



GROWTH OF THE FELLOWSHIP

On pages five through eight is a listing of various countries and the activities within each of those countries. This information is exciting to read. It shows where the Fellowship is expanding, and as all of us share in the birth of recovery in other countries, it is always interesting and exciting to see.

The growth internationally, however, is not without its problems. Each group in a new country is started in the face of a great number of obstacles. They are obstacles to which most English-speaking members are usually oblivious. There are problems of language, culture, custom, politics, religious and racial differences.

The English-speaking membership generally benefits from a tolerant political, religious and cultural system that permits N.A. development according to the principles of our program as they are stated. We have found in our Traditions a basis for equality of members, a single requirement for membership, and an acknowledgement that the principal authority of our groups is the expression of a loving God. Some cultures, however, make it difficult for these concepts to be applicable in the same manner as they are found in the English-speaking countries. The English-speaking member is the fortunate beneficiary of cultural growth and tolerance, a growing enlightenment of equality of democratic thought and people. But, this is not always the case in countries where our Fellowship is only beginning.

In some cultures, the ability of an individual to participate in some aspects of society is determined by religious grounds, ethnic grounds, and in some situations, political grounds. These constraints will be severely tested by a Fellowship emerging with the beliefs as are found in the Program of Narcotics Anonymous.

It may not always be possible for groups in these countries to evolve with the clear concepts of equality found in the English-speaking countries. How these emerging N.A. communities resolve these problems, and how those communities interface with the English-speaking N.A. communities, is a matter yet to be understood.

We will, in this report, begin to share some of the concerns we have become aware of about the growth of the Fellowship in other countries. We have increased our communications with members along with other individuals who wish to assist in

starting N.A. groups. It has been the policy of our Office to provide information and Starter Kits so that N.A. meetings can be developed. This has aided the growth of N.A. in English-speaking countries, as well as non-English speaking countries.

In some situations, meetings have begun that were inappropriately associated with a treatment program, hospital or other association. Typically, however, over a period of time, as the members themselves take control of the group, they have separated themselves from the originating individual, hospital or association. This has meant, from time to time, that groups in a given area were at odds concerning their understandings and their loyalties about recovery. In the long term, however, we have failed to find that this approach has had a negative impact on the Fellowship. We believe the experience overall of encouraging the growth of N.A. groups in this way has helped in the development of N.A. as the means of recovery for thousands of addicts who otherwise would not have found recovery.

In order to present some examples of the types of political, cultural, religious, and social differences that N.A. will experience from time to time, the following section is an excerpt from a report prepared following a visit to Japan by a WSO staff member. The report conveys a number of complex issues facing the growth of N.A. in Japan given its entirely unique cultural setting.

N.A. in Japan

There are many obstacles that face the growth of N.A. in Japan. Culturally the Japanese do not seek to publicly discuss their problems, as it might draw undue attention or cause embarrassment. In keeping with such customs there has been little effort by our members to communicate the problems they face. As long as that character is maintained, the problems they endure will be accepted and little effort will be exerted to get help.

Another element of the Japanese culture is to be passive, particularly with respect to adaptations of Western society social organizations. Rather than being the "squeaky wheel," they will remain silent, moving in their own ways and time to work on whatever problem is at hand. The Japanese, unlike most Western cultures, are concerned with "saving face," or avoiding the embarrassment and loss of

dignity that attention to their problems or shortcomings presents. They are, therefore, likely to seek assistance only after a problem has been around for a long time.

They are particularly sensitive to embarrassment on the issue of "not understanding something." For example, when two Americans find themselves in a conflict over understanding some nuance of a step or tradition, they will seek out some "authority" to prove their point or to get clarification. The Japanese members will not generally follow that pattern. They will choose to resolve the matter in a more traditional Japanese fashion.

Japanese people respect and defer to their elders. The actualization of this concept in an N.A. setting gives the senior member of a group a dominant role in all matters. The senior members are looked upon for guidance and most members defer to their judgment. This means less group conscience application in the "American" model. The senior members of the Fellowship are sensitive to this cultural trait and endeavor to avoid problems it that might create.

The Japanese culture is less aggressive in a social or organizational sense. This influence will tend to induce an N.A. group to expand the number of meetings they offer rather than expanding the number of groups. An offsetting influence is the fact that few of the meeting spaces which are available for N.A. gatherings are very large. Consequently, meetings seldom attract more than forty or fifty people at one time.

Another inhibiting factor is the lack of mobility. Few N.A. members own or have access to motor vehicles. Although public transportation is easily available, it is time consuming and crowded. This tends to keep members from attending meetings in other parts of the city even when other meetings are started. Going to meetings in a distant city is a major undertaking.

The lack of mobility affects N.A. growth in Japan by hindering "geographical relocations" that might spread N.A. to other cities or towns. Few people, addicts particularly, move 200 or 300 miles to "start over." Japanese people tend to remain in, or near, the community in which they grew up.

The concept of "face" is more drastic in its affect on the destruction of family ties. American families may hate the addict member long after he/she stops using drugs, but they don't as often consider the broken ties permanently destroyed. In Japan, this breakdown of the family's willingness to again help the addict is more complete and more frequently a "final" separation.

The social stigma attached to an addict's arrest or disgrace by open drug abuse (or even worse, arrest for other crimes as well) is felt more fully by Japanese family members than in America. Retaliation by termination of the family relationship is one way the rest of the family can save their reputation or "face."

This dumping of the addict into an empty environment makes finding treatment harder and detracts from the reinforcement our members need

in their first years of recovery in N.A. Conversely, this strengthens the relationship addicts develop with treatment centers or halfway houses. This strengthened treatment center-addict relationship has a divisive impact on the addicts as they emerge from treatment or halfway house loyalty to N.A. loyalty.

Treatment is hard to find in Japan. The dominant view from the government is that by harsh sentencing of offenders for drug-related crimes, it deters others and eliminates the problem of addiction, because drugs are very hard to get while in Japanese prisons. Furthermore, the government seems to feel that acceptance of the rehabilitation concept for addicts might encourage other people to try drugs.

There is, however, a divergence between the Justice Department philosophy and that of the Welfare or Public Health Department. The Welfare and Health people who have come into contact with N.A. have been interested and supportive.

In addition to the mobility and geographical relocation concepts discussed previously, there are other differences that have a negative impact in Japan. In the general growth of the Fellowship in recent years, N.A. has benefited from addicts traveling from one area to another and sharing their own recovery. In this way they were able to pick up new ideas and concepts and ways to do the things that were customary in other areas. This cross breeding has strengthened N.A. and minimizes the problems that isolation creates. Because of the lack of geographical relocations and mobility of the Japanese members, it is very unlikely that the Japanese N.A. community will benefit from this crossbreeding in the American style.

This crossbreeding has been of tremendous benefit in America in leveling out the philosophical variations that occur in isolated geographic areas. Our Japanese membership may not benefit from the crossbreeding because few N.A. members visit Japan. Some strong effort should be exercised in the future, and on a permanent basis, to foster this kind of crossbreeding for the Japanese N.A. community. Crossbreeding, even in an organized plan, will be expensive and time consuming.

In the area of translations as with other countries, we have discovered some words or concepts that are not easily translated. For instance, the term we refer to as "Higher Power" conjures up in Western Culture the image of a spiritual being, sometimes referred to as God, that is all powerful, all knowing, and capable of having an influence on the life of the individual. However, in the Japanese culture there's no basis for a similar understanding of this term. For those members in the Japanese society who become converted to Western religions, this concept is added to their thinking and can be understood. However, for the majority of our Japanese members not only is the concept meaningless, but there are no words to describe it in the Japanese

language. Our members have adopted the practice of placing the English words "Higher Power" in their speech when referring to the Higher Power. The full meaning of "Higher Power" is not immediately understood by new members and is hard to convey to people outside the Fellowship.

The traditional Japanese cultural philosophies are based mostly in derivations of the Buddhist religion, where individuals seek, while on this earth, to meditate and to perfect their personal behavior and thoughts to a more enlightened perspective. There does not appear, from a limited knowledge of the Buddhist concepts, to be a belief in a God to whom the individual can turn over his/her life. In the Buddhist concept, it appears to be a matter of self-will and self-control. The lack of the Western Higher Power concept in the Japanese culture makes it more difficult for some of the basic philosophies of the Twelve Steps to be applied in the Japanese setting. This is particularly important when members address themselves to Steps Two, Five, Six and Seven. It is difficult for the Japanese members to fully apply the Western culturally based understanding of this all powerful God who works in our lives without some additional conceptual work.

N.A. in Japan appears to have a much more forward and positive relationship with some elements of bureaucracy than in other countries. Of the approximately 175 people who were present for a recent P.I. workshop, probably twenty-five or so were N.A. members. Another twenty-five or thirty were perhaps family members or other friends, the remainder appeared to be individuals invited as the target audience. The target audience was social workers, probation officers, and educators. It appears that they were very successful in bringing a large number of these individuals together. There were in attendance also a number of medical doctors and at least one municipal judge.

There appears to be a general interest by these governmental employees in promoting the growth of N.A. They, however, are depending on the Fellowship to do the growing itself, rather than becoming involved themselves in developing or establishing new groups or meetings in their facilities.

There appears to be a belief that medical doctors are individuals whose ideas and knowledge are indisputable and accepted one hundred percent of the time at full force and face value. This means, for our membership, and probably for the society at large, that when doctors in Japan believe that recovery is possible through Narcotics Anonymous then it will be endorsed and N.A. will grow more rapidly. However, as long as the Japanese medical society does not endorse or encourage participation in Narcotics Anonymous the Fellowship will have a hard time reaching out to the general population. It seems very desirable, therefore, that some effort, both internally in the Japanese N.A. membership and from World Services (in ways that may be appropriate), be expended to

inform the society and Japanese medical profession about N.A. Some reference to the recent decision by the American Medical Association to classify addiction as a medical disease could go a long way towards helping the situation.

Another aspect of the Japanese culture that will have an impact on N.A. growth appears to be the propensity for Japanese people to be workaholics, by Western standards. The rush hour in Japan begins at 5:00 a.m. and ends at about 9:00 p.m. During this period of time, great numbers of people who have worked one, two, and three hours of overtime are just leaving work to go home. The typical Japanese worker spends ten or eleven hours on the job or away from home at the job or in transit. For N.A. meetings to be attended, they will have to be early enough in the evenings so as to make it practical, yet not so early that they interfere with the work hours of the members. Currently, N.A. meetings are at 7:30 or 8:00 p.m., which means that those members who are working have to cut their work hours shorter in order to attend N.A. meetings. This becomes a financial problem as it diminishes their income. This is of particular importance with respect to the fact that the Japanese standard of living is improving as time goes on, but still does not match other Western standards. The wage level for most Japanese members is fairly low and being away from work for an hour or two is okay only for a short period of time. One practical solution may be to have a greater number of meetings that are smaller and spread out over wider areas, so that less travel time is required.

During the discussions concerning literature, it became clear that the highest priority for material relates to a much lengthened discussion concerning the Steps, particularly the first three Steps. N.A. service material does not seem to be a high priority. Because our members need help with the Steps and we have nothing of substance to give them, they will continue to depend on old A.A. literature. Unfortunately, the A.A. literature has the same Western cultural background as ours does and many members find the references to Higher Power and God to be very confusing. It is imperative that we produce some material on the Twelve Steps, even with the Western cultural background, that our members can use.

There is the related difficulty that is presented by the constant changes made by the WSC in our literature. This presents problems not only for the Japanese, but for all non-English speaking members. The constant changes are confusing and seemingly unnecessary. It seems to others that we should be able to approve materials once and leave them alone rather than continuing to make changes.

WORLD CONVENTION PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY

The eighteenth world convention will be held in Anaheim, California on September 1-4, 1988. The Anaheim Hilton Hotel will be the headquarters. This year's convention is shaping up to be the largest ever with attendance expected to be in excess of 6,000 members.

The host committee, in conjunction with the World Convention Corporation, is busy developing what promises to be a great convention. The registration information for WCNA-18 will be available some time in early February. Once the flyers are out, members are encouraged to make their arrangements early.

Many of the problems that were encountered in New Orleans have been, or will be, corrected. The long, sometimes snail-paced lines that were present at WCNA-17 should not be experienced at WCNA-18. The procedures for registration have been streamlined a bit, so members that pre-register should find it easier this year. The general registration process should also be much faster. The space to be used for the store will be larger than in New Orleans, thus providing faster service.

The Convention Corporation is working diligently to make the processes for the world convention as efficient as possible. We are constantly reworking our procedures so that the members who attend will find them convenient.

On another note, several months ago we requested a list of suggested speakers from regions that wanted to submit them. This was to help future program committees have at their disposal a resource to assist with the selection of speakers for the world convention. We would encourage regions who wish to submit a list of suggested speakers from their region, to send the list to the World Convention Corporation, P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999, Attn: WCCNA Coordinator. The members should have a minimum of five years clean and convey a Narcotics Anonymous message of recovery.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WSC P.I. COMMITTEE

During the past year, the WSC P.I. Committee has taken steps to expand its international scope. New participants on the committee from various countries, and an increasing awareness by the committee as a whole, have added valuable international perspective to the P.I. effort.

This year, the WSC P.I. Committee has been reviewing written P.I. materials with a closer eye toward international application. Letters have been sent to people who are active in service in several countries to encourage input and participation in the WSC P.I. Committee's activities.

Another focus of our P.I. efforts has been presenting information and displaying Narcotics Anonymous literature at international conferences

of professionals who work with addicts. We have had very successful WSC P.I. involvement at international conferences in Hawaii and Hong Kong during 1987, with attendees from dozens of countries.

Public information letters have been sent to individual professionals in over thirty countries, and more public information work of this kind is continuing. For example, we have supplied N.A. literature to an organization which regularly conducts tours and education programs about help for drug addicts for foreign drug treatment professionals.

As has been reported previously, a P.I. Coordinator from the World Service Office has been relocated to the New York City area. International P.I. work, through contacts with international representatives and international organizations, will be a primary focus of this special worker.

We have learned that sharing about P.I. internationally is of great benefit to everyone involved, and we look forward to such sharing in the future. The development of P.I. committees and resources in areas and nations where there has been none before is a vital way of helping to carry out our primary purpose--to carry the Narcotics Anonymous message to the addict who still suffers.

WSC H&I COMMITTEE

The WSC H&I Committee is actively working on a revised version of the *H&I Handbook*. The edited version of the draft should be available sometime early in February. The committee will be seeking input on the handbook draft over the next year.

We have received a few "Sunshine Letters" from local H&I committees. We still need more. If you carry the message into a facility, please ask the facility to write a letter addressing the impact that Narcotics Anonymous has had with the residents in their facility. These types of letters are very beneficial to new areas starting H&I meetings in institutions.

As many of you may know, the WSC H&I newsletter, *Reaching Out*, is in the process of being re-formatted. We are still trying to publish this newsletter bi-monthly, but we are receiving very little input. This has been a problem for the last year. If you know of members who have experience in H&I, either from having the message brought to them, or from carrying the message into institutions, please ask them to write to *Reaching Out*, P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9999.

FROM THE WORLD LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Statement to the Fellowship regarding the fourth edition of Narcotics Anonymous from WLC meeting at Philadelphia, Dec. 6, 1987

It was brought to our attention that there may be problems with the fourth edition.

The World Literature Committee feels that it does not have the authority to make a decision regarding this matter. The WLC deals with input from the Fellowship and can define, recommend or take action based on the will of the Fellowship as expressed at the annual World Service Conference.

We spent some time considering the fourth edition at our December, 1987 meeting in Philadelphia and we want to hear from the Fellowship. We recommend using the Basic Text Survey recently sent out to registered area and regional literature committees or send us a brief letter.

Fellowship response will be helpful in formulating recommendations or taking actions within our N.A. service structure, our Twelve Traditions and the approved procedures of our Fellowship.

IT WORKS: HOW AND WHY

The Chairperson of the WSO Ad-hoc Committee assigned to coordinate workshops reviewing our Twelve Steps and Traditions book writes:

We're slowly combining the review and approval-form manuscripts (both of which are combined in the black and white version currently being sold by WSO to all registered literature committees) into one with overall additions, deletions, changes and rewrites. We still need more original written material on ideas and concepts that are not in our book yet.

Many regions are hosting separate workshops to create and review new material. If you're interested, there are plenty of ways for you to get involved. Input generated at area and regional workshops can be sent to the WSO to be passed on to the next closest world workshop for compilation into master lists. Better yet, show up in person and experience this process.

After this stage of input gathering, the master lists will become the basis of the World Literature Committee's future work on this project. That committee's work will be directed by the World Service Conference in 1988. The anticipated direction will be to begin work on a review-form manuscript. That work will take at least one full Conference year to complete. There will be at least another two Conference years to continue sending input after this year's ad-hoc process is completed.

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

This *Newsline* is dedicated to all our non-U.S. N.A. communities around the world. Over the past several years, the N.A. message has traveled to many different countries, through individual members, Fellowship communications, literature, and our increasing P.I. efforts. But there is still a great deal of work to be done and this is just the beginning. Overcoming obstacles such as language, culture, and great geographical distances is not always easy and is evidenced by both our successes and failures. The Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous has a tremendous responsibility to see that all addicts have the opportunity to recover from our disease of addiction. Unfortunately, we are not always aware or equipped to respond to all the needs that confront us in trying to fulfill our global responsibilities.

The correspondence from non-U.S. communities, received by the WSO, has increased tenfold in just a few years. Mexico, Central and South America, India, Asia, the Middle East and parts of Europe are all developing meetings, groups, and even some service committees, as well as offices. We have not included information about England, Canada, or Australia because of the large volume of correspondence we receive from these countries and the multitude of service activities in these countries. Perhaps we will have the opportunity to give a more in-depth report on these countries in the near future.

The following is a summary of the correspondence and information we have received to date. There is a very good chance that some of you who read this article may wonder why information about your specific group or committee is not included. There are at least two reasons. The first could be due to the tardiness of mail delivery in general or that WSO was not fully informed. In some areas of the world, lines of communication have developed that do not include the WSO. So there is an added time lapse factor before we do receive information about some places.

It is important when new groups or meetings are started that the information be sent at the same time to the WSO so you can be registered and receive additional contact information that may be on file for your country. If you are aware of other information and/or corrections please advise the International Department at the WSO.

A brief report was included in the last Fellowship Report on the International Ad Hoc Committee created by the Conference in April of this year. Therefore a lengthy report will not be included here. Generally, however, the committee discussed four issues: Future organization of the international fellowship, translations, world wide publication of N.A. literature and cost equalization for participation in the Conference. Further work

will have to take place on these issues before another meeting of the Committee will be held.

The European Service Conference held this past summer was very successful and led to formulation of an international newsletter for distribution throughout the European Fellowship. The U.K. Service Office is handling the actual publication but articles and input are being accepted from throughout the European Fellowship. A second decision reached was to accumulate and publish a European meeting directory.

MEXICO--Recent correspondence from Mexico signifies a great need for more meetings due to the large number of addicts needing and wanting them. It seems that the meetings are clustered in cities such as Rosarito, San Miguel DeAllende and Tijuana and, consequently, are growing to be quite large. Correspondence indicates a need for new meetings in Guadalajara, Acapulco, Cancun, Puerto Vallarta and Monterey. There seems to be a great need for more Spanish literature in Mexico and in most cases there is very little money to purchase it. N.A. is sometimes confused with Neurotics Anonymous which is well established in Mexico City.

Central America

COSTA RICA--We received a request to start Narcotics Anonymous meetings in Costa Rica. It seems that addicts are getting clean in A.A. and they want to start an N.A. meeting. Spanish Group Starter Packets have been sent to Costa Rica in recent months to a recovering addict with thirteen years clean. We hope to hear from him soon indicating that a new N.A. meeting has been started.

EL SALVADOR--A meeting has been going on in El Salvador at the Anglican Church since 1985 with approximately fifteen regular members. Unfortunately, due to the earthquake in October of 1986, and the devastation it caused, the meeting has been forced to move to members' homes. This seems to have caused a lot of confusion and membership has dropped off. More N.A. literature has been requested by this group and sent in hopes that their meeting will become more stable and once again start to grow. Members in El Salvador have translated their own material from our English literature, even though Spanish translations are available from the WSO.

GUATEMALA--The need for more literature, especially Spanish, is one of the biggest requests from Guatemala. There seem to be what they call "illigals" returning from the United States, conveying the need for more new N.A. meetings and more Spanish literature. They have indicated that meetings have tripled in as little as a couple of weeks. Many N.A. members in Guatemala speak English and they are telling us that they are translating any English N.A. literature they have into Spanish. Again, the biggest request from Guatemala is more literature, Spanish if possible.

HONDURAS--Since the beginning of this year two N.A. meetings have been started in Honduras. One is in the city of Tegucigalpa and was started in January and the other is in San Pedro Sula and was started in September. We hope these meetings are growing and becoming strong.

PANAMA--Information from Panama indicates that there are approximately four N.A. meetings in this country. Two are conducted in English and two in Spanish. We have also received correspondence from the Panamanian White Cross which is a non-profit organization that has drug prevention and treatment programs. They also promote and support the creation of community self-help groups as a real and effective solution for addicts who are suffering. They requested Spanish literature and catalogs and also information about how to start an N.A. meeting. We sent them Spanish Group Starter Packets along with samples of our Spanish literature.

South America

ARGENTINA--This year we have received quite a lot of correspondence from Argentina. For the past three years there has been a community drug abuse prevention campaign going on in the City of San Martin and in March they sent us a letter requesting information about Narcotics Anonymous. We also received a letter from a regularly corresponding N.A. member in Argentina informing us of two very active and successful N.A. groups in Buenos Aires. He indicates that the number of clean addicts has multiplied tremendously in these two groups over the past year. N.A. in Buenos Aires has become involved in public information, especially with professionals in the field of medicine and psychology. They have also become involved with the students in the elementary schools, high schools and colleges. Until recently this was done only by professionals or government agencies. N.A. is now getting recognition from not only the common people, but also from the professionals in this field. Because of the results achieved in the N.A. Program, the groups have now been invited to a conference on drug addiction. We have also received letters indicating that the materials translated into Spanish have been perfectly suitable for the members of Narcotics Anonymous. Argentina seems to be growing quite steadily.

BRAZIL--Over the past six months our correspondence reflects a rapid rise in the number of meetings (twenty-five) as well as a concentrated effort to organize a service structure. Meetings are mostly centered in the large metropolitan areas of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, but they have also spread to Belem in the far north and a few states to the west. A national service meeting was held in July, bringing representatives together from across Brazil. Doctors, clergymen, and government agencies have all shown a keen interest in these activities and they support the N.A. members strongly. One of the problems we will be facing in

Brazil is the use and translation of the name Narcotics Anonymous. Currently, some groups go by the name of T.A. (Toxicomanos Anonimos) which has become well respected in their country. They have requested to be able to use T.A., but they want to be affiliated with N.A. Some members there have an understanding of the problem this creates and are seeking our advice. We will be bringing this issue to the WSC and we hope there will be an opportunity to visit Brazil in the near future, as well as other countries in this region of the world.

CHILE--Very little seems to be going on in Chile. There was a request last year for a Group Starter Packet and some Spanish literature, which was sent. Although there are three international contacts in Chile, as far as we know there are no N.A. meetings at the present time.

COLOMBIA--Although we have received virtually no correspondence from Colombia this year, compared to quite a lot last year, N.A. seems to be going strong in Colombia with approximately thirteen N.A. meetings and six international contacts for this country. They had written some time ago about starting an office and an area service committee. We are uncertain at this time how that has progressed. Most of the meetings are located in the interior of the country in Cali and Medellin.

ECUADOR--There is N.A. in Ecuador with approximately five meetings and three international contacts at this time. We have had no contact from Ecuador this year and we hope that our N.A. meetings are growing strong in spite of the lack of communication.

PERU--The correspondence we have received this year from Peru indicates that N.A. is growing in that country and that new meetings are being started in institutions as among the general population. There is a great need for any literature we can provide as they have indicated there is a lack of funds in Peru for purchasing their own. At this time we have six Peruvian meetings registered with the World Service Office.

URUGUAY--N.A. seems to be just beginning in Uruguay with two meetings reported at this time. Again, the greatest need for most of these South American countries is free literature.

Africa

KENYA--We are starting to get correspondence from Kenya indicating that there are new meetings starting in this country. They are very interested in attending world functions, but unfortunately lack the funds to do so. We have sent them additional N.A. literature free of charge so that they may continue to conduct and start new N.A. meetings. It is sometimes very hard to comprehend the needs of our Kenyan members as our cultures are so diverse.

NAMIBIA (South West Africa)--A recovering addict with three years clean (formerly of the Republic of South Africa) corresponded with us

this year requesting help in starting an N.A. meeting in this country as well as getting N.A. known to the public. German literature was requested as this is the primary language spoken in this country. As of yet, no N.A. meeting is registered with us, but we hope this will change in the near future. She indicated that most addicts in Namibia are jobless and have no income.

NIGERIA--Correspondence was received from an individual in Nigeria requesting any N.A. literature that we could provide. He also expressed a desire to become involved in the Loner Group as he is very isolated.

SOUTH AFRICA--Although we have received some conflicting information from South Africa, our correspondence does indicate that N.A. meetings exist in this country and more are being started. There are quite a few requests for N.A. literature which we are sending.

Middle East

BAHRAIN--Although we have not corresponded with Bahrain this year we have record of one N.A. meeting still going strong there. We have also received some preliminary Arabic translations.

ISRAEL--Meetings are still going strong in Israel. As of now, we have five meetings registered with the World Service Office, most of which are held in bomb shelters. One is in Jaffa and the other four are in Tel Aviv. There seems to be some conflict over our name as it has been translated which we believe will be resolved soon. The members have translated some N.A. literature and produced a booklet which comprises parts of the White Booklet and Basic Text. There have been various reports of service activity, but growth is still rather slow. Travel is especially a hardship in this country.

LEBANON--Earlier this year we received correspondence from a recovering addict indicating a need for an N.A. meeting in Lebanon. It is estimated that there are 100,000 addicts in this country alone. He has received some literature from the N.A. Office in London and has expressed the need for more. The languages of the middle class (they are tri-lingual) are English, French and Arabic. The greatest need is literature printed in Arabic which is the language of the underprivileged.

MOROCCO--Earlier this year there was a request for N.A. literature from a doctor at the Centre Psychiatrique Universitaire in Casablanca. After receiving the literature he stated that it was very well received and he ordered more. As far as we know, there are no N.A. meetings at the present time in Morocco. We have a special friend who operates in this part of the world who has made it his personal business to see that N.A. is introduced to this part of the world.

Asia

HONG KONG--This past summer the first N.A. meeting was held in Hong Kong. This was partly due to the efforts of members spending time here and encouraging other addicts to start a meeting. Our members now report a very strong group and we look forward to much success from their continuing efforts. A recent non-N.A. P.I. event was held in Hong Kong and was attended by one of our Trustees and other members. Many other representatives were present from this part of the world. The presentation was well received.

INDIA--Over the past year we have received the most international correspondence from India. They are growing rapidly with close to twenty meetings in Bombay, Calcutta, Mapsa, Delhi, Mysore, Manipur, Mangalore and Pune. As of now, we have at least twenty international contacts in this country. They seem to be working very closely with the youth as a lot of our letters indicate N.A. meetings and literature within the school system. They are very interested in receiving all of our literature. The *N.A. Way* magazine, the *Newsline* and the *Meeting by Mail* are frequent requests from N.A. members in India. Some of the statistics that have come out of the letters we receive from India are that there is at least one addict per family and that at least 80,000 addicts live in each of the large cities such as Bombay, New Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. Drugs are very cheap in these cities and drug trafficking is very big business. A recent letter contained a tape of a song composed and performed by members about their experiences with the N.A. Program. It was really quite touching.

JAPAN--Please see another section of this report for information about Japan.

KOREA--We haven't corresponded with anyone from Korea this year, but to date we have four registered N.A. meetings held at U.S. Armed Forces bases.

PHILIPPINES--The Philippines has also been very quiet this year, but there are three registered meetings in Manila. We also have one international contact in this country as of this date.

Europe

BELGIUM--Correspondence has picked up this year with Belgium and as of now, there are two N.A. meetings and two international contacts which we have registered here at the World Service Office. A Belgian member also has been helping in translating some of the N.A. pamphlets for the Dutch-speaking population in Belgium.

FRANCE--France is growing. Our most recent report indicates six N.A. meetings with some in Nice and others in Paris. Some meetings are conducted in English, but most of them are in French. There are at least ten international contacts on file at the WSO. Members are

cooperating with the translation committee in Montreal to produce revised literature in French.

GERMANY--Germany now has over thirty-five registered N.A. meetings and is still growing. Some meetings are held on U.S. military bases. In July the European Service Conference was held in Frankfurt, Germany. It was attended by members from England, France, Spain, the United States and Germany. The European Service Conference featured workshops on group, area and regional service, H&I, P.I. and sponsorship. This conference has helped promote communication among our members in Europe and reaching out to newly developing N.A. communities. The German Regional Service Committee has an established literature translation subcommittee which has been working for some time on revising the existing German translations. They have just completed their work on the White Booklet.

GREECE--There are now two N.A. meetings in Athens registered with the World Service Office along with one international contact. A Hellenic Committee, located in London, is assisting the WSO with the translation of N.A. materials into Greek.

HOLLAND--Correspondence has been slow this year from Holland, but there is a meeting we have registered in Amsterdam.

IRELAND--Ireland is going strong with over thirty-five registered N.A. meetings. We also have at the present time some fifteen international contacts for Ireland. We do receive, on a regular basis, copies of the minutes from the Area Service Committee of Ireland, in Dublin, which are very welcome. There has been some difficulty with their H&I efforts, but the members are working hard to overcome the obstacles. They held a successful convention in October. Although our Irish members sometimes find themselves "short of pocket" their dedication goes a long way in supporting their efforts.

NORWAY--We haven't received any correspondence from Norway this year, but there are two registered N.A. meetings along with two international contacts.

PORTUGAL--Lisbon now has two registered N.A. meetings and correspondence received in July indicated that a meeting in Estoril is about to be started. The members in Lisbon have informed us that the meetings there have as many as twenty to twenty-five people in attendance. Members in Portugal have been active in assisting the translation process. One of our biggest problems with producing adequate Portuguese translations has been differences that have evolved in the language spoken in Portugal and that spoken in Brazil. We hope that our Portuguese-speaking members are able to resolve this issue by settling on a version acceptable to all concerned.

SCOTLAND--Although we have received very little correspondence from Scotland this year there are at least eighteen N.A. meetings registered with the World Service Office.

SPAIN--We have been corresponding regularly with Spain this year and at the present time there

are five registered N.A. meetings in Barcelona and Cadiz. There is also indication that there are at least two meetings that have been, or are about to be, started in Ibiza on the Costa del Sol. One of the groups in Barcelona has been very active in working with the WSO to develop Spanish translations.

SWEDEN--Along with two registered N.A. meetings and four international contacts for Sweden, we are also receiving help in translating some of our N.A. literature from English to Swedish.

SWITZERLAND--Switzerland now has three N.A. meetings in Berne and Zurich registered with the World Service Office. Although we have received little correspondence from Switzerland, it appears that the Fellowship is growing steadily.

NEW REGION HOLDS FIRST CONVENTION

The Alsask Region held its first regional convention in Regina, Saskatchewan, on November 13, 14, and 15, 1987. An invitation was extended and accepted for someone from the WSO and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to attend.

Alberta and Saskatchewan are two bordering provinces in Canada and encompass roughly 500,000 square miles with a total population of about three million people. The region has areas in Calgary, Edmonton, Lloydminster, Wainwright, Regina, and Moose Jaw.

About two hundred N.A. members from throughout the region attended and shared in this celebration of recovery from the disease of addiction. The program included a talent show, an all day service workshop, a candlelight meeting, a home cooked banquet and three speakers.

Our staff member reported: "The enthusiasm for N.A. recovery was overwhelming! New members travelled great distances just to participate in every aspect of the event. The level of sharing before, during, and after each part of the program was another demonstration of how the N.A. Program can work for any addict. People there were living examples of the gratitude we all carry in our hearts, and I will treasure the love, hospitality, and experiences always."

Our members in this section of Canada have experienced some problems in the past because of their geography, but they have drawn on the unity and experience of the worldwide Fellowship in overcoming them. The regional committee meeting now rotates its meeting place in order to minimize travel and expense problems. The literature committees are working with the WSO to overcome some delays caused by customs regulations, and N.A. literature is more readily available than it was before. Communications are improving all the time, so that all groups now receive the *Newsline* and all committees receive the *Fellowship Report*.

Many of the members in attendance reported their reaction to the speakers and the service

workshop as one of relief and amazement! "It was a relief to find out that N.A. is the right place for me! I was scared that I couldn't identify with an addict who had many years of recovery, but when I heard their [Frank G. from San Jose and Bob R. from Los Angeles] messages of N.A. recovery--I felt at home." Several people expressed amazement that "you guys didn't come in here and lecture us or tell us how we were doing things wrong. We thought you might present yourselves as know-it-alls, but we found out that you are just like us--addicts who are willing to share experience, strength, and hope."

The service workshops were a mixture of presentation and participation. Attendance was very high and the focus was on exploring our service structure and generating an awareness on the behalf of newer members of the value of N.A. service committees. Our staff member presented the area service committee in general as one topic. Public information and hospitals and institutions discussions were led by trusted servants involved in those areas. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees was most helpful in answering specific questions about the Twelve Traditions.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Our Group Services Department records show significant increases in the services provided in the last year. Figures are provided for November 1987, with corresponding figures for November 1986 provided in parentheses. In the month of November 294 (sixty-four) starter packages were sent, 241 (fifteen) additions were made to the *Newsline* mailing list, 242 (twelve) sample *N.A. Way* copies were provided, and 266 (twenty-six) requests for information from new meetings were processed.

We sent 447 pieces of written correspondence during the month. Of these, 416 were within the United States (every state except for two) and thirty-one were from outside the U.S.

Correspondence from outside the country was received from Australia, Canada, El Salvador, India, New Zealand, and South Africa. Of course, there were many other letters and calls from outside the country which were received by different departments here at WSO.

The majority of written requests are for information on starting new meetings, contacting service committees, or purchasing literature. Others are for information about starting new service committees, guidelines, service offices, or questions about group problems. The number and nature of requests varies monthly, and questions which are specific to a certain area of concern (i.e. public information, literature, etc.) are referred to the appropriate project coordinator.

FROM BOB STONE

During the past eighteen months we have discussed difficulties with publishing a directory of individual meetings. On several occasions we

reported that it has become impossible to keep an accurate list in our files because of the constant changes in information. The continued and explosive growth has also made it impossible to keep up with current information.

The most promising solution is to use different approaches to directory information in different places in the Fellowship. For example the individual meeting directory approach can still effectively be accomplished in some geographical areas: United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Australia and most of the non-North American Fellowship.

The WSO will produce in 1988 an international directory of meetings for that part of the Fellowship outside of the North American Continent. It will follow the format of previous editions of the International Directory.

For the North American Fellowship an individual listing of each meeting is not possible. The most logical solution is to produce a directory of telephone numbers where members or others can call to find out about our meetings. This is the approach that we have concentrated our efforts on for the past six months.

We have nearly completed the first draft of this reference type publication. It consists of maps of each state or province along with telephone numbers and some narrative information about the Fellowship in that geographical area.

Your staff has been working hard to complete this draft so that it can be circulated throughout the Fellowship during the next few months.

Soft Cover Basic Text

From time to time the Office experiences normal problems in some aspect of our literature production. Usually these do not have an impact on our ability to provide the Fellowship with inventory items because of the inventory control system we follow. Unfortunately we have experienced one of those typical business supply problems that you should know about concerning the paper back edition of the Basic Text.

There was a lapse in the quality control process used by WSO and by the company who actually prints the Book. The quality control process requires both our office and the contractor to examine the production of the Book at various stages.

Our staff discovered several problems with the quality of the work on the paper back printing. They were problems the printer should have brought to our attention, but it was not done. Consequently some paperback copies were printed that were not of acceptable quality. These were rejected and new copies reprinted. Unfortunately because of the time constraints involved, corrective action caused a delay in the availability of the paper back printing of the Fourth Edition.

We are expecting the paperback edition to be received soon after the first of the new year. We had expected them to be available in October and

began accepting orders for them at that time. We have kept those requests in our back order file and will fill them as soon as they arrive. We apologize for this delay. Anyone who has ordered a paperback edition whose request is in our back order file can obtain a hard cover copy immediately if they send a written request to convert their order from paperback to hardcover. Please send these requests to Vida in our Shipping Department.

Archival Service

As the result of several letters and conversations during the past nine months, we have begun to examine the establishment of an archival service. The discussion began when a member wrote to ask about the status of our N.A. archival service that was established by a WSC motion in 1984.

The immediate response was to report that such a service did not currently exist, that the service committees who generate the bulk of the Fellowship records had not addressed the matter and that they would have to work on policies and procedures for an archival service if one was to be provided.

Unanswered questions include such matters as how the service could be financed? How would the service be managed? Who would have access to the information and on what priority basis? What use could or should the material be limited to?

Our first problem is that the WSO does not currently have sufficient funds to invest the staff time to provide an archive service. We have generally limited our archival efforts to those requests made by a WSC committee. This has helped to avoid providing duplicate or similar material for the different requests we get. It has also allowed staff energy to be directed towards the current needs of the WSC Committees and the Fellowship.

This has been easy to do in large measure because most of the archive records we do have were generated by or in response to actions or projects of WSC Committees, the Board of Trustees or the Office. Unfortunately the records in the Office do not go back very far in time. When I took over management of the Office in June 1983 there were almost no records in the Office at all. We have made an effort to collect copies of things from previous years but it is a slow process.

The records generated since June 1983 were established as a "current operations file system" and are not organized in a manner that easily facilitates a "reference library" type of archival service. We have begun to allocate a limited amount of time to improving the file systems so that an archival catalogue process can eventually be operable. Before extensive work can be completed, the different committees will need to discuss the archive concepts and recommend policies and practices that can be used to guide the access and use of Fellowship records.

We do not really get a lot of requests, except for purely historical data. We do get dozens of requests each year from people who are writing books on their own and want to include historical information about N.A. in their work. Since the Fellowship has not written or approved any documents covering the history of N.A. we have not felt at liberty to release what limited material we do have for non N.A. use.

In the coming year we will discuss this matter in other *Newsline* articles to keep you informed.

PLEASE NOTE: The August and October 1987, issues of the *Newsline* are incorrectly identified as Volume 6. These issues, as all of the 1987 issues of the *Newsline*, should be Volume 4. Please make note of this.

COMING EVENTS

ALASKA: Mar. 11-13, 1988; ARSCC IV; Lake Lucille Lodge, 1300 Lake Lucille Drive, Wasilla, AK 99687, (907) 373-1776; Michelle (907) 745-1052; ARSCC IV, PO Box 874935, Wasilla, AK 99687

ARKANSAS: Dec. 19, 1987; 4th Annual Central Arkansas Christmas Party & Dance; Kierre Hall, North Little Rock, AR; Jon or Maryanne (501) 221-2847; Woody 664-6054; Lisa 666-5771

AUSTRALIA: Apr. 1-4, 1988; 4th Australasian RCNA; Fremantle, Western Australia; 4th Australasian RCNA, Box 668, Subiaco 6008, WA, AUSTRALIA

CALIFORNIA: Mar. 4-6, 1988; NCCNA; Oakland Hyatt Regency Hotel & Convention Center, 12th & Broadway, Oakland, CA; Steve (408) 446-4445; NCCNA 10, PO Box 59114, San Jose, CA 95159

CANADA: May 13-15, 1988; 1st Ontario Regional Convention; Toronto, Ontario; Rachel (416) 789-0264; Susan 252-6686; ORCNA 1, 5468 Dundas St. W. Box 620, Toronto, Ontario, CAN M9B 6E3

CONNECTICUT: Jan. 1-3, 1988; CRCNA III; Stamford Sheraton Hotel & Towers, 1 First Stamford Place, (203) 967-2222; Judy 229-0019; Dave 342-4708; 3rd CT RCNA, PO Box 697, New Britain, CT 06051

FLORIDA: June 30 - July 4, 1988; FRCNA-7; Stouffer Hotel, 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando FL 32821, (305) 351-5555; contact Charlie M. (305) 588-6273, Lovell H. 291-6138, Richard C. 891-1867; Florida RSO, 2727 E. Oakland Pk. Blvd., #203, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308

GEORGIA: Feb. 25-28, 1988; GRCNA VII; Hyatt Regency Ravinia, 4355 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30346, (800) 228-9000; Shirley (404) 535-1626; Mitch 264-9540; Rhonda 252-7137; GRCNA VII, P.O. Box 2226, Gainesville, GA 30503

HAWAII: Feb. 12-14, 1988; 4th Annual Fellowship Weekend; Camp Erdman, HI; Tom C. (808) 262-4631; George K. 262-4394; C.C. 261-3869; Regional Office 533-4900; N.A. Fellowship Weekend, P.O. Box 27909, Honolulu, HI 96827

ILLINOIS: It Works World Workshop, c/o Chicago Svc. Office, 212 S. Marion St. Ste. 27, Oak Park, IL 60302

INDIANA: Apr. 1-3, 1988; KRCNA II; Executive Inn, 6th & Walnut St., Evansville, IN, (800) 457-3841; Mike W. (812) 424-1673; Donnie A. 422-5815; Bernie T. 426-0357; KRCNA II, PO Box 3184, Evansville, IN 47730

KENTUCKY: Feb 12-14, 1988; 3rd Annual Traditions Workshop; Days Inn, 101 E Jefferson St., Louisville, KY 40202, (502) 585-2200; Ro S. 935-2481; Steve D. 937-1760; KRSCNA, PO Box 72305, Louisville, KY 40272

2) Apr. 1-3, 1988, KRCNA II, Evansville, IN--see under INDIANA

LOUISIANA: Mar 4-6, 1988; LPRCNA VI; Holiday Inn, Covington; Hotel res--Cheryl Hunt, (504) 893-3580; Info--Peter or Mary, (504) 626-7298; John or Kat, (504) 893-9265; LPRCNA VI, P.O. Box 1693, Covington, LA 70434

MAINE: Sep. 9-11, 1988; We're A Miracle V; Bruce & Kim (207) 772-4558; Stan & Jane (207) 784-5863; Bill (617) 563-5885; ASC of Maine, Convention Committee, P.O. Box 5309, Portland, ME 04101

MISSOURI: Dec 25-26, 1987; 2nd Annual Christmas Party; Drury Inn, I-70 and Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO; Nancy F., (816) 459-7326; Christin W., (816) 483-6022

NEVADA: Feb. 5-7, 1988; SNCNA II; Las Vegas, NV; Debi A. (702) 453-6653; Dave T. 452-6938; Nancy T. 451-0899; SNCNA II, P.O. Box 4771, Las Vegas, NV 89127-0771

NEW HAMPSHIRE: June 24-26, 1988; "Vision of Hope," 9th ECCNA; University of NH in Durham; Jay N. (603) 437-5501; Brian 452-7875; Shirley 458-4808; 9th ECCNA, PO Box 388, Pelham, NH 03076

NEW ZEALAND: Jan. 15-17, 1988; 1st New Zealand Area Rally for N.A.; Shirley Community Centre, Shirley & Slater Streets, Christchurch; Chris or Dave 859-738; Chrissie 883-544

NORTH CAROLINA: Mar. 11-13, 1988; 1st Capitol Area Family Reunion; Sheraton Imperial, Exit 282 off I-40 between Raleigh and Durham, NC, (800) 222-6503; info Dayne W. (919) 839-1219, David C. 553-3439, John H. 479-2040;

2) Apr. 15-17, 1988; Grtr. Charlotte Area Convention; Marriott Hotel, Charlotte, NC; Libby Bolch, C.I. Chair, Grt Clt Area, 18021 Nantz Rd., Huntersville, NC 28078

3) July 1-3, 1988; 9th Carolina Regional Convention; Sheraton Greensboro Hotel, 3 Southern Life Center, Greensboro, NC; contact Marc (919) 855-3294, Ed 565-4913; C.I. Chair, 9th Carolina, Regional Convention, 6518 Dusty Road, Liberty, NC 27298

OHIO: May 27-29, 1988; OCNA VI; Holiday Inn Eastgate, 4501 Eastgate Blvd., Cincinnati, OH 45245; Carolyn R. (513) 863-9870; Buck F. 752-8281; send speaker tapes; OCNA VI, P.O. Box 9234, Hamilton, OH 45014

OKLAHOMA: Apr. 1-3, 1988; Oklahoma Regional Convention; Camelot Hotel, 4956 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74105, (800) 331-4428, (918) 747-8811; Leo S. (918) 664-4883; Sarah L. (918) 742-4816; Chuck G. (405) 372-4007; Tonja H. (405) 787-4007; OKRSC, PO Box 52465, Tulsa, OK 74152

PENNSYLVANIA: Feb. 26-28, 1988; Mid-Atlantic Regional Learning Conference IV; George Washington Lodge, Allentown, PA, (215) 433-0131; Bill A. 398-8438; Lou or Mike 432-8719; Dave or Brenda 437-3285; 24 hour helpline 439-8440; MARLCNA4, P.O. Box 4475, Allentown, PA 18105

2) Mar. 25-27, 1988; 6th Grt Phila RCNA; Adams Mark Hotel, rsvn.s (215) 581-5000; conv. contacts Dennis N. (215) 879-1172; J.R. 482-6186; Margie 534-8782; Grtr. Phila. RSC, P.O. Box 42628, Philadelphia, PA 19101-2628

RHODE ISLAND: Apr 1-3, 1988; NERC III; Marriott Hotel, Providence; Info--Steve (401) 789-2569, Ken N. 728-2714; NERC III, Attention, Mishell L., P.O. Box 3009, Newport, RI 02840

SOUTH CAROLINA: Jan. 22-24, 1988; 8th Annual Upper South Carolina Convention; Holiday Inn Haywood, I-385 & Roper Mountain Road, Greenville, SC; Mark (803) 244-1621; Bob 271-6542; 1988 *NA Convention, 205 E. Hillcrest Drive, Greenville, SC 29609

TEXAS: Mar 25-27, 1988; LSRCNA III; Rodeway Inn, Hwy 360 at Six Flags Drive, Arlington, TX 76011, (817)640-7080, (800)228-7080; Vince 924-0939; Don 738-5329; Rick 573-3201; LSRCNA III, Prog. Committee, PO Box 5540, Fort Worth, TX 76108

2) Apr. 15-17, 1988; Texas Unity Convention, Whitney, TX; David (713) 332-8236; Texas Unity (Whitneys), 1612 Second Street, League City, TX 77573

VIRGINIA: Jan. 8-10, 1988; 6th AVCNA; The Hyatt Hotel Richmond, Interstate 64 at Broad St. & Glenside Dr., Richmond, VA; Mel 644-9143; 6th AVCNA, PO Box 13087, Richmond, VA 23225

2) Mar. 4-6, 1988; 2nd Annual Chesapeake/Potomac Regional Convention; Stouffer Concourse Hotel, Arlington, (703)979-6800; Loncia C. (703)437-6433; Dave H. 860-2880; Kevin A. 941-7474; Registration Committee, P.O. Box 6821, Arlington, VA 22206-0821

WASHINGTON: Apr. 8-10, 1988; 3rd Annual Washington-Northern Idaho Regional Convention; Holiday Inn, 1515 George Washington Way, Richland WA 99352, (509) 946-4121; to submit a tape contact Rhonda A., 6622 W. Yellowstone, Kennewick, WA 99336; gen.info. Crystal (509) 735-3952, Rhonda A. 783-4060; WNIR Convention Committee, 7403 W. Canal Drive #400, Kennewick, WA 99336