

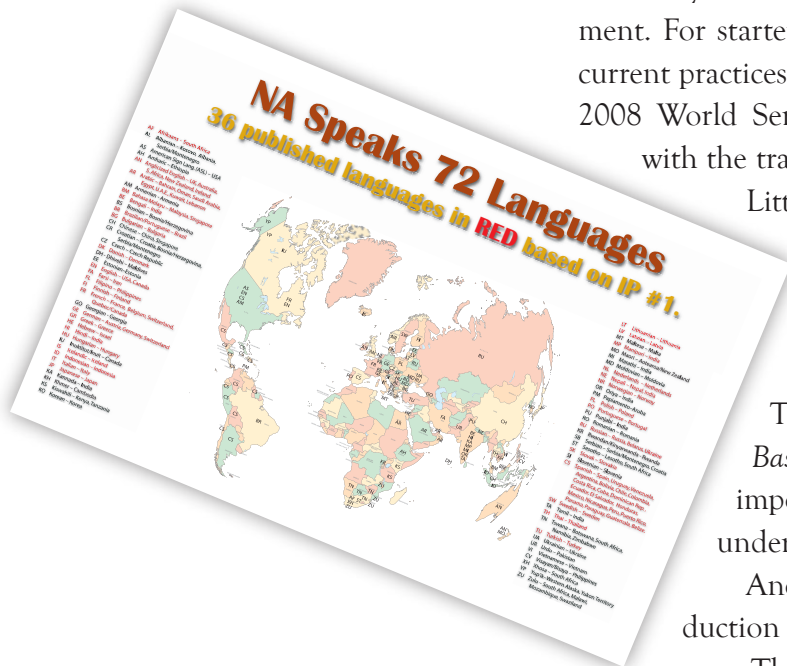
Our Freedom, Our Responsibility

Translations

This year marked another busy year for our translations department. For starters, *Translations Basics* has been updated with our current practices and the policy changes that were approved at the 2008 World Service Conference. These changes primarily deal with the translation of personal stories in the Basic Text and

Little White Book. According to the translations policy, from now on local NA communities with a history of successful translation efforts can develop and submit local stories for inclusion in the Little White Book only, not for the Basic Text. Other sections were also added to *Translations Basics* to clarify some of the other policies that are important for local translations committees (LTCs) to understand.

Another exciting development this year was the production of the Little White Book in American Sign Language. The ASL White Booklet is now available, as are the ASL-interpreted speakers from WCNA.



Spotlight on Japan

NA Japan is one of the oldest NA communities in the Asia Pacific Zone, and yet suffered with a lack of translated literature for about twenty years. The Japanese Basic Text was published just a few years ago. From the late 1980s, the fellowship was using several poorly translated IPs and the Little White Book. Since the Japan Region and NAWS made a commitment at WSC 2004 to develop an effective process and speed up literature translations, we have published five items—the Basic Text, *Just for Today*, IPs #1 and #6, keytags, and the group reading cards—and we are about to publish the Little White Book. The Japanese LTC is very dedicated and hard-working. They are currently working on two projects: *It Works: How and Why* and *The NA Step Working Guides*.





Elsewhere in Asia:

Cambodia

Currently, we have the Khmer IP #1 for distribution as a draft. Recently we received a request for more literature in Khmer. They now have three regular meetings in Phnom Penh with some Cambodian members. We will be working together with Cambodian members and a Khmer translator to revise the IP #1 draft to make the language less formal and more addict-friendly, and then work on translations for IPs #7 and #24.

Nepal

Five items are published in Nepali: IPs #1, #7, #8, and #22, and keytags. We are currently working on IP #16. Keytags are cherished by the local members, but a dilemma has arisen about wearing them in public. The word in Nepalese literature for “clean” literally means “drug-free.” To reduce social stigma, we agreed to another word for clean on the keytags, one that means “clean” as in pure, healthy. A reference to that variation appears in their literature.

Spotlight on Brazil

Brazil now has four regions: Brazil Region, Brazil Sul, São Paulo Region, and the newly formed Rio de Janeiro Region. Three of those regions have LTCs that are working on translations and doing reviews. A newly elected “super-regional” literature coordinator is our contact person for all Brazilian translations. Much awaited is the upcoming publication of two pieces: the Sponsorship book, and the Little White Book featuring six personal stories translated from the Spanish Little White Book and one Brazilian story that is also published in the Sixth Edition Basic Text.

Spotlight on Iceland

We are currently aware of ten groups in Iceland with approximately two hundred members and seventy-five in regular attendance. Situated in the North Atlantic, very far from other NA communities, their meetings thrive and they celebrate recovery with regular conventions. The Icelandic language is very old, a dialect of the Old Norse Viking language of Norway. We have had difficulty in finding translators and proofreaders over the years, as Icelandic is not very common and is actually only spoken by about 310,000 people worldwide. In 2002, the only NA literature in Icelandic was a poor and muddled draft translation of the Little White Book. But much has happened in recent years: Currently we are working on the Icelandic Fifth Edition Basic Text, and over the years nine other pieces of literature have been published in Icelandic.

Elsewhere in Europe:

Russia

The progress of the Russian NA community in the last year has been simply amazing. Among the projects they have completed are the *Just for Today* book, and *Twelve Concepts for NA Service*, and now the *The NA Step Working Guides* will be published.

Malta

NA Malta is a young island community in the Mediterranean that is growing rapidly. They held their second national convention in March 2008. Malta has formed a region with an LTC. They are just getting started with Maltese NA translations.



Spotlight on Amharic for Ethiopia

Many years ago we received an Amharic draft translation of IP #1 and the NA recovery glossary. These handwritten translations were sent to us via post mail. Over time, we continued communicating with our contact through post mail. Progress has been slow, but the effort is constant, because this year we received another handwritten draft from Ethiopia, IP #7, by post mail. We arranged to have electronic files created from these handwritten drafts. Then, much to our surprise, we were contacted about Ethiopian members in Israel who are eager to help with Amharic translation and draft review. With this possibility, we can begin having the drafts and glossary evaluated by a professional and updated by members with the goal of reaching Amharic-speaking addicts in Africa and elsewhere, like in Israel. The NA community in Israel has made efforts to serve the needs of its non-Hebrew-speaking members. Their regional website has a section in Russian with information about Russian-speaking meetings, and there are English- and Arabic-language meetings in the region as well.

Elsewhere in

Africa and the Middle East:

Africa

Translations work is continuing in the following languages: Afrikaans, Kinyarwanda, Swahili, Southern Sotho, Tswana, Xhosa, and Zulu.

Arabic-Speaking Countries

The first ten chapters of the Fifth Edition Basic Text have been completed through a cooperative effort by an online Arabic LTC. The five participating Arabic-speaking commu-

nities are also working on service pamphlets, youth IPs, Sponsorship book, and more.

Also in progress are Armenian IP #1 and Urdu IPs #1 and #7.

Spotlight on the Balkans

Over the past year, activity in the Balkans has stepped up a notch. After years of sparse and scattered activity, 2007–2008 revealed real growth. Croatia hosted several events. Aside from a service workshop in 2007, the second annual Croatia, Bosnia, Slovenia, and Serbia NA convention took place in Trogir, Croatia, 8–11 May 2008. The theme of the convention was “Carry the Message.” Members from Croatia and Slovenia also attended the EDM over the past year. They brought back enthusiasm to their blossoming NA communities, which for translations manifested as tangible progress in IP #1 and recovery glossary translations. Even though members in all four of the former Yugoslavian countries can communicate with each other, their languages and cultures are quite different. The ethnic tensions that are otherwise so evident in the recent war-torn years do not seem to play out among NA groups in the Balkans. The unifying effect of addicts working together to carry the NA message is truly amazing.

Slovenia

One group in Ljubljana meets once a week, with approximately ten members with up to five years cleantime attending regularly. The TEG evaluated IP #1 and recovery glossary in Slovene. IP #1 will be on their table soon.

Croatia

One group in Zagreb meets five times a week, with approximately twenty members. There is another group in Split, making Croatia the largest NA community in the Balkans,



after Greece and Turkey. Evaluations are currently in progress on a draft of IP #1 with the recovery glossary. In the meantime, Croatia has formalized their first LTC, sending us drafts of IPs #16 and #22, and parts of *Just for Today*. They have also nearly completed a draft translation of the Basic Text.

Serbia

In this emerging community, five recovering addicts have just recently formed an NA group. The group holds one meeting a week in Belgrade, and members have up to one year clean. There are currently drafts of a Serbian Basic Text as well as several IPs.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Several NA members are recovering in Sarajevo. There are currently no meetings, but these members participate at all the events organized in the Balkans. However, there is one group in Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina, with one meeting a week. We have Bosnian draft translations of several IPs, as well as published keytags.

Greece

The Greek LTC is currently working on IP #11 and the Greek Intro Guide.

Turkey

The Turkish LTC is working on the Little White Book; the Turkish Basic Text was published earlier this year.

Fabulous Facts!!

(August 2008):

- ❖ Translated items published: 573 (1998: 246; doubled in 10 years)
- ❖ Languages represented in NA: 71
- ❖ Published Basic Text translations: 17
- ❖ Key tag languages: 39
- ❖ Languages with most books translated:
Farsi & Spanish: 5
French & Portuguese: 4
Brazilian, German, Hebrew, Italian, Norwegian, Swedish: 3
- ❖ NA languages with the longest words:
Yup'ik, Finnish, Zulu, German
- ❖ NA book with top-to-bottom text, read from right to left: Japanese Basic Text
- ❖ Same language, different script:
Urdu (Pakistan) and Hindi (India)
- ❖ Number of NA languages reading right to left: Four: Arabic, Hebrew, Urdu, Farsi
- ❖ Language most read in Afghanistan:
Farsi from Iran, called Dari in Afghanistan
- ❖ NA communities who have literature in pictograms : Japan, China, Korea
- ❖ Communities that can participate in Spanish translations approval:
25 (LAZF plus Spain)
- ❖ Communities in the Arabic online LTC: 5 (Egypt, KSA, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain)
- ❖ NA translations in specialized formats:
Braille and American Sign Language