



FINAL REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

# BACK TO BASICS



13TH WORLD SERVICE MEETING  
CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA / OCTOBER 9-13, 1994

This is a report of the status of the fund as requested by the 1992 World Service Meeting:

We have received \$44,730.06 in contributions. We have allocated \$22,000 from the fund to cover one half of the cost of eight projects in seven languages. The A.A. World Service Preliminary 1994 Foreign Literature Assistance Budget was approximately \$136,000. Our budgeting process has to be extremely flexible, as we work with many people overseas in connection with translations and reprint schedules and it is extremely difficult to project exactly when a translation project will be completed or inventories will need to be replenished. For example, in 1994 we expect to spend \$74,200 on projects that were originally budgeted, but \$82,460 on projects or on reprints that were not anticipated at the time of budgeting. We have therefore revised the budget from \$136,000 to \$178,660 (less the contribution of \$22,000 from the fund).

Enclosed with this report are itemizations of the funds received, the amount spent on specific projects, and our revised 1994 budget.

We felt that the World Service Meeting delegates might be interested in the process that usually occurs with a new project. Operationally, it generally goes as follows:

A request to translate comes to G.S.O. from either a bilingual A.A. member or a nonalcoholic, such as a doctor working with alcoholics.

G.S.O. ascertains that the translator is truly bilingual and that the translation is being done from the original English source. We ask for a sample chapter which is then reviewed by a professional translator. Following a positive review of the sample, the A.A.W.S. Board reviews the matter and determines whether to go forward.

Following A.A.W.S. Board approval, G.S.O. contacts the translator and sends specifications for the content, information for the copyright page, copyright assignment, etc. We determine whether the translator will use a manuscript copy or a computer disk.

We ask how many books the country expects to distribute during the first year, to help determine the size of the initial printing.

We try to determine if the country has storage facilities and, if so, whether they are in a position to receive the entire print order at one time. In countries where A.A. is very new, they are usually not in a position to receive the entire order, and we determine where it can best be warehoused.

The translators usually submit a manuscript within one year. When received, we send it to a professional translator for editing, styling and proofreading. At this point, we may run into difficulties, such as being advised that the translation appears to have been done by several people with style changes from chapter to chapter, that sections may be missing, or that there are other problems. We then try to work out the problems and complete the manuscript.

Finally, the manuscript is typeset, proofread and the "mechanicals" are sent to G.S.O.

The books for Eastern Europe are printed in Vienna with the inventory stored there and a small supply sent to G.S.O. Germany in Munich. Large orders are then filled from Vienna with small orders from Munich. (G.S.O. Munich performs this service free of charge as part of their contribution to carrying the message worldwide.)

Translations done for African, Asian and mid-Eastern countries are manufactured and stored in the United States. Of course, South and Central America have been publishing literature themselves for some time.

The appropriate copyrights are filed.

There are, of course, variations on this procedure, **but** this is the way most of the Foreign Literature Assistance effort comes about.

A.A. World Services has never turned down a request for literature assistance for financial reasons. This has been true even when there was concern about the financial picture at G.S.O. Clearly, the International Literature Monetary Fund is proving to be of great help to A.A.W.S. in carry the A.A. message through literature. But, perhaps even more important, the fund demonstrates that A.A.s everywhere that the responsibility to meet the need for A.A. literature is one that all A.A.s share and that they have an opportunity to participate in this work as their means allow.

*George Dorsey (United. States/Canada)*

## Copyrights

Alcoholics Anonymous World Service, Inc. is the owner of the copyrights (in most of the world) for Bill's writings and for literature approved by the General Service Conference U.S./Canada, and has the responsibility for licensing service structures outside of the United States and Canada to translate and publish this copyrighted material.

Historically, A.A.W.S. has tried to guard the copyrighted material in order to protect the integrity of the A.A. message as expressed in this literature and to enable established A.A. service structures to control the publication in

their own country. Since service structures other than the United States and Canada first began publishing this literature, our policy has been to grant exclusive licenses to only one established service entity per country. There were many reasons for this policy, including the desire to ensure the accuracy of translations and to help newly formed general service boards in their efforts to achieve unity and offer services to A.A. groups in their countries.

The exclusive license policy authorizes the service board who was given the license (the licensee) to protect the copyright and their license in their own country. Prior to 1986, the licensing procedure was rather informal and not particularly consistent. During the late 1980s we worked to develop a standard licensing form which would grant the licensee the authority to protect the license and copyright in their own name and at their own expense in their country.

There have been relatively few problems that have arisen in connection with this historic policy. There is currently a situation in which a service body other than the general service board that had been licensed has published copyrighted literature without the authority of A.A.W.S. or the original licensee in their country. This has led some members to question our longstanding policy.

In the course of this meeting, we would appreciate some discussion and sharing about this. Just some of the questions that would have to be asked if we were to even consider a different policy would be: How would a change affect A.A. service boards which, until now, have been exclusive

*George Dorsey (United States/Canada)*

### Closing remarks

My distinguished friends, for the purposes of A.A., "Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

So it is before a group of Alcoholics Anonymous that I find myself. And what a group it is! Composed only of delegates, the chosen representatives of countries that have established A.A. service structures.

You have met to share the service experiences of each of the countries that you represent. I can attest that you have done an effective and diligent job, of enormous significance for the future of this distinguished Fellowship.

Life has placed all of us who are present here at an important juncture in the history of A.A. We are given a structure that was born only yesterday, that suffered through growing pains and now extends to every corner of the known world.

In late 1940, a mere 54 years ago, the Fellowship enthusiastically celebrated the arrival its two-thousandth member.

Today, according to some statistics, there are more than 2,000,000 recovering alcoholics attending meetings in more than 100,000 groups all over the world. The work has been arduous, but fruitful.

If, however, we turn to other figures reported in some recent studies, we will appreciate how much remains to be done. According to these investigations, 2% of the total population suffers from alcoholic problems: 160,000,000 individuals need this Fellowship. This amounts to a staggering shortfall.

For this reason, service meetings such as this one are enormously useful not only for the A.A. Fellowship, but for all of society. I need not cite for you the numerous whys and wherefores, since I am sure that they are all already perfectly clear to you.

The Fifth Tradition tells us: "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." The work you have done these past days was focused upon this goal and, your intention accomplished, it will bear its longed-for fruits.

It is edifying to see a Fellowship able to rely on service workers of your quality: your prudent resolve, your good will, your desire to do the right thing, your good sense and your knowledge serve as assurances that Alcoholics Anonymous will continue, in the near and far future, to grow and develop in keeping with its principles and legacies.

I thank you profoundly for having given me this opportunity to be with you, to know you, and to share. I hope that your stay in Colombia has been a pleasant one. For us it was a great delight to have you here. Once again I express to you all my admiration, my respect and my love.

*Hermes Zuluaga Restrepo (Colombia)*

