

**DRAFT MINUTES
WORLD SERVICE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LITERATURE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 15, 1991**

The meeting was opened at 2:15 p.m. by Bob McK., Chairperson, with a moment of silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Present were: Bob McK., Greg P., Jack B., and Steve B., trustees, and Anthony E., Joe G., and Steve L., WSO staff. Dave T., WSC Vice Chairperson, joined the meeting at about 2:30 p.m.

1. The first item on the committee's agenda was an overview of the meeting/development schedule for the BOT Traditions Ad Hoc Committee. Bob read the dates and the tasks for each of the meetings tentatively scheduled for this conference year, and related to the members present the progress made by that committee.
2. The next item was the committed motion regarding gender-specific language and the usage of the word "God" in our literature. Greg P. reported that he has been working on a response to the motion and will have a draft for committee members to review by the end of the weekend. He then asked if any member present had any specific input to offer regarding the two issues. Various members of the committee and others in attendance presented their perceptions, which included:
 - a. Concerns about the possible ramifications of changing the wording of the steps and traditions;
 - b. A general consensus that the steps taken currently by the various bodies involved in writing literature to limit gender-specific language and the usage of the word "God" was in keeping with the motion committed to the BOT; and
 - c. Concerns about removing "God" from the literature, as that may change and dilute the philosophy of the program.It was also noted by a participant that one meaning of the word "he" in Webster's Dictionary implied that it is used when no specific gender is indicated or implied.
3. The next item on the agenda was an update on translations. A brief description of the handout describing the current status of translations efforts was given. Anthony then relayed to the committee that, depending upon the decisions of the Interim Committee, the newly formed Translations Committee would meet later this year and will coordinate much of the responsibilities currently handled by the WSO Translations Department. Andree L., then related to the committee the various positive effects of having the Basic Text translated into French upon her fellowship in Quebec.

4. Following a short break, the committee began to discuss the article on fundraising and the Seventh Tradition, which was assigned to it during the June BOT meeting. A lengthy and fruitful discussion about various ideas to be covered in writing that article ensued. During the discussions which were opened to non-committee members, there were a number of requests made asking the board to write articles that would make definite statements indicating the opinion of the board on this and various other topics.

During the discussion, a consensus was reached; the committee members and a considerable number of non-committee participants felt that fundraising for its own sake was not a practice that should be encouraged in the fellowship, in fact, it should be discouraged. On a historical note, some members mentioned that fundraising events originally started out as activities to enhance recovery. When these events became financially successful, the purpose for holding such events was changed in a considerable number of cases. Various members stated that their experience has shown that when a group, area or region is experiencing financial hardship, the fellowship responds as long as the need is communicated adequately. It was also stated that, at times, needs are confused with wants, and if a group is unable to be self-sufficient that group may need to fold, or an area or regional committee may need to cut back on its services. The general impression of most of the participants was that while there's enough money in the fellowship, the fund-flow may not be working due to a lack of communication and education.

At the end of the discussion, Bob indicated that he and Steve L. will work on writing the article, and have a draft for the committee to review by the next meeting.

5. The final item on the committee's agenda was the literature development process. Bob mentioned that discussions will take place on this topic with the World Service Conference Literature Committee sometime this weekend. During a brief discussion period, members agreed that the process needs to be reviewed and possibly revised, but that it should definitely be done in conjunction with the WSCLC. Concerns about the existing process ranged from the length of time it takes to get a piece of literature approved, to get members on a local level involved in reviewing literature.

The committee adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.