

Basic Text Project Update

The approval draft of the Basic Text is scheduled to be published in September—right around the corner. It will also be included as an addendum to the *2008 Conference Agenda Report*. In these final months, we are busy revising the draft according to input you've sent us, as well as incorporating stories to fill the "gaps" in the text. Those of you who have seen the review draft (and that's quite a few of you; we distributed more than 7,500 copies of the draft—4,493 paper copies, 3,009 electronic) will notice many changes in the approval form:

- Reflections: We received more input about reflections, the shorter pieces of experience collected at the beginning of each section. While many people thought they were confusing or too fragmented, others praised the idea of including short "shares," particularly for those who may not read English well or who have shorter attention spans. To help make them less confusing, we will reference the reflections in the table of contents and include a short explanation of them.
- Beginnings: Many of you asked why we didn't include reflections at the start of this section as well, so we added reflections here collected from passages from the Fifth Edition stories.
- Preface and Introduction: We have revised parts of these pieces according to your suggestions.
- Stories: There are a number of changes within the stories, some reflecting your suggestions, and some resulting from communication with the members who wrote the pieces. Your input also helped us refine our list of experience that is missing from the draft, and we have managed to collect a number of stories that make this a more well-rounded collection in terms of geography and experience. We are working to integrate those new pieces into the draft, but this means that some of the stories in the review draft will have to be removed so that the book is a manageable size for publication. We love all of the pieces in the draft, and these decisions will be among the most difficult we have to make.

That's not to say that reading and discussing the input has been easy. Oftentimes, the most passionate pieces of input are directly contradictory. One group (or member or committee) will say, "That was the best story I read because it covers every single aspect of the program," and another will say (of the same story), "There is too much talk about using and not enough recovery. Not interesting." In cases like this, input shows us what we need to pay attention to, but doesn't necessarily give us any clear direction. We have read every piece of input, discussed the issues they raised, and done our best to revise the draft responsibly.

In closing, we want to thank those of you who read the review draft and sent us your thoughts. You have helped to make the draft better.

More information about the project, including how the material will be framed for consideration at the 2008 World Service Conference, is available at www.na.org/conference/bt/index.htm.

