

N.A. NEWSLINE

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BASIC TEXT CONTROVERSY SUBSIDES

Early this year, a few individual N.A. members in the eastern U.S. began illegally printing and selling their own paperback version of the Basic Text. Some of the language of the conference-approved Basic Text was changed in the unauthorized book. On June 29th, the World Service Board of Trustees wrote an open letter to the fellowship about the problem: "We want to suggest one simple thing N.A. members can do when confronted with the book itself: *don't take it*," the letter said. "Those behind the illegal book will get the message: N.A. wants them to stop."

The trustees gave two reasons why N.A. wants the unauthorized text stopped. What happens if N.A. allows a few people to change the Basic Text to suit their personal ideas? N.A. as a whole will lose its ability to decide what its own literature will say. And what happens if N.A. allows a few individuals to sell an unauthorized text? Our worldwide services are partially supported by sales of the *authorized* Basic Text. Sales of the unauthorized book mean fewer N.A. services.

World services have tried hard to put a stop to the unauthorized book by asking those personally responsible for the book to stop. Those members refused. This left world services with no choice but to take strong action to protect N.A.'s copyright and the first step has already been taken. The WSO Board of Directors is responsible to protect N.A.'s legal rights concerning the Basic Text. On July 2nd, their attorneys mailed a "cease and desist" letter to trusted servants in the regions where the illegal text had been seen. A July 10th letter explained that the previous letter applied only "if the shoe fits."

The World Service Conference held a workshop the following weekend in Arlington, Virginia. Talk of the unauthorized book was present everywhere. Some

hoped for a meeting between the trustees, the WSO directors, and the members responsible for the illegal Basic Text. They could settle the problem in the open. Those behind the illicit book however did not attend the workshop.

Meanwhile, N.A. members have taken to heart the trustees' request not to buy or sell the illegal Basic Text. As a result, support for the illegal text is waning. Only the three or four individuals directly responsible, and their immediate circle of friends, continue to distribute the unauthorized book, while their own areas and regions have refused. Hopes are high that, soon, further printing and sales of the illegal book will stop completely. The fellowship itself deserves a pat on the back for settling a serious problem simply by assuming its responsibility.

CONFERENCE FUNDS DRAWING LOW

In April the World Service Conference approved an annual budget of \$424,900. This represents a \$118,500 increase over last year's budget of \$306,400. To meet this budget fellowship donations have to average about \$35,400 each month.

Unfortunately, fellowship donations have not kept pace with the adopted budget. In fact, they've not even kept up with last year's donations. Donations for May, June, and July last year totalled \$38,801.65. Fellowship contributions for the same period *this* year total \$22,212.95. That's 43% less than what the conference received last year, and 79% less than what's needed to keep up with the WSC budget.

At this rate, the WSC Administrative Committee expects the World Service Conference to be penniless by September. Fellowship donations to the conference are needed in order to keep conference services from being curtailed.

