in 1924 and prove to yourself that can help you to better share, pray and worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. The verse below may not be from God's Holy Word, but it is God speaking through the poet.

(Continued on next column)

Do you have upcoming Church events that you wish to be advertised? Let us know and we will announce it in the next issue of The Handshake.

No one could tell me where
my soul might be
I searched for God but God
eluded me
I sought my brother out and
found all three
My God, myself and thee.

Submitted: Dr. Bill Hastings
AOTS National Archivist.

ANOTHER CLUB IN THE CARIBOO

Constant readers of THE HANDSHAKE will recall details of the adventures of the Four Wisemen which were in the last issue.

A recent report from Dave Sutton, St. Andrews United, Quesnel, indicates that a club has been started, officers appointed, and a program started. There is talk of some men going to Banff. There is talk of interclub visiting with the men of Williams Lake.

The Four Wise Men are willing to venture into other parts of the Conference to meet with other clubs or potential clubs. They may be contacted through THE HANDSHAKE.

ACTIVITY IN ALDERGROVE

Jack Shenton has now retired from civil service and has been able to spearhead the revival of the Mens' Group. Frank MacLean from Langley is to speak at the next meeting. It is hoped that with a little help in organizing the men, an active group will again grace this church. Look for the Aldergrove men to be attending the Celebration of Faith.



HANDSHAKE PUBLICATION

THE HANDSHAKE is issued four times a year by John Carswell and Ken Martin, Co-editors. We welcome written contributions and news related to mens' concerns and activities in the United Church of Canada and the Community. Send all materials - donations to THE HANDSHAKE c/o John Carswell, 4134 Maywood St., Suite 707, Burnaby BC, V5H 4C9 or call 430-4616 for enquiries.



ALBERTA ROUNDUP MARCH 1988 AT INNISFAIL

continued from page #1

from men who are involved was noted. Out of this meeting we received a letter from Armstrong, B.C.. We will be replying to it shortly.

THE HANDSHAKE received a letter from our good friend Claire Bailey in Winnipeg. They organized and held their 5th Leadership Recognition Night. This provides the means for youth leaders to share in their experiences. The committee organization included Rev. Walter Cowan, Dr. Murray McPherson, Claire Bailey and representation from the Winnipeg AOTS clubs. Thank you Clair for taking the time to let us know about your interesting contribution to youth.

I had a letter from the past chairman of Youth Work, Dale Maris. He has submitted some names of men who supplied input and help on Youth Work, in the east. I will follow this up with a special report.

There are two other groups that come to mind: B.C. Youth Parliament and the Scouting Religion & Life Award. On the first - AOTS has bought "Bonds" and provided other help in B.C. In its changing role over the years we would like to know what help is going into BCYP work.

We have some very good background information on the Religion & Life Award. This will be coming out as a special report.

Until the next HANDSHAKE, we shake you hand and say, "Let's do something more for our young people."

Submitted: The AOTS Youth Work Committee

(Bill Cumming)

... continued from page 3
hurts the true mission of the church, outreach and benefit to those who really need help. One could designate what areas you wish your contributions to support, such as World Development and Relief. A guiding note on your offering envelope would ensure the proper allocation.

May God guide and help us all in these times of challenge.

We need His help even now, to heal the wounds already inflicted by this conflict within our church.

As One That Serves
Ernest Stafford
National President United Church A.O.T.S. Men's Clubs

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DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 5, 1988: Vancouver Island District Council Rally at Camp Pringle, Shawnigan Lake. 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. It is a picnic with games and races and an outdoor church service.

OCTOBER 14, 15, & 16: Banff Men's Conference. Speaker is the Right Rev. Barry Curtis.

TBA November 1988: Lower Mainland District Council Collingwood Luncheon and Mini Rally. More details in next Handshake.

MARCH 11, 1989: B.C. Spring Roundup, Gordon United in Victoria. Speaker is Ken Brenner (Senior Chaplain of Pacific Command - Tri Services)

THANKS FROM THE HANDSHAKE

THE HANDSHAKE would like to thank the following organizations and person for donations to THE HANDSHAKE: The Banff Mens' Conference, The 1988 BC Roundup, Nelson Ball, E.V. Roy Merrick, Ian Gunn, Chilliwack AOTS, David Sutton. Your donations coupled with the advertising revenue are the only way we cover the costs of getting THE HANDSHAKE to the men of the church.

Deadline for submissions for next issue: SEPTEMBER 1, 1988

Send to THE HANDSHAKE, c/o John Carswell 4134 Maywood Ave., Apt. 707, Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4C9

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