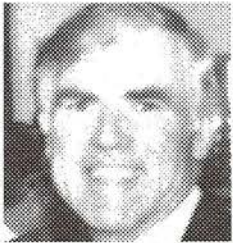




The National President Reports

"Happy New Year AOTS Members and Families"



As the memories of Christmas and 1995 fade away. I look back with so many special memories throughout this year. Many club meetings which I was able to attend, Round -Ups , Installations, Church Services, and how could one forget the National Convention in Belleville, and later in the fall our get-to-to-gether at Harrow United Church just outside of Windsor . These events are all a part of the plan or vision that we look forward to following the next two years. No matter how large or small the event, each played an important role in fulfilling a dream and a promised to make this organization stronger and more closely united with each other across Canada and Bermuda

Lots of Support

I have felt a great deal of support from all members of the National Executive and it seems that we are all on the same wave length in our discussions. While the economy is still disturbing in some areas, it seems that the need for Christian Fellowship is on the rise, and men are searching for new rewards during stressful times.

New Members Installed

It is so rewarding to hear of a club initiating seven (7) new members their first meeting of the new year. What a kick-off in planning their events in 1996 !! Congratulations to Westminster AOTS in Belleville!!

On The Move

When I was given the pleasure of installing the officers of my own club in Stirling Ont., Jack Bush the new President, challenged each one of us to invite an other person to join our

Fellowship at our meeting - and so increase our membership 100%. There ARE- men out there waiting to be invited---so give it a try !!

Supporting the Cause

My Christmas was brightened by receiving a letter from Al Smith (Toronto Ont.), a long time AOTS leader informing of his intention to make a donation of \$2000.00 to National to promote, and assist in spreading AOTS work to struggling areas. The words of the song "Reach out and Help a Brother seems very fitting . Your Gift Al is very much appreciated

As I make plans to attend a Western Canada meeting in Vancouver on the last weekend of January it is my hope that we can come up with some very constructive ideas that will be beneficial to all members of AOTS.

Conference Call

Our next Executive meeting on Sunday March the 18th is to be a Conference Call. Ken Lane our National Secretary whom I depend on heavily for his untiring efforts, correspondence and words of wisdom has made all the detailed arrangements. Allow me to say "Thank You " Ken through this message.

As we start a New Year untouched and unmarred, unblemished, flawless, unscathed and unafraid may we try to do better, accomplish much more, and be kinder and wiser than in the year that has gone before. Let us wipe our slates clean and start over again.

For God Gives the privilege, to all sincere men

Who will humbly admit, they have failed many ways

But are willing to try and improve these "New Days"

By asking God's help in all that they do,

And counting on Him to refresh and renew

Their courage and Faith when things go wrong,

And the way seems dark and the road rough and long

What will YOU do with this year that's so new ?

The choice is yours -- God leaves that to you !

Yours in AOTS
Craig E. Watson

Coming Events

1996 Ontario Round Up

April 26-28

Theme

Men of the 21st

Millenium

(See poster Page 4)

Celebration of Faith

May 24 -26 1996

(See Poster Page 6)

42nd Annual Banff Men's

Conference

October 18-20 1996

Speaker

Judge Hugh Stanfield

B.C. Round Up

Duncan B.C.

Sept 28 1996

Convention 97

St. Johns Nfld.

Time To Say Goodbye!



Handshake Editor
1988-1996

Yes its time to hang up my green eye shade as Editor Publisher of the Handshake. This issue is planned to cover our activities right into the fall of 1996 when your new Editor will take over.

A Part of Our Publishing Heritage

It has been great to be a part of our heritage of AOTS communication that dates back to the founding of the National Council. I am proud to add my name to this fellowship of communicators. They served in His name as they spread the word right across Canada.

The President's Newsletter

We salute fellows like Brock Coleman of Winnipeg who put out the President's Newsletter for our first three National Presidents, Charlie Atcheson of Vancouver, Brydon McRae of Winnipeg and Dave Sherwood of Scarborough Ont. would you believe at least ten years ?



The Bridgebuilder

Under the editorship of the old "Pro" Jack Banks who from 1959 to 1972 published the Magazine "The Bridgebuilder" which covered all United Church Men. It was sponsored by the Board of Men. It was a very professional publication it gave AOTS its fair share of coverage. In between publications Jack put together a history of AOTS that celebrated our first 50 years of existence. Copies are still available.

The National Newsletter

With the Board's demise there was no publication until 1978 when Al Smith, at that time our Executive Secretary, started the National Newsletter. It ran from 1978 to to 1987 under Editors Maurice Wright of Toronto (above) and Ken Turner of Edmonton.



Next on the scene was the "Challenge" under the Editorship of Jack Arthur who was at the time our National President. A very well done Newsletter that lasted for only two issues

The Handshake Goes National

John Carswell and I had both been editors of the B.C. Handshake. When we were asked in 1988, by the National president of the day Ernie Stafford we were a part of a publishing heritage dating back to the 1930s.

John turned to his management and publicity skills and I to my brand new computer and an equally new Desk Top Publishing Program which incidentally I had never used. Two faithful helpers were Ken Martin who kept our mailing list in order and Josh Yashunaka a who applied both his artistic and proof reading skills. I know my publishing inexperience showed but we did get the job done even if we didn't win any prizes. The real thrill came from hearing about your club's activities and telling other clubs about them. It was a privilege and a thrill to write about say, the Scholarship your club presented each year, the support you gave to your own church and the various National Projects that you supported. Then too I was right back into the National scene reporting on its activities. It was no mean feat to take their voluminous reports and fit them into two or three pages without paying favours to any one position or committee. Supporting and advertising the Hospitals and their fund, The Harry Colnett Scholarship and the Observer on Tape was a delight that will last me all my life.

Thank You

I could go on to tell of the many pluses that Editors enjoy and the frustrations he suffers but it is better to just say thank you for the privilege of doing this job.

A special thanks for the many reports and articles, they were in the several hundreds. A special apology to these same contributors for the severe editing that was necessary to squeeze as much as possible in the space available. I will always see in my minds eye a scribbled note on one of Don Morton's newspaper articles covering the Duncan AOTS Club. Don reported,"The newspaper editor cut this article by a third." And guess what? I had to reduce it by that much again.? As I say sorry to Don I am saying sorry to the rest of you also
In closing this wonderful relationship fear not for the well being of what I hope is still an active mind. The main reason in turning off the Handshake file is to complete two family histories and a History of Dentistry in British Columbia. The plan is to come back o haunt you from time to time with AOTS history for after all I am still your National AOTS Archivist.

Yours in Service

And Hello Again



This news item was to be a congratulatory message for my successor but alas no one has come forward as yet.How about you??? Is there a computer in your house? Just add to that a desk top publishing program and you are in business. I can promise you that there is a great sense of accomplishment most of the time and sometimes a tad of frustration when things don't go so well. Maybe your grandson or granddaughter is a computer whiz and would like nothing better than to help grandpa learn all about computers. Perhaps your wife is a typist and you could do it together. At least she can proof read for you. Maybe you are "Computer Illiterate" like I was some 8 years ago. With some help from my son every day was a learning experience. There are well established sources of AOTS information. One more thing you have until next fall before you have to take over. Think on it. Pray on it. Then lets communicate.



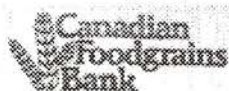


Thamesview AOTS Supports Canadian Food Grains Bank

This Club planted 22 Acres of Soybeans on the farm of Norman Dow, one of the longtime members, cultivated and harvested the crop voluntarily without cost to the club. The crop was then sold * for a little over \$ 9000.00. This amount went to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and was amplified by CIDA by at least 4 to 1 . This means approximatly \$ 4500.00 that will buy corn for African Countries where the need is so great.

A great project for a group who have a maximum membership of 25. They are also active in their support of AOTS Second Mile and National Hospital projects.

Thanks for this article to
Ken Lane
National Secretary



Cdn Food Grains Bank
Box 767
Winnipeg Man.
Tel Free 800 665 0377

How It Works ?

Accompanying the good news out of Thamesview was an article from the London Conference the BRIDGE section of the January 1996 edition of the United Church Observer. I can only take the space to tell you the bare bones workings of this truly humanitarian project.. If it doesn't make you proud to be a Christian then nothing will.. Hey it has been around since 1983 so perhaps you know all about it. . Its such good news for a change about a Christian endeavour it certainly bares repeating. First its statement of purpose

On behalf of its 12 church partners (which includes the United Church of Canada), Canadian Foodgrains Bank collects gifts of grain and cash to assist developing countries with food shortages. Since 1983, shipments of close to a million metric tons of food has been distributed to countries in Africa ,Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Our mission is to use the food resources available to us to avchieve food security, or continued and assured access to fod, for people who are hungry.

And Volunteers

Farmers can donate grain at most elevators at any time of the year, however local "Grain Drives" held in the fall provide a focus for deliveries, and an opportunity for the farmers and the rural community to work together to alleviate world hunger. Local volunteers take the lead in establishing dates and location for grain collection in their area. Farmers then encourage one another to come and share their harvest in a friendly interdenominational spirit - much like the comunnity barn raising of old.

Other activities include comunity growing projetcs, in which volunteers grow crops specificaly for donations to the Bank (There are 20 such projects in the London Conference area) and donations resulting from special church services and fund- raising events

Toronto Conference News

A Tribute to Al Smith

Picture if you will a man who has dedicated his life to serving others. A man who has been rewarded with a Life Membership in AOTS an organization to which he has dedicated nearly the whole of his adult life. A man upon whom the Lord called to serve not once but twice to make personal sacrifices of love for the two women whom he married.

I am Tired !

As Al put it : "Before winding this report up I would like to include a few words

about my own personal situation. It will soon be two years since my (second) wife suffered her last debilitating stroke. Being a 24 hour 7 days a week Care-Giver my times and ability to be involved is seriously affected. Simply said I am tired. On Oct 10th 1995 I reached that milestone of 80 years. That too, has given me cause for reflection." Near the end of his musings he said, "I found the following helpful when my first wife died on Christmas Night, 1980.

On Dying

By Henry Scott Holland

I am standing on the sea shore. A ship spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the ocean. She is an object of beauty and I stand watching her till at last she fades on the horizon, and some one says, "She is gone." Gone where ? Gone from my sight, that is all. The loss of sight is in me, not her ! and just at the moment when someone says, "She is gone," there are others who are watching her coming. Other voices take up the grand shout," There she comes," and that is dying.

Keep at it, Don't Quit!

The report itself was pure vintage Al Smith. It was nine pages long and was a mix of advice re. AOTS , Poems Songs and articles of inspiration. The report itself was centered around two cancelled Rallies for the Toronto AOTS Conference. First he gave heart felt thanks to all those who helped to prepare for the "Event" . Second then an in depth analysis of the situation.. Now catch this, Al listed 5 important points to be considered when the Toronto Conference asked themselves " What Now?" No complaints or recriminations as to why it failed but rather how to make such events succeed the next time around.As the heading said

God Bess you Al for always looking forward to better things, better ways and encouraging us to stick with it no matter what. And thanks for those late night telephone calls when we just shared with one another about any number of things. I don't know what they meant to you but it surely gave me strength to try a bit harder to serve in His name. The few words of encouragement made it all worth while.

**Central Region 1996
AOTS RoundUp**

**April 26th-28th
Geneva Park
Orillia, Ontario**



**Guest Speaker
Dr. Wayne Atkinson**

**Theme
Men for the firstMillenium**

**Entertainment
Belle Ringer Choir
Sudbury, Ontario**

**Youth Program
Geneva Park**

**Music Program
(Guest Performance)**

**Announcing
Every Registered Youth Saves \$70.00**

Historical Background

1955

Founded in 1955 The Ontario Round Up was the second AOTS Round Up in Canada. The Wildwood Inn on Sparrow

1996

Lake was its home for at least 3 years. The YMCA at Geneva Park Orillia Ont was home from about 1958 to the present date. Although some of the surviving programs count their anniversaries in the 60's, 1998 could be the 51st year. The attendance averaged was about two hundred men. A guestimate of the total attendance would be about 8,000 men who have celebrated their faith, fellowship and fraternity in His name and some of the best memories of their spiritual life.

Toronto Conference

Bellefair United AOTS

Our ever reliable editor and reporter Harry Wolfram supplies us with news updates of this small but very active club. First off Harry, congratulations on your appointment as National Constitutional Chairman.

Breakfast Meeting

Bellefair met on a Sunday Morning in January for breakfast followed by a speaker and a business meeting. Their guests at the January meeting were George Bishop President of Toronto Conference AOTS plus a member of his home club Trinity Newmarket, Jim Parsons. Another guest was Howard Wills President of Hamilton Conference AOTS.

Stolen PA System

Helping to solve the problem of the stolen Church PA system which they originally sponsored, by the club is solidly behind its replacement with financial contributions.

Winterizing the Upper Room

The current project is winterizing the Upper Room. The club and the UCW had received a bequeath from the estate of Wynne and George Richardson and both parties put \$2000 of their windfall into the project.

The club continues to support "Our boy in Ecuador through the Plan International to the tune of\$ 27 a month plus \$25.00 at Christmas. Well done Bellefair

**Wilmar Heights
Highlights**

Good Minutes

Well done J.Jewison an Editor's delight. I am sure your predecessor Lorne Thornely who kept them for so many years will approve.

Innovative Meeting Format

1996 will see but three traditional type meeting interspersed with a Breakfast meting on Sunday Morning, a meal at a local restaurant followed by a meeting at the church, a Golf Day, a Barbecue, a Ladies Night, and finally Breakfast at the Church in December.

Executive Meets

In the mean time the executive meets once a month to not only initiate the

above but to plan projects which the club will fulfill.

Musical

Sponsoring a musical evening with the Serenada Singers.

Hockey

Sponsoring a Hockey Team and taking the team out to lunch after a game on occasions.

Citrus Fruit Sales

A Citrus Fruit Sale grossing \$ 2968.00 with a profit \$ 805.50 sponsoring a youth to a Rally.

In Memorium

Making a Donation to the Church Memorial Fund in memory of three past members, T. McArthur, W. Wright and G. Duncan.

Layman's Sunday

Conducting Layman's Sunday and mustering a Male choir if enough voices can be found.

Kingston Road United AOTS Toronto

I has been a long time since we have heard from Kingston Road AOTS. They are a club of some 22 paid up members who like most AOTS are very active within their Church.

Fund Raising

For fund raising they seem to be into the selling of cheese and Maple Syrup. No they do not report of having a Maple Syrup and Cheese tasting party but they do report of moving \$1710.47 worth of cheese and making a profit of \$ 1478.30 on their Maple Syrup sales.

Service

In the service department they are right in there setting up and taking down for the Rummage Sale and the Church Bazaar.

Adopt A Room

Along with the other organizations of the church they are participating in the "Adopt A Room " project. The room they are responsible for seems to be a room where computer courses are given. Their sick and visiting committee is busy with cards of condolences and hospital visitation. They also sent Al Smith a birthday card on his Eightieth and were represented at his birthday party. In the

food department they are into pancake breakfasts for the congregation and a breakfast on Mothers Day. They supported their church with a donation of \$1500 to the general operating fund.

Public Realties

Congratulations were given to J. Young for an article on AOTS in the local Herald Newspaper and Oh how we wish we had received a copy. The Handshake would encourage other clubs to supply like copy to their local Newspaper. Some do so on a monthly basis.

London Conference Report

Tri Level Meetings

On Nov. 18, 1995 there was an AOTS weekend held at Harrow U.C., Harrow U.C. Harrow Ont. including meetings of the National executive, The Central Canada Council and highlighted by the the Tri-County Fall Rally and Dinner attended by nearly 100 persons

National Hospital Project

In order to promote the National Hospital Project the video from National is being circulated among all clubs in hopes of more support,

Tri County Council

Met in Jan 1996 establishing their 1996 budget, date for the annual Golf and Fun Day June 8 and indicating financial support for youth attending this years Central Regional RoundUp.

Promoting AOTS

The London Conference is a very large area and the Conference Rep is going to suggest that a prominent club in each Presbytery promote AOTS to all churches not in AOTS.

Fun and Fellowship

We also think there should be more effort to bring more U.C. men together for fun and fellowship. The Tillsonberg club is planning to hold a Golf Day Inviting all U.C. men in the Oxford Presbytery and area,

London Conference has 15 AOTS Men's Clubs and 280 members actively serving God and their Church with great potential to bring men to Christ through Fellowship and service.

Yours in service Havey Jackson

Belview Presbytery Ont.

Grace United AOTS

We are indebted to the Grace United AOTS Bulletin Editor Lorne Myles for some very refreshing news out of their Club in particular and the Belleview Presbytery in general. Right out of the starting gate the Presbytery AOTS held its Annual Round Up at Bloomfield United aton Saturday Nov. 4 at 7 P.m.

Promotional Message

There is a promotional message in the region that expands a recommendation made by the National Fellowship and Membership Committee. It is based on the assumption, namely that every individual, committee and officer within AOTS has a critical role to play with respect to the matter of essential factors in publicity.

1. Every AOTS member needs to be encouraged to bring one new member into AOTS each year.
2. Each AOTS member needs to attend one or more AOTS Roundups or special event annually, actively encouraging other men to join with them.
3. AOTS men should wear official AOTS insignia at Church functions or other events where men gather.

Club and District News

The Rembrance Day Service at Grace United was directed by the Club with Padre Horne of the Trenton CFB delivering the message.

Consecon AOTS celebrates its anniversary with help of Grace United. Grace to sponsor possible new club at Smithfield United. April meeting will host the Cubs and Beavers with the AOTS men serving the food and the boys supplying the entertainment. Will hold annual Yard Sale June 1st. Ladies night to be held on June 3rd.

Prayer

I believe in the sun even when it is behind the clouds; in the seed even when it lies unsprouted under the ground; in faith, even when I have been betrayed; in love when I have been rejected; in hope, even when I have been hurt; In God even when he does not answer my prayers.

To All Men: Here's an opportunity to join with others in Christian Fellowship and concern for issues in our Church.

Its time for the
**40th Annual
Celebration of Faith**

Sponsored by the B.C. Conference of United
Church AOTS Men's clubs
May 24 - 26, 1996
Camp Pringle, West Shawningan Lake Road
Vancouver Island

" Dialogue with Generation X"

is the Theme

Allison Rennie

BC Conf. Minister of Youth & Young Adults
and

Keith Howard

BC Conf Minmister of Communications
are the Theme Co-ordinators

Watch For It! - Ask For It!

A poster with registration details with a contact person named for your area has been mailed to every Church in B.C.

experiences . To witness a quiet and un assuming friend step to the podium to literally glow as he delivers a message at the the morning devotional.

As you witness this miraculous transformation you can but recall Luke 2-52 "and Jesus increased in wisdom and stature in favour with God and Man.

Claims are made at each Conference that they are nearly all approaching their 50 th Anniversary. Have we seen the evolution of the Christian man who has matured to the point of taking the service, the devotion, the opening or closing prayer and yes even the service itself. Such an evolution has come from witnessing together As One That Serves.



Jim Ware, secretary, and Keith Bennet the clubs perennial treasurer.

Des Morris will remain on the executive as past president Committee Chairman will be named at the Instalation Jan 25 when a ladies night will be staged at the Cowichan Golf and Country Club. Bruce Martin of Oak Bay, Vancouver Island AOTS president will be the installing officer.

End of the year finances were reviewed were reviewed and some \$ 6250.00 distributed to charities including the United Church, the Salvation Army , the Basket Society, the Cowichan Foundation, the Unitarian Service Committee and upgrading of the public address system.

Fred Brown and Roy Laird announced plans for the Burns Supper and Dance Jan. 20. This will be the 28th consecutive year that AOTS has has celebrated the Scottish Bard's birthday in this manner.

The devotional period and the program were arranged by members of the Salvation Army.

A seven piece band led the carol singing. Captain Donna Barthau spoke on "the unsung heroes in our midst", especially at this time of year when there is so much giving giving of time and energy and substance. She spoke of Joseph, husband of Mary as an outstanding example of such heroes. A man she said who listened and took action.

Captain Bill Barthau showed a number of excellent slides of Salvation Army work in places where he had served. These included Nigeria and Kenya, There were a number of pictures of trhe work with handicapped children. Ernie Stafford and Mike Kansky made the arrangements and expressed thanks to the visitors for coming to what is now the December traditional Salvation Army AOTS meeting. Over 50 men were present . Dinner was served by the Violet Lee branch of the UCW convened by Jean Quigg.

A History of a Men's Conference

Over the years as announcements were received to be put in the handshake in regards to this or that Men's Conference and irregardless of where or what name they went by I wanted to call out "Don't miss this one fellows for it is bound to be a religious experience. Witnessing as I have the spiritual side of our National Conventions that have taken place right across Canada from Newfoundland in the East to Vancouver in the West and all the stops in between all I can say you have to be there to believe it. To borrow and opening line from Kipling.

" Breaths there a man with soul so Dead" and add to it who does not feel the spirit of the Lord rising from within when 20 ,40 or 400 men raise their voices on high as they worship together in Song.

Those of you who go to Coferences, retreats or like gatherings should have to pledge that you will bring a friend next time so he too catches the spirit of such

Duncan AOTS

No report out of Duncan would be complete without a Don Mortons article taken from the Cowichan News. Almost every newspaper clipping we receive from him usually has a scribbled note on it like "they cut it short" or "they got this or that wrong" Because Don has been so faithfull a reporter we will run this news items as is even though we can't correct the names they got wrong. Every year Duncan has a guest speaker from the Salvation Army YMCA and this year was no exception.



Duncan AOTS Elects Ron Matthews as new President.

Ron MATthews was elected president of Duncan AOTS Club at the December meeting. Supporting him will be Jan Mandagg, Vice President:

**B.C. Round Up 96
at
Duncan, B.C.
September 28 1996**

Maritime Report*

by
Wilson
Jones
Conference
Rep



Maritime Events Thriving

The three main gatherings for Maritime Conference United Church Men continues to provide an opportunity for fellowship and spiritual renewal. The Stanhope Men's Conference on PEI has been an annual event for 40 years, the Cape Breton Men's's Conference has been ongoing for fifteen years, and the Fredericton Christian Men's Retreat has started into its teens. Men from all walks of life and many denominational backgrounds are finding new and renewed relationships with Jesus Christ through these gatherings.

Stanhope Conference

The Stanhope Conference is held each year in mid September at the United Church Camp Abegweit at Auguatin Cove on the warm waters of the Northumberland Strait (about five miles from the new "fixed link". The 1995 edition took as its theme "The faithfulness is unto all generations with theme addresses by Rev. Robert Latimer, the Rev. Gordon Matheson, and the Rev. Jim Webber-Cook. Each address was followed by small group discussions where the men can share in a more intimate setting. Stanhope is special in the number of young men who attend. Saturday evening is given over to them for music, worship, and story telling. The event concludes at Sunday noon after Communion and a time for individual prayer.

Cape Breton Men's Conference

The Mira Pines Christian Development and Recreation Centre on the beautiful Mira River is home to the Cape Breton Men's Conference each fall. The combination of solitude and Cape Breton hospitality makes it a time to remember. In 1995 the Rev Victor McLeod spoke to the theme

"Hidden Springs" with three addresses entitled "Jesus and Abba", "Paul and the Spirit" and "John and God's Love". The Conference Chaplain, the Rev. Fraser MacDonald, led an inspiring Communion service to close the event on Sunday.

Fredericton Men's Retreat

Mid February each year is highlighted by the Fredericton Christian Men's Retreat. It is organized by an ecumenical group and in 1996 drew a record 96 to a new sight, Green Hill Lake Camp. The theme, "Being a Person After the Heart of God", was addressed by the Rev. Paul Ross followed by small group discussions. Two inspirational faith stories were told on Saturday, and the Chaplain, the Rev Tim Davidson conducted an uplifting Communion service on Sunday. At all three events, music and singing bring great joy to the soul and Praise to God

* Our apologies to Lorne Harding (right) The Eastern Vice President whose report went AWOL from my files. Keep them coming Lorne perhaps the next Editor will be more efficient



Manitoba and Western Canada

As this is my first report, it consists of Manitoba Council News only.

Clubs

There are four (4) clubs still meeting.

Barbecue

June was a very busy time. The Winnipeg Presbytery Meeting was held at Regent's Park United Church and we held a barbecue supper where 120 suppers were served

Camp Wanacumbac.

I had the pleasure of attending a retreat at Camp Wanacumbac, near Clear Lake, MB, with Past President John Carswell and three other members of the Manitoba District Council.

Habitat

Is still in full swing and several members participated in building four houses on Ross Ave. in Winnipeg. Jim Lawrence reports that several members got together and served lunch on one occasion.

Winnipeg Hospital

This may be of interest to many people in AOTS. Harry Burdeb, who organizes the Hospital Project in Winnipeg sends this news. This year marks the 44th year of the AOTS connection with wheel chair patients at the "Municipal Hospital now renamed the "Riverview Health Centre". This year a Volunteer Night was held on May 10th. The big news is that construction has commenced for the new hospital behind the Old King George. The new hospital will consist of a multi-level building complex and is to contain a sizeable chapel.

Greetings

To my own club at Grey St. UC As a matter of interest, we will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary next year. Celebrations are being organized. A Concert was held on Nov. 5, 1995. Don J. MacKenzie
Western Vice President

Coming Maritime Events

Stanhope Men's
Conference
Sept 13 to 16 1996

Cape Breton Men's
Conference
Sep 27 to 29 1996

Fredericton Men's
Retreat
Feb 21-23 1997

A Tribute to Duncan

Since the inception of this Handshake some 8 years ago Duncan has been our most faithful contributor. We have already paid tribute to Don Morton who has apprised the Cowichan valley as to the clubs activities almost since day one.

Duncan Secretaries

The secretaries over the years have faithfully supplied us with not only the clubs minutes but also those of its executive. Speaking of the later I see names like Norma Carter, Art Mann, Alf Lloyd Bill Powell on the current executive all contemporaries of yours truly and men who I consider my Brothers in Christ.

A Soft Spot

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for Duncan as they sponsored me for my Life Membership in National AOTS. As I occupied various executive positions that brought me in direct contact with this group of mavericks I was often forced to wear them like a hair shirt. Neither yourself nor Provincial or National could stand on their collective laurels when bringing a message to this group. I recall catching a plane out of Vancouver to Victoria one evening after work to install the officers of the Vancouver Island District Council. Officers who by the way came primarily from Duncan. Expecting to say a few words on behalf of National or at least bring greetings I was informed that I was there for one thing only and that was to install the officers. They had a standing rule apparently of no speeches as there wasn't the time. This was true of course for half of the meeting had either to travel up or down the Island some 70 miles in order to get home.

The Largest Club

Duncan was always the largest club in Canada. Their record of service and financial support both inside an outside of the Church has been the best. They have supplied their fair share of executive officers on all levels of AOTS like Ernie Stafford Don Morton Norm Carter and most recently Art Mann.

Club Presidents

Their strength is perhaps symbolized by their most recently elected club

President Ron Matthews is their 43rd President and 42 different individual Presidents preceding him. Quite a record you must admit.

And one more thing, those past Presidents hang around to lend a helping hand and its their choice. Well done Duncan. Tell me is there any truth to the rumor that you all wear the AOTS Crest on your PJ's.



Tom Murray

Langley

This smallish but very active club will be remembered Nationally for hosting the 1993 Convention. As a matter of fact over the years men such as the late Tom Murray and Don Baycroft represented B.C. at the National level while more recently Bill Pike occupies the chair of the National Finance Committee. These same three men served as Presidents of the Provincial Council. The Langley club has played host to several National Presidents at their meetings. The late Frank MacLean breathed new life into the Celebration of Faith and was responsible for its success through many years at Trinity Western. The club is a strong force in their church as you can see from the excerpts of their minutes covering the last five meetings. Looked after the Coffee Hour between Church Services in November. Mustered a men's choir to sing Christmas Carols in some wards of the Langley General Hospital. Held their Annual Turkey dinner with their wives as guests. Installed two new members Michael St. Louis and Roy Fowler.



Bill Pike

Received a Thank you card from Mary Got of Nigeria whom they sponsor through the Children's Fund of Canada..

Gave \$500.00 to the Youth Group to offset costs

for those attending (10) the Naramata Youth Conference.

Sponsored three Christmas light tours for

the congregation. Spaghetti Diner and talent dinner planned for Saturday April 20th. Will Conduct May 5th Church Service. Will work with the Congregation to put on the Annual Garage Sale. If the Church has is spring festival the club will run the AOTS Fish-a-Tonne?



Searching out ideas for Valentines Day, Easter and Halloween.

The Handshake wants to thank Secretary Gordon Peeves and those preceding him for faithfully sending in copies of the club's minutes.

The Vancouver Island District Council.

Is the last of the regional council, left in B.C. In the good old days such regional councils, about 8 in number, covered the province. Its President is Bruce Martin who put new life into the position of Member at Large by reporting to National as to the activities in his region. Bruce made his presence felt at the meetings he attended.

The minutes of this council do not only tell of its activities but has reports made to it by its member clubs. The big events that Vancouver Island is preparing for are the B.C. Round Up to be held at Duncan on September 28 and Prior to that they will sponsor the **AOTS Rally and Congregational Picnic** June 9th. Duncan will handle the Merry Go Round (?) plus Registration and Parking with help from other clubs as required.

Esquimalt will handle the Ice Cream and contribute to the entertainment with the "JOY" Singing Group, Roy Jones in charge. Hey watch that Jones Boy! . Imagine letting him loose around several buckets of ice cream.

Oak Bay is in charge of games, publicity and the Devotional which will be taken by Bruce Martin. Oak Bay is very involved with the Celebration of Faith to be held at Camp Pringle on May 24-26

There followed club reports with the most activity reported by

Duncan of course.

A plea by Royal Oak as to the meals for their meetings. Your editor suggest they make contact with the Langley Club. Having experienced many dinners there made up of casseroles and salads supplied by the member's wives with coffee, buns and desert supplied by the club itself. One suspects that there is collusion amongst the ladies for the balance and the choices are just excellent.

National News

Well here we are on Page 9 and I can hear the Nationalist wondering if I was ever going to mention them. You may wonder at the term "Nationalist". No ! It has nothing to do with Canada breaking up but is used to grab your attention. President Craig in his chatty and inspirational report on page one I feel has set the tone for National as it enters the second quarter of it's first year of its two year mandate. As the National Executive and its Committees report below, there is no doubt that they are supporting the President as they search for better ways to serve you.

Finance Committee

Bill Pike Chair

Report to March 10th Conference Call*
I was very happy to be part of the Western Regional Meeting held in Langley B.C. on January 26, 27, 28 1996. It was good to have Craig Watson, our National President, in attendance at this, the inaugural meeting held for the Western Region.

Meeting by Confernce Call

The agenda included a section on Finance and Planning, Western Regional concept and Publicity. The minutes of this meeting speak for themselves and will be the subject of discussion on the Conference Call * so I will not comment on them in this report.

Questionnaire

One thing I would ask all clubs and Individual members who have received their questionnaire, that they take the time to complete and return it to me. The findings of this survey will be

presented to the annual meeting in SEPTEMBER, hopefully forming a foundation to build on.

Good News

The good news is that we are in a little better financial position, however we must continue to encourage growth within existing clubs and foster the establishment of new ones.

* The Conference Call was held on March 10th. If the Handshake reads the times correctly the Pacific Time was 10 P.M which has the Eastren Region at 1 A.M. and the Atlantic region at 2:A.M.

Fellowship and Membership

This committee has a plan for you and has practiced it successfully in its own back yard. In the report the committee lists facts and figures and projects from them some very encouraging results as to membership and fiancees. There follows an outline of their proposals approved by the National Executive.

1. Let the Clubs know of the Dave Sherwood Award and What it is all about.
2. Give them something to work for. Reduce dues by \$1.00 per member if they sponsor a new club, \$2.00 for two clubs and so on. Give them something to shoot for.
3. There will be a competition for the member that sponsors the most new members in the next two years. The winner will be recognized with a presentation at the 1997 Convention.

"LETS GET A PLAN AND THEN WORK THE PLAN"

Start your plan when you receive your next Handshake and lets get moving.
Ronald Welsh
Chairman

Editorial and Handshake Committee

With yours truly as chairman and with my silent partner John Carswell looking after management and distribution our

efforts are before you. The last time we published something other than the Handshake was the promotional Brochure for the Hospital Project. Secondly this Handshake covers both the Winter Spring and the Spring Summer editions

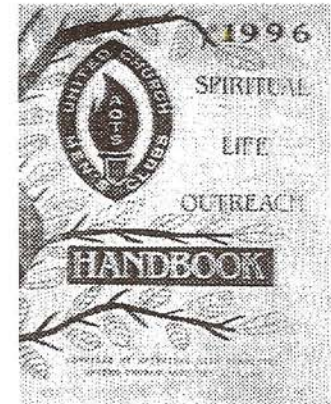
A Publisher has been found

Gene Perry of Perry Graphics stands ready to receive a tape or camera ready copy in order to print subsequent Handshakes.

Looking for a new Editor

It would then fall to the London Conference to act as the distributor of the Handshake. The best scenario is to have the editor publisher and the printer in the same neighborhood. However if we go to a computer based network the distanced could be over come. This would involve as many reports as possible on a computer disk sent first to the editor and then to the printer. This methodolgy will be passed by the National Executive for its approval.

Spiritual Life Committee



A Hard Working Committee

We have many hard working National Spiritual Life Committees down through the years but the present day group led by Gil Reashore has surely out done them all.

The mock up of the cover above marks the third biannual edition of the HANDBOOK of Spiritual Life Outreach. Many of you might well wonder why the Handshake has not taken advantage of these well prepared devotionals and featured them on the Page of Devotion . Alas, the task of editing them to fit the

space available only serves to ruin the continuity and the message. But Gil is no stranger to our page of devotions as he has supplied custom prepared messages for us whenever he was called upon so to do. The Handshake is most appreciative of his devotional messages that it used and to those sermonettes in his Devotional Handbook. Our deepest appreciation Gil I know you will help the next editor as much as you did me.

Video Tapes

About Round Ups and other Men's Gatherings

Our Gil is into video tapes about AOTS as well. He is currently working on a Tape which will explain Round Ups, Conferencres and other men's gatherings. For those in Ontario there will be a sequel to the Ontario Round Up, with its Theme address plus the presentations of the youth group Chaverim.

About Leadership and Prayers and Devotions

There are plans for Tapes on these subjects

On top of all this Gil is working on the 1996 Ontario Roundup on April 21- 23,

Constitution Committee

Harry Wofraim is the Chair of this Committee and is ably supported by two veterans of the Constitutional wars Al Smith and Layton Stewart. Al has talked retirement but I wonder if he could resist commenting on any constitutional changes that this group might come up with.

The responsibility of this Committe is to make known their decisions, and suggesstion for change if any, to the Rules of Government for the National body. It will in turn take such changes to the Natioal Convention for their approval or disapproval.

Additions Changes

The Committee is open to suggestions for the change of the Rules of Government last issued in 1983. They are faced with the task of monitoring changes approved since then have them added to or taken out if so directed.

Ken Lane: National Secretary* Reports

*formerly Executive Director

This six page report which was directed to the National Telephone Conference consists of two parts. The report gives directives that are of concern to the entire membership. The edited report. contains the following:

1. Three pages of directives on vital issues for the National Excecitive consideration and action .
2. A three page inventory of AOTS Suppliers and Office Equipment.

As to the later the Handshake can only refer you to Ken Lane whose address is at the end of this article. It lists AOTS items he has for sale running from Videos to applications for Life Memberships. At any men's gathering that Ken attends he runs a display of promotional material in the form of, posters, videos and various pamphlets.

Directives

The bulk of the directives concern themselves with the varous standing committees with suggestion for action and emphasis on the following.

Standing Committees: A list of concerns that the time for action is now. Committees to review their objectives and put their plans into action.

6 Sees a geat need for direction and promotion from National. Need answers to their concerns immediately.

Vital concerns are:

Promtion of the Second Mile with an informative flyer to all clubs about this valued project . An Annual Project in every club with proceeds going to the second mile. The whole concept has been poorly presented with minimal coverage in the Handsahke.

National Hospital Project

Better Publicity needed like equipment puchased and where it is being used? What is the latest need of the Hospitals (late information has the PCA (Patient Controlled Analgesia Machine) as our next objective.

The Harry Colnett Scholarship Recipient has been named (see report this page)

Better coverage here. More information re. winners with pictures of presentation ,what has been done in the past. the number of presntations and so on.

There were other topics covered like the DR Poole Awards, the establishment of more regional and national projects, and other AOTS concerns. Many of these have since been addressed by standing committee club and regional reports.

Kenneth F Lane
National Secretary
44 Paris Drive
Elliot Lake Ont..
P5A 2L9
Phone 705 848 1800
Fax 705 848 0704

For Club Starter Kits
Club Promotional Videos
Pamphlets
Write for Catalogue

Church and Community Service

Committee

My Committee consists of Dr. Murray Mcpherson, Rev. Walter Cowan and Jacek Romanowski all of Winnipeg, and Robert MacPherson of Brandon Manitoba.

Applications

Harry Colnett Scholarship application form mailings have been handled by the University of Manitoba and are sent to all Canadian Universities. In the future I shall be asking for a list of the Universities to which the mailings are sent.

Latest Award

As recently as today it was determined that the 1995 recipient of the scholarship would be Miss Allison Tuff of Swar River, Manitoba. She currently is working to complete her Masters degree in Human Ecology at the University of

Manitoba. She is developing a program for Indonesia concerning.

1. How women in the community use local health services
2. Discovering how environmental and physical barriers affect healthy food practices.
3. Health service nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

Thanks

The following is the opening paragraph of a letter received from Allison which is self explanatory.

Dear scholarship committee members. Please find below a description of my thesis research. I thank you for rewarding me with the Harry Colnett agricultural scholarship. I spent one year living and collecting data relating to food purchasing and consumption patterns in rural and Urban Indonesia. I hope you find my brief statement of my work interesting and informative as to the research purposes.

Context of work *

This masters degree research is part of a larger five years development project sponsored by the International Development Research Centre of Canada and the Indonesia Ministry of Health. The main IRDC objective is to reduce the rate of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity by improving the effectiveness of community based health services in rural and urban Indonesia. The project goal is to produce a community based health service nutrition education programme that will focus on the promotion of healthy eating and the elimination of barriers to healthy nutrition behaviors.

*Excerpts from a report submitted by Jim Lawrence-Committee Chair

Harow Maldon AOTS

Frozen Food

We sell frozen vegetables, frozen hamburgers, jam, frozen fruit and fruit cakes.

Two dinners Annually

Served as fund raisers with the UCW. A turkey dinner in the fall and a beef dinner in the Spring.

Supporting an Orphanage

With a pancake breakfast for an orphanage in a third world country started by Frank Chouvin a retired police officer in Windsor.

A wood working shop

Operated by the men, in a special building, to train youth in wood working. Supply all the wood and supervision.

Renovations

Recently renovated the secretaries office at the Church and purchased computer for same.

Glass Glazing

Re-glazed front leaded glass window in front of the sanctuary and replaced windows in basement under the sanctuary.

Roofing-Landscaping

Re-roofed addition at rear of the church and landscaped the church grounds.

Members

Twenty eight in number who feel it is important that they have projects that are worthwhile to get younger men involved.

President Merle Sheply

The Voice Of Saskatchewan AOTS

Menu has New Editor

Yes Gord Night 34 is editor of this 38 year old publication By the way he has three positions Editor, Publisher and Printer.

Thanks to Harry Dow, who Gordon is replacing, for his years of service to the Menu and the Club.

Largest Club

In Saskatchewan that is, but certainly the most active. They can claim three members of their executive to be under the age of 40.

Members

About 30, 14 of them on committees with the rest on a standby basis and on call to serve wherever needed.

Projects for 96

43rd Annual Ladies Night (entertained 23 widows in 96) - Meals on Wheels - Pancake and Sausage Supper - Easter

Sunday Service-Church Ushering-Annual Garage Sale- Chuck Wagon and Bake Sale. Fall Beef Supper- traditionally the club sponsor's 10 first attenders to Camp Capernaum

Fellowship Breakfast

A complimentary Fellowship Breakfast for 41 Men from Minto, Zion, Trinity, Grandview and St Andrew's United Churches.

AOTS Memorial Fund

Supplies one Scholarship to a worthy individual each year. The latest recipient being Elanor Atkins who is taking further training in the ministry.

Hamilton Conference

Our most faithful correspondent Howard Wills, Conference Rep for Hamilton sent us a two page report from which we can only report one or two items.

St. Pauls AOTS held a Family Cornfest and Barbecue. Held a Golf Day to which men of St. James-Rosemount of Kitchener were invited. After a fun day they were invited back to a supper put on by St. Pauls and the prizes were distributed. St. James Rosemount will be the hosts for the next Golf Day. Will have a Craft table at the Annual Church Bazaar

St. James-Rosemount held a joint meeting with the W.C. The speaker was a blind children's author with 18 books to her credit. This club holds an annual Christmas Nut Sale.

Richard Deitriche an Individual Member of AOTS at Harcourt Memorial United Church is working hard at establishing an AOTS Men's Breakfast Club. This move has the full support of their minister John Buttars also an Individual member. The Handshake hears of a charter morning somewhere in the Hamilton Conference. Could it be Harcourt? Stay tuned.

Important Notice*

In the interest of continuity please mail all minutes, reports etc. to

Bill Hastings
1995 Lindell Ave.
Lindell Beach, B.C.
V2R 4W7



Foot Prints

by

Margaret Powers
Coquitlum B.C.



One night a man had a dream
He was walking along the beach with the Lord
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from his
life. In each scene, he noticed two sets
of foot prints in the sand:
one made by him, and the other by the Lord.



When the last scene of his life flashed before
him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his
life there was only one set of foot prints.
He also noticed that it happened
at the worst times in his life.



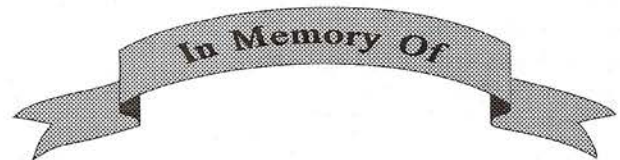
This bothered him very
much,
so he asked the Lord about it.
"Lord you said that once I decided to
follow you,
you'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed during the times of trouble,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why you left me
when I needed you the most."



The Lord answered. "My precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial'
when you see only one set of
footprints, that's when I was
carrying you."



When the tone poem on the left was first brought to my attention by John Carswell the scene of its discovery was set in a hospital waiting room. The loan occupant was a distraught son who was trying to come to terms with his father's impending death. While musing over the religious connotations of the situation he was attracted to the waiting room bulletin board and found there once more his belief in God. He felt that his father was the one who had walked for all of his life with the Lord beside him. Adding to this emotional scene was the inference that it had been placed there by a caring nurse and that the author was unknown. Your editor was so impressed that he ran it in the next Handshake as that issue's devotional. A few years later the poem appeared, on the front page mind you, of the Vancouver Sun with full credits to the poet herself. The article was filed away for future reference to be once more shared in this my last issue of the Handshake, as a poignant expression of our faith



Dick Haythorne



President of Chillwack Men's Club. Member of B.C. Provincial AOTS Council. A regular attender of the Banff Men's Conference. Was a member of its planning committee a few years back. Head usher at Chillwack United. Always ready with a friendly smile, a warm hand shake and a most gracious welcome,

Reverend Gerry McKechan



Late of Centennial United Victoria B.C. and member and supporter of AOTS in all of his charge. Member of one of the first post war clubs at Fraserview United.

An accomplished lyricist who wrote AOTS songs to the tune of popular melodies

To Dick and Gerry and all their Brothers in Christ that have gone before them:

*His Lord said to him, "Well done Good and Faithfu Servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the Joy of Your Master
Matthew 25 : 21*