

Fellowship Focus



March 2007

A TRIBUTE TO ALBIN LIKNES

By Rev. Ken Stange



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Rev. Ken Stange is the District Director of the northern Alberta District

Rev. Albin Liknes went to be with the Lord he loved so well on February 8th, 2007.

His love, commitment and passion for the grace of God will be long cherished.

Albin's ministry since the mid 40's was based for the most part in central and northern Alberta. Communities in Sedalia, Sundre, Rocky Mountain House, Withrow, Consort, Manning, Athabasca, Dapp and Westlock all felt the depth of his Bible knowledge and the variety of his personal stories to illustrate the point.

Albin was a man of his word and a man of the Word. From the seat of a harrow cart behind a team of horses, he would read and memorize scripture. From a student's desk he received formal instruction at Coronation, Grenfell and Coquitlam. From the pulpit he would orate truth and practice. Besides pastoral ministry, farming, municipal politics and carpentry all revealed his wide variety of physical and people skills.

It was my privilege to work under his patient and trusting influence at Dapp in 1982. As a young man, I marveled at his ability to love

and influence people. My youthful idealism was often distressed by the effectiveness of Albin's unstructured methods. He established a foundation of trust and integrity that I have benefited from to this day.

Over the years it has been my joy to maintain relationship with Albin and his wife Alice. He always delighted to hear of what was happening in the district and ACOP. Only recently, as he was nearing his 90th birthday, his enthusiasm over what was happening in our rural community inspired him to exclaim, "Oh, if I could only be 70 again!"



Rev. Albin Liknes

This was the heart of the man. Neither location, history, circumstance, nor age deterred Albin Liknes from the pursuit of making the grace of God known to all men.

We will miss him. We will continue on in his values as a tribute to his life passion.

Vision

To preach the gospel of the Kingdom to every nation.

Mission

To be an international network of ministers and churches providing fellowship encouragement and accountability in the proclamation of the Gospel by the Power of the Holy Spirit

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Marketplace Ministries seminar with Rev. Ed Silvos from San Jose, CA is coming to a Regional Conference near you.

May 29, 2007—Toronto Harvest Missionary Church, Toronto, ON

May 30, 2007—Regina Apostolic Church, Regina, SK

May 31, 2007—Greenwood Inn, Calgary, AB

June 1, 2007—Cariboo Road Fellowship, Burnaby, BC

Register at ACOP Head Office or online at www.acop.ca

ACOP Core Values

1. Vital Relationships Are Essential:

We value right relationships with God and with one another. Relationships within our Fellowship should be characterized by love, acceptance, forgiveness and accountability. We recognize that authority comes from relationship and not position alone.

2. Leadership Makes a Difference:

God uses a few to influence many. Leadership is both an awesome responsibility and a wonderful opportunity.

3. Vision Gives Life:

Through vision God invites us to partner with Him, for a preferable future. Vision must be revealed, embraced, communicated and pursued.

4. The Church Is the Hope of the World:

Life transformation happens in and through the local church. The local church is the primary vehicle for advancing the Kingdom of God in our world. Therefore we respect the autonomy of the local church, while acknowledging the benefit of interchurch cooperation.

5. Unity with Diversity is a Blessing:

We believe that there must be unity in the essentials and a respect for diversity in the non-essentials.

6. Prayer Releases God's Power:

We value seeking, listening and bringing God's power to bear in our Fellowship. Through prayer we impact our world

7. Anointed Bible Preaching:

Preaching is the Spirit empowered proclamation of the Word of God, which results in a demonstration of the Spirit's power.

WORKING OUT By Rev. Greta Sheppard



Rev. Greta Sheppard

Work! Work! Work!

We are a work-oriented society. Working at getting ahead. Working for a living, working at physical fitness, working on our relationships, working on projects. Working at pleasure. Working towards retirement. We even work to be seen spiritual. Working for Jesus. Working and worrying how we can please God! Some are even working at *staying* saved! Been there, done that too! I grew up on 'busy belief' based on Phil.2:12 "...*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*" My childhood mentors failed to teach me the complete concept/context of that chapter. Perhaps the words 'work out' really means '*humbly live out*'? Letting others see our salvation in operation? Isn't our life supposed to be more about serving rather than striving? About resting, not rushing? Loving, not labouring?

Phil.2: in The Message offers timely work ethics for the physical/spiritual life of a christian:

2:1 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care-
2:2 then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited

friends.

2:3 Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead.

2:4 Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

2:5 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.

2:6 He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what.

2:7 Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human!

2:8 Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death--and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion.

2:9 Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever,

2:10 so that all created beings in heaven and on earth--even those long ago dead and buried--will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ,

2:11 and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

2:12 What I'm getting at,

friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning . . . living in

responsive obedience, keeping it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God.

2:13 That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

2:14 Do everything readily and cheerfully--no bickering, no second-guessing allowed!

2:15 Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night.

"The Message"

Final thought:

Did you glean any work/belief ethics in this reading? Would living like this be a great way to win friends and influence the people we work and play with?

Every morning when my feet hit the floor, I remember that it is Christ who started the work in me...he did all the sweating and toil. All I have to do today is to let him live through me. Man, does that ever make a difference in my energy levels! No pressure! Less stress! (Phil.1:6 according to Greta)

Missions Snapshot



- Garth Knapp is returning from his travels in Africa
- Lorne Marshall is traveling in Africa and will be returning in May
- Emily Lange, intern in Asia, is returning from the field
- Ron Lapka is on deputation for his mission in El Salvador
- Justin Pilgrim is on deputation for his mission in Ireland

Did You Know?

You can make a donation to ACOP or an ACOP Missionary or Project from our website. Access our secure website from the left hand column of our home page www.acop.ca