

New Awakenings

Faith and the Service Junkie

An N.A. Love Story

This coupling started a long way apart at the beginning. Their differences seemed insurmountable. S.J. was so involved with doing and getting things done he had little time for anything else. While Faith was surrounded by belief, trust and acceptance. An odd couple that could be united.....

S.J. had found a home in Narcotics Anonymous, a place to stick around. When he gave of himself, he found great things returned to him. Things like breathing and being able to tie his shoes. There was also a sense of control and power there that everyone warned him about. This was a seductive power that was hard to avoid. After all, S.J. had arrived here with all the answers.

Faith had always been here. She was one of the first. She had been involved from the start with the twins of recovery, Carin and Sharin. Patience and Hope were also very close friends. They had learned to stick with the winners.

S.J. had looked at everything that was written about service. He had bumped heads with Mad Max {the angry one} and Wierd Harold {who always had complicated solutions to simple problems} already. He had wondered about the calm and serene Sedate Nate {the easy going one}. After all how did Nate rate his peace and inner joy? Some had said that it was from surrender, Nate didn't have to fight anymore.

Faith had known these same people for awhile. Max and Harold just would not allow the relationship to be a natural one. Control and power had been their love of life for a long time. Nate had been intimate with Faith for a long time. Even though they would not admit, without her in their life they suffered greatly from a lack of Faith.

Faith had met S.J. one day when things could not be all worked out with the usual mind games. There didn't seem to be any solution. Max

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Unity or Uniformity

Our unity lies in our diversity. "The greater the base, as we grow in unity in numbers and in fellowship, the broader the sides and the higher the point of freedom." [p.xi Basic Text, 3rd Ed. Revised]. "Goodwill is best exemplified in service and proper service is 'Doing the right thing for the right reason.' When this supports and motivates both the individual and the fellowship, we are fully whole and wholly free."

We hear a lot about unity in our fellowship. What does the word "unity" mean? Or is it just a word we throw around to get people to believe in our cause? We also hear the word "disunity" utilized in our fellowship through our

continued on page 5

COURAGE TO CHANGE THE THINGS WE CAN WORKSHOP

DEC. 18, 19, 20 1992

1) WHO ARE WE? NA MEMBERS WITH SERVICE EXPERIENCE; UNCOMPROMISING IN OUR PERCEPTION OF AND SURRENDER TO THE SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES IN THE 12 TRADITIONS OF NA, DISSATISFIED WITH CURRENT NA STRUCTURAL SERVICE ESPECIALLY AT THE WORLD LEVEL, SEEKING A BETTER GOD-CENTERED WAY THROUGH VIGILANCE AND SHARING.

2) WHY DO WE FEEL THE WAY WE DO?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NA LITERATURE AND INCIDENTS IN WORLD SERVICE NOT

GENERALLY KNOWN

Following WSC '79 •Work on "Our Book" begins as a project of the Fellowship...by the World Literature Committee (members were members just by being willing to help). This was not the WSC Literature Subcommittee, that we know today but something called the World Literature Committee. Any NA member could be a part-of. •...First World Literature Conference; World lit. held first conference, wrote first literature handbook.

Following WSC '80 Work on Basic Text continues...WLC-2 decides to frame chapters from little White Book...

Memphis Feb.'81- WLC-3 THE

CONCEPT: POWERLESS OVER THE DISEASE - IDENTITY-very simply AN ADDICT...AND...THE 1ST DRAFT OF OUR Basic Text - THE GREY BOOK ...are developed by World Literature Committee

Memphis Mar.'81- Grey Book distributed to every known NA Group (free) for review and input.

Santa Monica April '81 •WLC-4: Fellowship responds with lots of input. Edit by committee, factoring-in of all input begins. WLC membership swells into the hundreds - no NA member is ever denied membership. Book is becoming outgrowth of fellowship.

Statement of Purpose

Some of us like to read. Some of us like to write. Some of us are former world-level trusted servants while others are new to the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. You are one of us if you say you are. We are recovering addicts who, having found surrender to the Principles of N.A. to be the only way out of our seemingly hopeless dilemma, cannot surrender to the Van Nuys-centered service structure. Since our constituent members and Groups are scattered across the U.S., we are pioneering new ways of communicating. This newsletter is one of them. Who we are and what we're doing will unfold in these pages. We are profoundly grateful to SOS which came before and helped to show us the way. You may freely copy this newsletter; we will not sue you.

Financial Statement

Beginning with the next issue of New Awakenings we will be printing here expenses and donations. Please see page 11 for more informatio.

WSC '81 1st "real" WSC - most of the fellowship is represented.

Warren June '81, Miami Sept. '81 •Basic Text finalized by committee despite irresponsible, political new chairperson who eventually resigns. Strong, directly-responsible, open committee survives to serve in spite of inadequate trusted servant.

Memphis Nov. '81 •WLC elects its own new chairperson, distributes Approval Form of Basic Text to the Fellowship. Every known NA group receives a copy. Policy committee (WSC) enlists help of World Lit members to help draft a new service manual reflective of current fellowship practices.

WSC '82 •Book is approved by the fellowship through the WSC. WSO instructed to produce hardcover by September. Price of book established at \$8.00 until office "gets on its feet," then will be lowered - perhaps to \$4.50 or less...

Mid-winter '82/'83 •No book published by WSO. Most of fellowship photocopies approval form for use by members till hardcover is out.

WSC '83 •"1st Edition" is altered from form approved by fellowship.

Justification used was that some few members feel changes are appropriate. Fellowship demands book returned to approved state by a reformed WSO, Inc.-->2nd Edition

•Motion passed WSC by 2/3 of

voting participants that RSR'S ONLY VOTE AT WSC. CHAIRPERSON CALLED MOTION DEFEATED BECAUSE NOT 2/3 OF TOTAL REGISTERED VOTING PARTICIPANTS.

•WSB MAKES EMOTIONAL APPEAL BASED ON (PROBABLY SOLICITED OR FRAUDULENT) LETTER FROM GROUP IN NEVADA TO 'POLL' FELLOWSHIP DURING A 90 DAY-PERIOD REGARDING CHANGES TO THE CONCEPTS OF 4TH, AND 9TH TRADITIONS REPRESENTED BY DELETIONS IN 1ST EDITION. FELLOWSHIP REPORTEDLY RESPONDS IN AFFIRMATIVE,(DOCUMENTATION NOT AVAILABLE TILL 1991). ---> 3rd Edition

•"Original 13" pamphlets approved.

'83-'84 •Fellowship Report, originated as open fellowship-wide communication, becomes increasingly (and unnecessarily) detailed and exclusive in tone. WSO, Inc. initiates "Newline," presenting Office's views to every NA group world-wide, free.

•Price of Basic Text is still \$8.00 (printing cost reported to be \$1.45).

WSC '84 •NA WAY magazine taken from the fellowship and given to WSO, Inc.

•World convention incorporated as a profit making venture administered by WSO,

•WSC Finance committee disbanded.

•World service communication persuades fellowship to accept concept of "vote of confidence" for RSR's.

•WSC committee membership begins to close, eventually becomes small controllable groups of like-thinking members.

WSC '85 -Little White Book revisions passed... Lit. sub-com. will factor into basic text ---> 3rd Edition Revised

•Motion passed to allow WLC to do "minor editing of Basic Text for tense, verb agreement, etc." Office hires professional editor to do lit committee's work resulting in many changed concepts --> 4th edition.

WSC '86 •Fellowship tells world services "no more professional writers." However, WSC takes it upon themselves without fellowship direction to re-edit Basic Text as committee of the whole --> 5th edition [allowing no fellowship review/input and ignoring established fellowship Approval process]

WHY WE FEEL THE WAY WE DO....cont

* WASTED MONEY IN SERVICE EFFORTS AND PROJECTS (MILLIONS NOT HUNDREDS)

* LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN WORLD SERVICES

3) WHAT WE PROPOSE TO DO ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS

ESTABLISH OPEN, COMPLETE, FELLOWSHIP-WIDE COMMUNICATION

WITH FREE ACCESS

RE-ESTABLISH OPEN PARTICIPATORY SERVICE COMMITTEES - WHERE ANY N.A. MEMBER CAN JOIN AND BE A FULL AND COMPLETE PART-OF ANY TIME THEY WANT TO HELP

INSTITUTE A "STRUCTURE" WHERE ALL NA SERVICES ARE DIRECTED BY THE NEEDS OF NA GROUPS AND FUNDED BY THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NA GROUPS ONLY

4) HOW WE PLAN TO ACHIEVE OUR PROPOSALS

THOROUGH INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

VIA: CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS - PO BOX IN N.E.OHIO

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NEWSLETTER (ALREADY IN PROCESS CALIF.BASED)

DIRECT MAILINGS TO EVER EXPANDING MAIL-LIST

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MAKE NA LITERATURE AVAILABLE AT LOW COST - BY WHATEVER MEANS WE COLLECTIVELY AGREE UPON

HEALTHY CHANGE

P.O. Box 42

Columbiana, OH 44408

A RHYME FOR THIS TIME

*When I first got here
Dying was all that was near*

*Life was so crazy it was quite insane
I needed a new place in which to retrain*

*Made my first meeting sat in the rear
Had no idea what I would hear*

*You did some readings I didn't complain
Words were striking notes in my brain*

*The ladies were pretty I noticed with a leer
Addiction took you the same places that was queer*

*Told of the gutters in which you had lain
It would never be easy you made that plain*

*One's story so similar I found him a peer
He said "Work the steps or Die" it will take away the fear*

*Not like elsewhere not the same refrain
So much more feeling not such a drain*

*My seat got hot it started to seer
To my eyes you brought many a tear*

*As my eyes watered it felt like the rain
From my soul it started to wash the stain*

*You warned me of the things from which to steer
There was a path from which not to veer*

*Living the steps its in something I train
Spiritual gifts even under the strain*

*Then you hugged me that wasn't mere
All these years latter you all remain dear*

*I live with help in the land of the sane
My spirit may limp but I have a cane*

*My mind is much smoother my spirit more clear
Living a new life it's a whole new career*

*There is a new away that I must sustain
"Give it way to keep it"
and don't sweat the pain.....*

L U V Y A A L L

Unity or Uniformity

from p. 1

service structure. Who is causing the disunity? The ones pointing the finger or the ones the fingers are being pointed at. Our Traditions tell us how to deal with internal controversy, the problems that may arise out of our inability to communicate with each other at times. The Traditions of the fellowship of NA are like the Constitution and the Bill of Rights of the United States of America. Without them we would be in slavery. There would be no fellowship. Over a period of time, after looking back on our history, one must wonder if we have ever followed the Traditions. The controversy which seems to have always existed in the fellowship is just a way for the disease to manifest itself within Narcotics Anonymous. The best way for the disease to exist is to divide us through service alignments, to tell us that we have the answers and that if you disagree that you are causing disunity. We do this in the name of group conscience, and group conscience must be right. After carefully reviewing the Second Tradition it was found to my surprise that it states, "We must be constantly on guard that our decisions are truly an expression of God's will. There is often a vast difference between group conscience and group opinion, as dictated by powerful personalities or popularity." [p.59 3rd Ed Rev.]

So we ask who is right or who is wrong? Does there always have to be a right or wrong? Do we have the ability to think for ourselves or do we need someone to do the thinking for us? I personally have no answers, just questions. The longer I stay clean, the more questions I have. Some of the questions I've asked myself are, What are the solutions, who has them, do I really have to be involved to stay clean, why can't I be just like the next guy, do we really need the service structure, and if so why? Is there a way to change the service structure without

*The Traditions
are the answers,
not the concepts*

being listed as a "disunifier"? If so, how? It gets really lonely at times thinking I am the only one thinking this way but I know its a lie because I've had other people share the same experience with me so I'm not alone. I think there are other people out there who are thinking the same thoughts I have had and just don't know where to go with them or just don't know how to find the solutions to fix the problem. I spent most of my recovery involved in the known service structure frustrated and finally got to the thought, maybe I am wrong and what is the use anyway. Maybe its the time just to get along with my

personal life anyway. Maybe I'm wrong and crazy. Did anyone ever have them thoughts? You're not alone anymore. There are other solutions. The Traditions are the answers, not the concepts.

The home group I belong to decided a year and 7 months ago that it could not participate in the known service structure, that if we were to continue to call ourselves Narcotics Anonymous that it was time we stopped negotiating our Traditions to go along with the status quo. The 12 Traditions are not negotiable [p.56 3rd Ed Rev.]. So why were we negotiating them? We left the Area we belonged to and found other groups who were also feeling the same way and formed our own Area. A solution. We started to serve the needs of the groups instead of the wants of the service workers. We decided also not to belong to a Region at this time and not to belong to the World Service Conference. Some will ask, "How do you get literature then?". Our answer is that we print our own. It is the right of the Group. This might upset some people and cause great harm. This has not gone without notice. We also would like to thank all those who have been in support of us the last few years. Your support was needed. This also has not gone without notice. You let us know that we're not alone. Narcotics Anonymous, you are beautiful. More will be revealed.

Anonymous

A Working Guide on Writing the First Three Steps

This is a working guide to the first three steps put out for input and review. Many people have utilized this guide and it has been proven to work in many addict's lives.

Please submit any input you might have to:

Recovery First Group of N.A.
P.O. Box 4504
Allentown, PA 18101-4504

- 1) As you go along, or when you are having problems, or when you have completed the step, sit down and share it with your sponser. Do not get upset if your sponser does not think you have completed the step. Your sponser loves you and wants you to do as well as you can. Become willing and surrender!
 - A) First, write on what you expect from N.A.
 - B) Next, write out your definition of surrender, (what you think it means).. Write on how to apply it in your life.
 - C) Write what you are willing to do to become a member of N.A.
 - D) Sit down and go over these with your sponser.
 - E) Get yourself a good dictionary before you start writing on the steps.
 - 2) Writing on Step One.
 - A) Take each word individually and write down your understanding of the word.
 - B) Look up each word in the dictionary and write down the dictionary definition of the word.
 - C) Wait 24 hours and compare the two definitions. See how yours differed from the dictionary.
 - D) Write what you have learned.
 - E) Break the steps down into the following parts:
 - 1) WE ADMITTED
 - 2) THAT WE WERE POWERLESS
 - 3) OVER OUR ADDICTION
 - 4) THAT OUR LIVES
 - 5) HAD BECOME UNMANAGEABLE
 - F) Write what each part means to you.
 - 3) Writing the first step inventory.
 - A) Just for today, (every day), write on events that happen in your life and events they recalled from the past.
 - B) Write about the circumstances leading up to the event, the event itself, and the consequences arising from the event, be they good or bad.
 - C) Write how you could not control the circumstances that brought the event about, could not control the event itself, and could not control the consequences the event brought on, how it was unmanageable and you were powerless over it.
 - D) Continue to write daily until the step is revealed.
 - E) Write how you work this step. Write at least 15 different examples of how this step works in your life.
 - F) Share everything with your sponser.
-

Step Two

Relate and repeat everything you did on step one prior to the step breakdown to step two, then use the following breakdown.

- 1) WE CAME
 - 2) TO BELIEVE
 - 3) THAT A POWER
 - 4) GREATER THAN OURSELVES
 - 5) COULD RESTORE US TO SANITY
- A) Write what each part means to you.
 - B) Write your concept of insanity.
 - C) Write your concept of sanity.
 - D) Write what each part means to you now.
 - E) Write your daily step inventories until the step is revealed.
 - F) Write about what was revealed and relate it to your daily life.
 - G) Share everything with your sponsor.
 - H) Write 10 examples of how your being restored you to sanity.

Step Three

- 1) Writing on Step Three.
 - A) Take each word individually and write your understanding of it.
 - B) Look up each word in the dictionary and write down the dictionary definition of each word.
 - C) Wait 24 hours and then compare the two definitions and see if yours differed from the dictionary.
 - D) Write what you have learned from this experience.
 - E) Write on the following step breakdown:
 - 1) WE MADE
 - 2) A DECISION
 - 3) TO TURN OUR WILL
 - 4) AND OUR LIVES
 - 5) OVER TO THE CARE OF GOD
 - 6) AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM
 - F) Write five examples of how you turn your life and will over to the care of God.
 - G) Write what you believe faith means to you and how it affects your life.
 - H) Write what you feel will happen if you actually accept this step.
 - I) Write your daily step inventory until the step is revealed.
 - J) Write about what was revealed and relate it to your daily life.
 - K) Share everything with your sponsor. You will receive a guide if your sponsor feels you're ready for the fourth step.

Together We Can



will exercise its authority through its "elected representatives" at the W.S.C. In addition to making us the trustor, it provides for RSR-only voting on matters pertaining to the "trustee", who, of course, is the WSO, Inc. The second change eliminates all authority on the part of WSO, Inc. to control how the money is spent. (This is something they slip into this document, rather quietly, in hopes that most people won't notice it.)

Many of you will get copies of the report we will put together after the second workshop.

Of course, as most of you know, this workshop is an exercise in futility. World will do what they want, period. They will pass the trust document; they will pass the Guide to Service; they will defeat RSR-only voting. No matter what. In short, World will do WHATEVER IT TAKES to maintain control of the literature (its major source of money - a few million a year) and of the money. It is my belief that we have only one recourse left to us: to destroy the WSO, Inc. By "destroy" I mean to take the Basic Text away from them, along with the rest of the literature if we can. Without the huge (for N.A.) sums of money the basic text brings them, they will be an impotent tiger, all roar and no claws. It seems to me the only way we can do this is through the courts.

***continued
next
issue***

Tail Wags Dog

In a single remarkable session a west coast Area Service Committee (ASC) refused a request to give 15 basic texts to a book study meeting but responded enthusiastically to a direct donation request from WSO, Inc.

It seems that WSO has mailed out a passionate plea for direct donations to ASC treasurers. One member's objection that WSO "would just spend it on plane tickets" was rebutted by a passionate plea for "faith". Sometimes the usurpation of the Ultimate Authority becomes incredibly blatant. That eyes and ears should be so closed is sad. That a poor Group in a poor town should be without books for a book study meeting while \$150 can be sent to Van Nuys feels like something died.

In places we focus on the word structure and have forgotten service, are asked to trust the servants of self, and in the end the disease is still in control. It allows our Traditions to become meaningless. It allows us to hear what we want in them rather than what they say.

In a structural sense it becomes Orwellian. Servants are served. The structure claims a 5th tradition and the groups should send dollars. "Full Participation" is a euphemism for administrative votes and the death of group conscience. The most important persons are the least important. The structure supplants the Principles.

Anonymous

You Can't Write

April 5, 1991

Dear Fellow Members,

Amid the complexity, there is simplicity. The simple truth is that members of N.A. wrote all the existing literature and we can do it again. How did it get to be heresy in N.A. to speak the truth? The only people who say we can't do it are in a position to get paid to do it or to get personal credit. Does this seem like there might be a conflict of interest?

We don't need a fearless leader, perhaps a faithful leader would do. Search your heart for what God's Will is to you and voice the results until you find a common ground of issues and possible goals. Writing literature is a little like staying clean: many will say it can't be done, or it can't be done that way. When you do it, however, there's not much to say. Trust those who trust you. Keep faith with those who keep faith with you.

When I think back on the incredible amount of reading of input I read on the Board of Trustees, I realize that I benefited from having access you never got to see! That is a shame. I trust you to be able to sort through the garbage for the goody. There was some real goody in that material. There is some real goody in the Frey Form that preceded the Basic Text. Have you seen that yet? Well, why not?

Check out your ideas. There are service technician's who can help you with writing. We need a Fellowship lit pact or agreement stating simply the rules of the game so that we can go forward with new creations. This would allow members to do the work anonymously without signing release forms and contribute general recovery material exactly the same

You Can't...

from p. 9

way they contribute their heart, love and ideas drawn from their own personal experience in a recovery meeting of N.A. No one thinks to charge for that do they? How then would they seek recompense for sharing on paper to help fellow addicts seeking recovery. It is the giving that counts for us. The release form was originated for personal stories in the Basic Text only. It was later put to use in the N.A. Way magazine and for other forms of written input. There must be a glut of release forms in some great file at WSO. I wonder how they keep it all in order? It is nonsense and implies distrust. The release forms stifled the lit movement from the beginning and if nothing else happens, the lit movement is now dead as a doornail. Because you can't write. Or can you?

Anonymous

from page 1

and Harold had tried their ways of censoring the truth, dictating what had to be done, and exerting their rule over all in their power and prestige. Nate quietly introduced Faith into the process. He talked about the fact that she has often been the one to rely on in situations like these. Max and Harold bristled at this new twist. After all in their thinking their wisdom had come from years of paid travel and they knew all of the ego centered and popular servants.

Faith had learned to trust group conscience, a process that demanded honesty and truth. That integrity in action allowed both sides of an issue to be heard and understood. Through the learning experience of applying spiritual principles, compromise that a workable solutions can be reached.

S.J. fell in love with this wonderful idea of understanding, and love embodied in Faith. A relationship including Faith would know no boundaries. That together he could face every lack and character defect. Faith wished to enter his life that day, but first must come humility. Humble is something that S.J. knew very little about in his life, especially in service. Self centeredness and ego had been a way of life for him. Change must take place once awareness happens, else misery be unbearable once again.

Nate had always shown a teachable side S.J. An open mindedness that allowed for others to be

right. This was very attractive to him at this time. It dawned on him that Nate might be one of those winners that he had been told to look for. A resource for learning what Faith had to offer. As he began to open his mind to Nate's love for N.A., he began the process of coming to believe.

S.J.'s early experiences with Faith were somewhat blind. His previous experience had not taught him that this relationship begins with belief. That there were things around him, principles and ideas that worked for others when they used them. That once he believed, the process of growth through action could happen. He found that once he used what others were and found that they worked for him, then trust could be built in these principles. Thus came the opportunity for acceptance of Faith into his life. That the winners and recovery could be a natural part of this way of life, and that Faith could be a part of his life forever.

As his relationship with Faith grew so did S.J. He began to start becoming open to others instead of needing to change them. Truth seemed not to hurt so much anymore. That the whole picture was better than one painted by those that said "Trust Me". That length of service had little to do with quality of service.

Their relationship allowed for a unity with others that he had never thought possible before. To learn to be childlike again no longer being childish. To disagree without being disagreeable. A new chance to love creatively not destructively. A way to let others be where they were at and for that to be okay.

S.J. found that with Faith in his life that the addition of the many other spiritual principles became easier. It was hard work and he found that when he made the effort things happened that he could not believe or explain away. This new power in his life was one that he had tried to create on his own, not knowing that it had been there all along. Honesty, open-mindedness and willingness were becoming a way of life. The long sought after freedom was his once the surrender took place. Hand in hand he went forward into a life he had never known or had ever dreamed possible. He had learned.....

THAT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH FAITH

Anonymous

Courage II

Service Workshop for NA

FEB 26, 27, 28 '93

"The Way Station"
202 East Park Ave
Columbiana, Ohio

Mail input to:
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P.O. Box 42
Columbiana OH 44408

216-482-5136
fax 216-482-5136

FLORIDA SPRING SERVICE BREAK CONVENFERENCE IV

HOSTED BY
THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGION
MARCH 26,27,28 1993

World Conference Agenda
Beginners in Service
12 Traditions
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Are you willing to chair a meeting? _____ Yes

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Just send us your name & address. Use this form if you wish. Send us a letter if you can. We committ ourselves to putting out an issue every other month and figure 75¢ each will cover costs so send us \$4.00 for a year.

Your

Name _____

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The Court Case

"Comes now" confirmation that *WSO vs. Moorehead* is over. In spite of the best lawyers money could buy (with our money) and all that time, WSO Inc. could not prove exclusive rights to publish our literature. Sounding initially as though they had an open and shut case and coming on like gang-busters, WSO filed suit against one dying member and then ran to re-register their copyrights. Other than the abject failure of WSO to prove its case or live up to the agreements which attempted to settle the matter it is not clear that any conclusion has been reached. Several members were prepared to submit themselves as substitute defendants at a hearing Feb. 15. From the point of view of the defense a new case may be preferable. Will WSO Inc. spend another \$100,000 in court to prevent the free carrying of our message? Will the Fellowship agree to that expenditure? Can the Fellowship prevent it?

Anonymous

New Awakenings

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