

THE BOOK

We started early and stayed late. The book was probably the most important spiritual thing we'd ever done in recovery. It's hard to write these experiences; a two week time frame seems to have been a lifetime. Raw material for the book came from addicts in N.A. recovery all over the world. Most original material was written long-hand. Some was barely readable, some was flowery and excessively wordy, all of it was real. No valid thoughts or feelings expressed about N.A. recovery consistent with our Twelve Steps, written and spoken tradition were lost. All of it was included or saved for needed pamphlet material. This material had been assembled over an eighteen month period through direct fellowship response to requests from World Literature Committee for input for our book. Other material was included that had been collected throughout the 26 year history of our fellowship. In October, 1979, the 1st World Literature Conference held in Wichita, Kansas, began compilation of material; the minutes of that conference became our approved literature committee handbook. The 2nd World Literature Conference held in Lincoln, Nebraska, September, 1980, began to outline material collected into logical sequence and provided a framework for our book.

Chapter material was worked on in many cities across the country and much new material was produced. This material was typed, reviewed, edited and rewritten, cut apart, pasted up, typed, rewritten, edited and reviewed in Memphis, February 1-9, 1981. Nearly 10,000 working hours were put in by dedicated trusted servants from all the major N.A. areas in the United States. About 30 stories of N.A. recovery were approved by the conference; women's stories, men's stories, rich, poor, ordinary and bizarre, covering N.A. recovery from many viewpoints.

The final review copy of "Our Book" is now at the printer and each group, fellowship wide will have a review copy (not for distribution) by March 1, 1981. These review copies will contain 10 review input forms, so that every member may become part of our book by sharing their ideas with World Literature Committee. The 4th World Literature Conference will be held April 25-29 in Venice, California. Review input forms will be checked and appropriate changes will be made. A final manuscript will then be presented to the World Service Conference, May 1, 1981. If this manuscript is approved by the conference we will then have our own book, the common, shared and personal experience of recovery from addiction in the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous.

Your help is needed. Please review the book in groups, reading aloud to each other. Pray to your Higher Power for guidance and mark your review input form: Approved; Approved with these changes or not approved. Many addicts die of our disease every day. Help carry the message through the written word. Help us have "Our Book".