

# Picture this...

## a Basic Text that reflects the global diversity of the NA Fellowship

### Have you sent a submission to the Basic Text project yet?

For the first time in more than twenty years we are gathering personal experiences from NA members to include in the Basic Text. The 2004 WSC passed a motion to replace "some or all" of the personal stories, and we are collecting submissions until the end of December.

Since the Basic Text was first published we have expanded from fewer than 3,000 meetings, mostly in the US, to more than 30,000 in over 100 countries. We have grown in every way—the places we live, the diversity of our membership, our recovery experience.

*We need your help to put together a collection of personal experiences that will capture the richness of the NA Fellowship today.*

You don't have to write down everything that's happened to you. Maybe you struggled to develop a relationship with a Higher Power or had a breakthrough at two years clean. Perhaps you confronted a defect at a point in your recovery where you thought, "I can't believe I am struggling with this when I have xx years clean!"

Maybe you are an atheist, single parent, celebrity, veteran. Maybe you have something to say about coping with illness in recovery, what it was like to start NA in your community, or going back to school. Perhaps you relapsed and finally "got it." Or perhaps you were able to stay clean the moment you joined NA, but confronted your disease in other ways.

Share your experience; tell us what happened and how NA's spiritual principles got you through. You don't have to write like a professional or make it sound like you think literature is "supposed to" sound. We want your experience in your voice and your words.

*Can you personally ask at least two people to submit something?*

We hope you'll also urge others you know to send us their experience. So many of us won't write anything unless someone else helps to motivate us—it's no different from getting a first service position or a sponsor; a lot of people need encouragement to take action. Some members will see the call for submissions and think, "What a great idea, but they're not really talking to me." You can do more than we can to convince those members that, yes, we are talking to them.

Can you personally ask at least two people to submit something? Maybe you can work together by reading each other's writing and giving feedback. And don't forget to follow up. You'll probably need to talk to the same people more than once before they'll write and submit something.

Another way to get people interested and motivated is to hold a workshop. We have sample formats for workshops posted on the website. The shorter workshop is a sharing session to inspire people to submit something to the Basic Text project. We've used this format and can tell you it's fun and moving and gives everyone involved a chance to get to know each other (and themselves) better. The longer session, which can be a half or full day, builds from the first one and includes an actual writing workshop. These are just some ideas for how to stir up interest and enthusiasm in your area. Use your imagination.

So...send us your experience. Help someone.

*Whether you're recovering at a campout in Virginia or an ancient church in Nicaragua, you have experience to share that could help someone.*



### BRANA

This photo is from the 23rd annual Blue Ridge Area NA campout, held at Natural Chimneys Regional Park in Mount Solon, Virginia, USA. This campout was the first major NA function in Virginia, preceding the Region of the Virginias Convention by about six months. In 2004, 204 recovering addicts attended the campout.

Dan W, Virginia, USA



### While visiting in Nicaragua

While on a mission trip in León, Nicaragua, I found an NA meeting at this beautiful cathedral built in 1786. What a wonderful feeling to be so far away from home and yet feel at home! Knowing there were fellow addicts near me was comforting. At home I attend meetings in the new wing of a hospital and at a university, so it was awesome to see a meeting in such a different setting. We truly are one united family, despite geographic, cultural, and language differences.

Holly T, Michigan, USA

*"When we honestly tell our own story, someone else may identify with us."*

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We are accepting submissions for the Basic Text project in any language from now until the end of December 2005. Send your experience to the World Board at NA World Services; Box 9999; Van Nuys, CA 91409 or to [worldboard@na.org](mailto:worldboard@na.org). You can email your experience, but you'll need to mail us an original signed copyright release form. For more information about the project, contact world services, or go online to <http://www.na.org/conference/bt>.