

Second Asia Oceania Service Meeting

FRIENDS WE HAVE NOT MET

Salvation Army Congress Hall
Auckland, New Zealand

20th/21st March 1997

FINAL REPORT

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Asia Oceania Service Meeting 1997

Meeting 20th - 21st March 1997.

Theme 'Friends We Have Not Met'.

Agenda Items.

Welcome - Chairman

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer; Read Tradition 2. Observe silence for those still suffering.
 2. Identification of attendees
 3. Apologies
 4. Welcome by - Chairman AOSM,- Chairperson of NZ GS Conference.
 5. Delegates introduce themselves with personal service highlights.
 6. Highlights AA on the World Scene - George D [REDACTED] - GSO New York has been invited.
 7. Keynote address, Trevor C [REDACTED]
 8. Consider and if approved, adopt the report of the Meeting in Tokyo 23rd March 1995
 9. Discuss any matters arising therefrom.
 10. Correspondence.
 11. Presentations by a delegate from each country - "How AA Works In My Country" followed by questions and discussion after each presentation.
 12. WSM Delegates reports about the last WS Meeting 1996 - questions and discussion.
 13. Discussion Items.
 - a. Consider and if agreed, adopt a Statement Of Purpose.
 - b. Review the Guidelines adopted in March 1995.
 - c. Identify countries and AA contacts within our sphere of responsibility.
 - d. Consider how AOSM can help countries in the zone who may not be eligible to attend the WSM.
 - e. Consider Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional community
 - f. Discuss co-operation with Prison and Institutional authorities in carrying the A.A. Message
 - g. Literature and Translations - Consider problems experienced in obtaining translations that convey the spirit of AA as distinct from literal correctness
 - h. Discuss problems encountered in carrying the message of AA. because of differences in language, culture, religion, or customs between people and countries.
 - i. Consider sponsorship between countries.
 - j. Share experiences countries have had protecting the AA program and literature.
 - k. Share experiences with communication - eg. newsletters, magazines,
 - l. publications, videos and the computer internet.
 - m. Consider Australian remits :-
 1. List countries in the zone - names, addresses of contacts and service offices.
 2. Ascertain literature needs of neighbouring countries
 3. Can the zone assist with printing needs.
 4. That the Zonal Meeting change its name to Asia Pacific Zonal Meeting.
 - n. Consider the desirability of feedback of traveller's experience of the fellowship in countries other than their own.
 - o. Consider having an AOSM office appointed to collate and disseminate fellowship information.
 - p. Consider the costs of the AOSM.
 - q. Late remits.
 14. General Business - Elect Chair person, elect secretary if required
 15. Set next meeting date and venue.
- Complete the Meeting questionnaire.

Report on the

SECOND ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING

"Friends We Have Not Met"

Held at the Salvation Army Congress Hall

369 Queen Street - AUCKLAND NZ.

20th / 21st March 1997.

PRESENT. Alan N [REDACTED] (NZ-Chairman), Trevor C [REDACTED] and Simon R [REDACTED] (New Zealand), Joon-Y [REDACTED] Hong (Korea), Dr. John S [REDACTED] (Thailand), Shirley M [REDACTED] and Bob J [REDACTED] (Australia), George D [REDACTED] (GSO New York), Raj C [REDACTED] and Blacke C. (Hong Kong), Kosei Y [REDACTED] and Naoto O [REDACTED] (Japan), Susan C [REDACTED] (English speaking minute taker), Yuki Y [REDACTED] (Secretary AOSM, Tokyo).

OBSERVERS. A number of observers were present throughout the proceedings. These included past delegates, WSM and AOSM delegates as well as other members of AA. Including some from overseas.

Agenda

Item.

1. OPENING. The meeting opened at 9.00 am with the Serenity Prayer followed by Trevor G [REDACTED] reading Tradition 2. Alan N [REDACTED] read the Chairman's address on the theme "Friends We Have not Yet Met".

2. ROLL CALL. Delegates and other members of the Meeting identified themselves, their country and gave a brief resume of their AA Service.

4. APOLOGIES. An apology for unavoidable absence was received from the Chairman of NZ GS Conference Kevin M [REDACTED] along with his best wishes for a successful meeting.

7. KEY NOTE ADDRESS. Trevor C [REDACTED] presented his address on the theme "Friends We Have Not Met" which is included with this report.

6. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORLD SCENE. George D [REDACTED] delivered an address on this topic including news that :-

- a) Portugal has opened a GSO and its Assembly is to adopt a charter in Autumn 1997.
- b) Bulgaria has opened an Intergroup office and has about 30 groups.
- c) Czech Republic has opened an office in Prague and is now self supporting.
- d) Slovakia now has a Service Office.
- e) Ukraine - Formed a Service Council i.e. the beginnings of a structure.
- f) Romania - Growing and 2nd National Convention to be held soon.
- g) Poland - Grown from 10 groups to 1000 groups in one year.
- h) Russian Federation - 190 groups. GSO in Moscow. GSO NY sent 25000 Big Books in the Russian language to AA Russia.
- i) Cuba - Mexico and USA helping.
- j) Africa - Spreading North from South Africa Kenya etc.

In 45 years AA has grown from one office to global. Each country is autonomous but GSO New York is available to help, particularly with literature and publications. Publications are now in 31 different languages with \$140,000.00 to \$150,000.00 being spent annually. The International literature fund accepts donations from all countries and 20% of the costs are now met from this fund. A country with an AA structure is expected to copyright material in that country, transfer the copyright to GSO New York and receive a license to publish. This to give maximum protection to the purity of the AA program. The presentation was followed by questions and discussion particularly on the operations of the International Literature Fund. It was noted that Australia sets aside Founders Day contributions after Group expenses to donate to this fund.

8. 1st AOSM MEETING - TOKYO 1995. The report of the meeting held in Tokyo on 23rd March 1995 was adopted.

9. MATTERS ARISING. The report was considered page by page and the following noted:-

- a) It was considered the amateur radio list was no longer required.
- b) It was requested that a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and FAX numbers for boards of individual countries be made available so that AA is accessible to travellers.
- c) The cost of the AOSM report was stated as \$3.00 and New Caledonia and Thailand had paid for copies. Free copies had been sent to each delegate, 33 countries had been invited to attend.

10. CORRESPONDENCE. Susan G [REDACTED] read correspondence India, including a full report on the status of AA in that country and from Australia including a cheque payable to GSC NZ for \$NZ250.00 as a contribution towards the meeting costs. Australian delegates were asked to convey the thanks of the meeting back to their GSC.

11. DELEGATES PRESENTATIONS. Delegates presented full reports about "How AA Works In My Country". These are included with this report and the following items and comments were received during the presentations.

- a) GSO New York has a Corrections Package available to those who wish to receive it. Contact George Dorsey.
- b) Difficult to get entry to Australian prisons, particularly high security prisons.
- c) In Korea people committing alcohol related crimes are required to attend AA., e.g. drunken drivers.
- d) Cards available at meetings in Thailand for visitors to show taxi drivers when seeking an AA meeting. Other countries welcome to copy them for their own travelers use.
- e) Discussion on how the concept of a Higher Power or power greater than ourselves relates to different religions or cultures e.g. Buddhism, Christianity etc.
- f) Australia has a two tiered organizational structure but GSO is the official link with New York.
- g) Delegates were given a copy of the Calder District Action plan (Australia) which contained many articles and presentations about AA and Treatment facilities.
- h) An Australian survey on AA has been recently carried out. Their PI Committee consider the resultant statistics to be of use.
- i) The Japanese attitude that alcoholism is a disease of the poor is changing and professionals are now joining AA. Anonymity is deemed to be very important.
- j) There was discussion on whether posters are advertising or promotion. The consensus was that the message/motive was the determinant rather than the poster.
- k) Australia uses TV public service ads and signs at town entrances, laminated notices for doctors surgeries and a public information handbook was being prepared.
- l) AA now has limited access to prisons in Japan as selected citizens and has access to halfway houses for ex prisoners.
- m) NZ Government allows their employees who have alcohol problems to take treatment, then return to their employment if they remain sober. This is also followed widely by the private sector.

12. WSM DELEGATES REPORTS. These were presented by Simon R [REDACTED] and Trevor C [REDACTED]. Matters arising during the ensuing discussion included :-

- a) Problems of countries that appear unable to afford attendance.
- b) Recognition was made of the availability of this AOSM Meeting to serve countries that cannot attend the World Service Meeting for whatever reason.
- c) Sponsorship of other countries or delegates.
- d) Recognition of the importance of AA Archives was considered. Australia GS allocates a sum of money annually to preserve the history of AA. and a Trustee has completed a course in archiving. The memoirs of the first Lithuanian member in Australia has been rescued from a second hand shop. Japan has written a history of AA in book form. All members were encouraged to write down their story for archival purposes.

13) DISCUSSION ITEMS.

a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

After considerable discussion the following was adopted as a provisional Statement Of Purpose:-

"The primary purpose of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting is to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers.

The Asia Oceania Service Meeting seeks ways accomplish this goal by providing a forum for the delegates to share the experience, strength and hope of the countries they represent and who come together from all parts of Asia and Oceania. It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout the region and provide a link to the World Service Meeting for countries unable to be represented there. Experience has shown that a sound service structure enables our message to be delivered more effectively. The Asia Oceania Service Meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic through the spoken word, literature and institutions work. The AOSM recognizes that that it has no authority over any AA service or Group. The only decisions to be made by the AOSM are those which affect the meeting itself'.

b). GUIDELINES. It was agreed that the Asia Oceania Service Meeting :-

- 1) Should meet every two years in the year alternate to the World Service Meeting.
- 2) That participating Countries should determine who should represent them.
- 3) That finance should be the responsibility of each participating country.
- 4) That the Chairperson should rotate off after each meeting.
- 5) That the Secretary and Administration not necessarily be rotated on a regular basis.

6) That every Country in the region be eligible to send up to 2 delegates to the AOSM.

7) That the meeting be of two days duration.

8) That observers continue to be welcome, have no voting rights and participate only at the discretion of the chairperson.

c). IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES AND AA CONTACTS.

The secretary tabled a list of 38 contacts she had in our Zone of Responsibility which was considered to cover India and Pakistan; thence East to include Asia and Oceania but to exclude the American continents. Members updated the lists as far as they could with follow up to come from John S [REDACTED] re (Vietnam/Laos); Australia re Indonesia, Malaysia, Jakarta; Japan re Siberia, Mongolia, Kamchatka Peninsula; GSO NY re Vladivostok; NZ re Antarctica and South Pacific Islands.

d). HELP FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. It was suggested that copies of our proceedings be sent to all countries we have contact with to let them be aware of what is happening in our zone. It was considered that close geographical neighbours would make contact easier and that contact between individuals was most helpful. As a guideline it was suggested that delegates should ask their countries to consider accepting prime responsibilities as follows:-

New Zealand - Micronesia / Polynesia.

Hong Kong - Macau and China.

Japan - Kanchatka Peninsula.

Korea - North China and Manchuria.

Australia - Indonesia and Malaysia.

India has its own GSO but is still remote.

NY GSO is currently dealing with Vietnam, Burma and Cambodia regarding structure and Australia is happy to become involved.

e). PUBLIC INFORMATION. Several experiences in achieving public awareness were discussed. Among them were - Advertising in Professional medical newspapers, Posters (But message content needs to be carefully thought out), Having available books and pamphlets regarding co-operation with the professional community. Public alcohol awareness week, annually coordinating TV, Press and radio programs along with active public meetings (NZ). Inviting doctors and religious leaders to attend open AA meetings. It was noted that there is a letter to professionals on the GSO website which was recently accessed 294 times in 5 days.

f). INSTITUTIONS AND PRISONS. New Zealand prison authorities permit AA members to enter prisons for the purposes of holding AA Meetings. There are certain criteria that that the members visiting the prison have to meet, e.g. length of sobriety, have not themselves been to

prison within a specified number of years etc. New Zealand has a law enabling an afflicted person to be detained under the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Act for treatment. Probation officers are encouraged to direct candidates to AA and prison sponsors regularly hold meetings in prisons. George D [REDACTED] advised that the General Service Board in New York are considering producing a video designed to help those who are reluctant to visit prison. The meeting considered that this would be a very desirable tool. Australia reported that alcohol related crimes account for about 50% of prisoners. Local groups visit outlying prison farms. Japan reported that co-operation has begun and they will have a meeting in prison with drunken drivers. There is a difficulty in that former inmates may not re-enter a prison. Korea does not have access so concentrates on hospital visiting. A difficulty faced was the perceived competition AA may provide with the prison authority's own educational programs. It was suggested literature should be made available in remand centres to target young people who are often there for alcohol or drug related crimes. It was reported that GSO NY has a Correctional Workbook available for those who could make use of it.

g) & h). LITERATURE AND TRANSLATIONS. Each delegate outlined the activity in his/her own country. Many experience problems obtaining translations that conveyed the spirit rather than literal correctness of the AA program. George D [REDACTED] stated that GSO would like to be involved from the beginning to prevent any distortions to Bill W writings. This is the reason for the licensing system and protection of the literature by copyright. GSO NY has access to superb resources to ensure protection of the AA message contained in translated material. Policy is that countries should request permission prior to printing. Work in hand currently includes translating the Big Book into Indonesian - some work with Torres Straits Islanders and Northern Territory Aborigines; possible revision of the Japanese Big Book. It was noted that the word God would be best not used if it is meaningless in a given language however it is very important to emphasize it is God as YOU understood him/it.

i). SPONSORSHIP OF OTHER COUNTRIES OR DELEGATES. It was agreed that the concept of countries sponsoring other countries to attend the WSM and/or the AOSM is to be encouraged, always keeping in mind that sponsorship is a matter of carrying the AA message and helping other alcoholics.

j). PROTECTION OF AA LITERATURE. New Zealand GSC has registered a Board under the Incorporated Societies Act. The members of this Board are appointed by Conference and normally consists of the Delegates and others associated with Conference. The Board is responsible to Conference. This enables legal contracts to be entered into including the holding of copyrights as well as limiting the legal liabilities of the members comprising the

legal entity. Korea is considering what action to take as contracts currently are entered into by individuals. Thailand has yet to consider the question but is likely to follow the path New Zealand has taken. Australia has registered a Limited Liability Company under the Company's Act in New South Wales and AA is registered as a Trade Mark. Registration has incurred the requirement to insure all operations and groups for Public Liability Insurance on a national basis. USA has incorporated the Service Boards; not the Fellowship of AA. The idea is to avoid rules as far as possible because any two alcoholics meeting together for the purposes of maintaining sobriety may call themselves an AA group. Registration with GSO is only for the purpose of disseminating information. In Hong Kong AA is registered as a charitable organization. Japan AA is registered as a trademark but they have not incorporated yet. Individuals take responsibility for contracts. The Kobe earthquake has caused a rethink about volunteer groups and under current law AA cannot be incorporated. AAWS is registered and book-selling cannot be done through book stores or there would be Income Tax implications. It was noted that the copyright has expired on the first 164 pages of the Big Book and this can be published by any one in USA/Canada only. The Disney Company has published a degenderised and undated version in the US and wanted rights world wide but GSO cannot allow this as it is unacceptable to the traditions of AA.

k). NEWSLETTERS / MAGAZINES. It was reported that New Zealand has completed a video of Chapter 5 for the deaf and this is available for sale. Magazines circulating include Mainstay, Unity and Grapevine. States in Australian each produce a newsletter and quarterly "AA Around Australia" is produced. Japan has a monthly magazine, a bi-monthly newsletter and three central offices publish newsletters. All countries were experiencing difficulty getting material for publication and various suggestions were discussed to alleviate this situation.

l). COMPUTER. A demonstration was given on a computer by Carey P. (Auckland) of Internet and E-Mail to GSO New York. There was considerable discussion about the implications for AA of this new technology. GSO NY has an information web page which is accessed 15,000 times per month. They do not want a generic address on web pages because of the historic precedent of replying to all communications and do not want to risk being inundated to no good purpose. AA appear on internet under 158 references but GSO are careful who they hyperlink to as they do not want to create the impression of endorsing any non AA material. Letters and orders may be delivered by E-Mail but will not get preferential treatment over any other form of communication. Guidelines are in place based on shared experience. It was noted that bulletin boards are shared all over the world so anonymity may be easily broken.

m. REMITS.

1. List Countries in the Zone - covered above.
2. Literature needs - it was considered that delegates should be pro active in ascertaining these needs.
3. Printing needs - as above
4. Change of name - It was considered the Asia Oceania Service Meeting best described the purpose of the meeting and that the name should not be changed.

n) and o). FEEDBACK OF EXPERIENCE. It was considered that access to meeting details was important and cards such as those from Thailand to help members find meetings could be useful. Australia will consider establishing a data base of AA information from which information can be drawn. It was agreed there was a need to share the work among participating countries. The Australian delegates will submit the proposal to their GSO Board International Literature Committee.

p). COSTS. It was agreed that host countries should bear the costs of holding a meeting and participant countries bear the costs of their own delegates. It was reported that the first meeting in Tokyo cost \$US3660 (\$2620 meals and venue \$1040.00 correspondence etc. for the first year. Secretarial costs appeared to be cost about \$1000.00 per annum. Australia presented the meeting with a cheque for \$250.00 as a contribution towards costs this year. New Zealand delegates proposed to recommend to their GSC that consideration be given to sharing this cost in the spirit of self support.

q). LATE REMITS. There were none.

14. ELECTIONS. Bob J. [REDACTED] Australia was nominated and elected Chairman for the ensuing 2 years. Yuki Y. [REDACTED] was re-appointed Secretary with acclamation and thanks for her splendid work to date. This appointment is subject to the approval of GSC Japan.

15. NEXT VENUE. It was resolved that the next meeting should be held in Sydney - Australia during Easter 1999 after which delegates may like to attend the Australian Convention in Brisbane. Australia proposed to offer billeting to delegates as this seemed to have been well received by the delegates attending the meeting and their hosts.

16. QUESTIONNAIRE. Those present completed a questionnaire which was passed to the Australian delegates on completion to assist planning for the 1999 meeting.

CLOSURE. The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer at 3.30 PM.

Welcoming Address
by Chairperson AOSM

Friends I have met and those I have not yet met, thank you for coming to this 2nd Asia Oceania Service Meeting. We welcome you as delegates and observers, many of you from countries so very far away.

We welcome you, George D [REDACTED] Manager of GSO, USA/Canada.

I am sorry to say Kevin M [REDACTED], Chairman NZ GSC, has to be absent and sends his sincere apologies together with his best wishes for a successful and rewarding meeting.

Welcome to Yuki, our secretary, and Susan G [REDACTED] our English speaking minute secretary.

May I ask you, George, to convey our thanks to your General Service Board for making it possible for you to come and join us; and ask you, the delegates from Japan, to thank AA Japan for financing the resources and releasing Yuki for enough time to do the magnificent job she has done as secretary to this newly formed Asia Oceania Service Meeting. Her task has been very difficult because of differing languages and the great distances involved, but she has done a splendid job. We are grateful to her and Japan for what has been achieved.

Susan G [REDACTED] will be our English Speaking Minute taker and will work with Yuki to preserve and distribute a record of our proceedings. Thank you Susan and welcome to our proceedings.

In welcoming the observers, I express the hope that you and we will all benefit greatly from your presence here but I remind you that you will need to refrain from participating in discussions and voting during the business sessions. We shall be delighted to share with you during the breaks in our proceedings.

We have quite a task ahead of us to encourage the development of AA unity through international sharing and communication and to carry our AA program of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers by reaching out to other countries in our sphere of responsibility; particularly those countries who do not qualify for attendance at the World Service Meetings. Let us hope we will be able to provide an access for those countries on to the world scene.

It all seems rather awesome as we are part of the most populated, disparate and scattered group of nations on earth with the largest variety of religions, cultures and languages in existence. But one thing has become more and more clear

to me as I have met members of AA with different backgrounds and attended AA meetings held in languages I don't understand: that there are no strangers in AA, only friends we haven't yet met. Let us hope our deliberations will assist us towards achieving our prime purpose of finding more of these friends and helping them to find and retain sobriety.

—Alan N [REDACTED] New Zealand

Keynote Address

My name is Trevor and I am an alcoholic who like many others among us owes his life to the programme of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is interesting to reflect on the theme of this Second Asia Oceania Service Meeting, "Friends We Have Not Met" . It takes me back to the first time I attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in my home town in Hamilton, New Zealand. After many attempts by my wife to try and make me recognise that I had a problem with alcohol — which included leaving me on a number of occasions, she finally decided that she would leave me permanently unless I went to Alcoholics Anonymous. It was a condition that I attend AA every week for 3 months. In Hamilton at that time there was only one meeting a week and the number attending would be about 5. I knew one man rather vaguely but did not know the others at all. While I did not want to know about AA at that time, I went to the meetings even though I had been drinking beforehand and often afterwards. The alcoholics present at those meetings were very tolerant of me and my behaviour, and for that I was later very grateful. If they had not been, I am sure I would have walked out of the meeting. As I did not have a desire to stop drinking, my wife's suggested trial was a dismal failure and I continued on with my drinking. My wife and children left and I was then free to carry on drinking without any restraint at all.

I continued drinking and it was not until 27th November 1962 at my office that I collapsed with what was described as a heart attack, but which I now believe was an alcoholic fit. I was taken to hospital and remained there for 10 days. It was while there that I was visited by the AA members I had earlier met and they were friends that I had not known before then. One of the members had actually been to the treatment centre that I later went to and he encouraged me to go there as did other members who were most supportive.

Fortunately for me I had listened to those AA members and I had an opportunity during the intervening time to reflect on my life and recognise to a limited extent the mess it was in as a result of my drinking. By the time I arrived at Queen Mary Hospital, Hanmer Springs, I had already recognised and accepted that I was an alcoholic.

I had gone by plane to Christchurch and on arrival I was to be met by another member of the fellowship who was to take me by car to Hanmer Springs. Unfortunately we missed one another and I went from the airport into Christchurch City. While walking along one of the streets of Christchurch I met a Detective whom I had known and drunk with in Hamilton. He asked me to go and have a drink. I told him I was not able to do that as I was on my way to Hanmer Springs - and so my first challenge had been dealt with. Somehow I managed to make contact with Maurice K., the member who I was supposed to meet at the airport: he had apparently been running around in circles looking for me in hotels and elsewhere - he could hardly believe that I was not drunk. He was the first friend I had met in Christchurch who I had not known before and he took care of me and took me to Hanmer Springs.

Upon my arrival at Queen Mary Hospital on the 13th of December 1962, my journey into recovering health and sobriety continued. It is important to record that at that time the only treatment for alcoholism was the AA recovery programme of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. We were introduced first to reading Marty M. "Primer on Alcoholism" and thereafter the Big Book "Alcoholics Anonymous".

At Hanmer I met sick alcoholics like myself as well as others who were on the road to recovery. It was there that I had my next introduction to people I had not previously met who were seeking recovery through the AA programme. During the 12 weeks I was there I had a number of serious personal matters to cope with but as I learnt from the AA 12 Steps Programme I could only deal with my life's problems one at a time and then only on a daily basis. In the same way as I can only deal with my alcoholism on a daily basis.

I was fortunate when I met an old AA member at Queen Mary Hospital, who again was a friend I had not met before. He was there because his physical health had deteriorated. This man, Eric H. from Timaru, who is now deceased, helped me understand and recognise the need to work the AA programme just for today.

In addition we had Sunday visits from AA members from Christchurch. These men

and women, whom we had not previously met, came to share their experience, strength and hope with us, sick alcoholics. They all looked so well and happy. These people were dedicated to carrying the message of recovery. They left a lasting impression on me of the necessity of service and the continuing need to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Fortunately for me I have managed to remain sober ever since I left Queen Mary Hospital, Hanmer Springs, by the daily practice of the 12 Steps. Sadly some of those people I met at Hanmer Springs did not remain sober and drank themselves to oblivion and finally death.

With the passage of time, as a result of daily practice of the 12 Step Programme of AA, my life has completely changed for the better. My wife and family were happily reunited many years ago. My professional opportunities improved and I have been able to give something back to the community which I had been unable to do during those years of alcoholic drinking.

With three other members of the fellowship I went to Tokyo in May 1994 to discuss the desirability and feasibility of establishing a Service Meeting to help carry the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic in the Asian and South Pacific areas. At that meeting, which occupied most of the day, it was unanimously decided that the need existed for the establishment of such a Service Meeting and it was also unanimous that the name of it should be the Asian Oceania Service Meeting. The date was fixed for the inaugural meeting, which you all know was held in Tokyo on the 23rd March 1995. This date was selected to coincide with Japan's 20th Anniversary celebrations, where we met friends we had not known before.

We were overwhelmed by the welcome we received from the Japanese members of the fellowship not only on our visit in May 1994 but also again at the inaugural meeting in March 1995. The generosity of the Japanese members was unbelievable.

The concept of one country sponsoring another is clearly a very effective way of carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. This concept has already been tried by some European countries and this is mentioned in the final report of the Eighth European Service Meeting (1995). It has also been demonstrated by one country sponsoring a Delegate from another country to attend the World Service Meeting.

Sponsorship at every level is important in carrying the message of AA and to recognise the great opportunity and challenge that presents itself to us in the area and countries served by this Service Meeting is essential.

The longer I am in this fellowship the more I see the need for and opportunity to carry the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic.

Finally, I think it is necessary for us all to remember that the message of AA is threefold: RECOVERY, UNITY and SERVICE. Without the base of RECOVERY, the triangle would not be able to be built. Without UNITY, the heart of AA would cease to beat. Without SERVICE the carrying of the message of AA would not be possible.

There is therefore the need to be ever vigilant in our pursuit of Recovery, Unity and Service.

—Trevor C [REDACTED], New Zealand

CORRESPONDENCE INDIA

14th February, 1997

Dear Yukie,

I refer to the telephone conversation I had with you on February 13th, and give below a brief background of AA in India.

The AA message first came to India through a Canadian named Charlie M., who was posted at the Canadian Embassy in New Delhi. He wanted to keep up his AA activities and put an "Ad" in the local newspaper of 5th March 1957. Harry M. from Bombay responded to his ad and spent some days with Charlie at Delhi. Harry M. stopped drinking from 5th May 1957 till his premature sober death on 5th June 1967.

Harry M. made a stupendous efforts to spread the message of AA and by November 1957 had a small group functioning in Bombay. These reports were published in AA Grapevine of October 1958. Also another oldtimer, Late Traver K. had sobered up through correspondence with GSO New York. He, being an army-man, tried to spread the message in different part of the country.

Initially meetings were taking place at members' residences, till the year 1959, when Harry M. got the permission to conduct the meetings at Victoria High-School, Mahim and the group are known as the "Foundation Group". Gradually more groups came up in Bombay and eventually Bombay Intergroup was formed on August 15th 1967. Thereafter more groups came up in Bombay and in other towns, namely Mangalore, Madras, Delhi, Bangalore, Secundarabad, Pune, Calcutta, Nagpur, Cochin, Vizag, Vijayawada and Chalisgaon.

On 5th May 1987 GSO India was formed. Gradually more groups have come up in more towns of India. Today we have in India nearly 325 groups and 15 Intergroups functioning. I am enclosing a copy of our National Directory, for your ready information.

We have in our country 18 languages, and GSO India is trying to translate AA Conference Approved Literature into different languages, apart from English. The enclosed list will give an idea in brief what we are printing in different languages. Although we have covered nearly 10 languages, still a lot remains to be done.

We have yet to spread in many parts of the country where there is no AA: e.g. U.P. the most populous state in the country has just one group and M.P. state, largest in the country in size, has also just one group.

In most of our groups there are sharings in the local language, as well as in English. As such most of our meetings are in two languages, and in a city like Bombay sometimes one hears sharing in four different languages, namely English, Hindi, Marathi and Konkani.

In addition to printing various books we have also printed some posters and stickers that are being put at railway stations, bus terminals and also in railway compartments and in buses. Also we are publishing a bi-monthly magazine titled "Twelfth Step" . I am enclosing these for your information.

All the Trustees of GSO (India) wish the Conference the best, and we pray that the Conference is totally successful.

I thank you for your telephone calls on behalf of GSO (India) . I look forward to a rewarding and cooperative experience with you.

Yours in Service of AA,

Mustan B., General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

12 March 1997

Dear Alan,

At a recent meeting of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia, the Board recommended that the GSO send you a cheque for \$250.00 to help defray some of the cost to hold this meeting. I hope that it is accepted in the spirit that it is given. I pray that you will have a successful meeting and

that we can help sponsor some of our Asian neighbours.

Should there be anything that we in the GSO in Sydney can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in Service,

Colin D. [REDACTED] Manager GSO

DELEGATES TO THE 2ND ASIA/OCEANIA ZONAL MEETING

Welcome and greetings from all in Australia, and in particular from the General Service Board in Australia.

For several years we have talked about representation at this meeting, and we are so pleased and proud that it has come about at last. You will find in Shirley and Bob, who are great ambassadors for us, a couple of really decent members of the Fellowship, who are both very knowledgeable, and capable and hard workers for AA. We look forward to their report back after your meeting.

Australia is a big country geographically, compared to most at this Conference, yet small in numbers. We have the same high rate of alcoholism and associated personal tragedies as any other nation, and thank God we met AA over 50 years ago, so that some at least have found an answer.

The most wonderful aspect of AA is the 12th step, and we see this meeting as our opportunity to take our place internationally in helping our fellow alcoholics to find their God as they understand Him, through the 12 steps. If any reach out their hand for help we in Australia have now said we are Responsible.

May you have a deeply rewarding time of sharing and caring, so that on your return, the International spirit of cooperation may be spread through your local Fellowships.

Dr. David [REDACTED]

Chairman of the Australian General Service Board

HOW AA WORKS IN MY COUNTRY

NEW ZEALAND

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this the second Asia Oceania Service Meeting.

It became clear to me during the World Service Meeting in New York last year that regional meetings such as this are worthwhile endeavours.

I learnt that the message of Alcoholics Anonymous is carried far more effectively where a clearly defined service structure exists, and sharing at a regional level enables needs to be identified and met that may otherwise be neglected.

There are 390 registered groups within New Zealand; 39 of these are institutional meetings.

This means there is an AA meeting in or near most towns, and in the larger cities there is a meeting available two or three times a day.

Most Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community, and Hospitals and Institutions work is carried out at this local level.

Groups meet to form intergroups to co-ordinate this work, as well as provide a regular venue for discussion on local or national issues.

Intergroups may also rent premises as service centres for literature sales and after hours phone services.

Groups elect G.S.R.s and they attend Area Assemblies. There are three Areas within New Zealand. Each area elects three delegates, who along with the two World Service Delegates, and up to four non-A.A. delegates attend a biannual Conference in the capital city of Wellington, home of our General Service Office.

Conference elects the members of our General Service Board which is our legal entity.

The Board has a sub-committee that manages the day to day operations of our national services.

This includes staffing and equipping our General Service Office, overseeing the production of our National A.A. Magazine "Mainstay" and our national directory, importation of literature and sales and finance.

Contributions make their way to the office from groups practising the 60-30-10 plan or through intergroups and area assemblies.

Yours in the Fellowship,

Simon R 

KOREA

Korean AA is rapidly increasing in our country. For about 10 years, from the beginning of AA in 1982 to 1992, there were only 6 registered groups in the nation, but now we have over 25 registered groups and AA has been continuously developing over the last 4 years. Also we have over 62 meetings every week in the 15 groups and the number of people attending is mostly 8 to 25. In addition to these meetings, open speaker meetings have been started in the big cities.

We also have special meetings seasonally, or 2 to 3 times every year. Our 6th International Convention will be held in Taegu this year, and many Japanese members have been steadily attending this event every year.

Our Hospital Committee is very active, as is our Literature and Translation Committee. In several cities every month, one member of each group is elected to carry the message to hospitals and we regularly have meetings to discuss various problems concerning carrying the message to more than 24 hospitals here in Korea, especially Kongju where many alcoholics who have committed criminal act are incarcerated. Recently the government has decided to require people who have committed alcohol related crimes, including drunk drivers, to attend AA meetings.

We discuss our intergroup administrative matters quarterly, and hold the meetings in different provinces by rotation. In addition, some cities hold monthly business meetings. At these meetings, an intergroup chairman, secretary, and treasurer are elected.

《Joon Y [REDACTED]》

THAILAND(SIAM)

Though I now live in New Zealand I was nominated by AA in Thailand to represent them at this Conference. I felt very honoured when asked to do this at a Group Conscience meeting I attended in Bangkok during Christmas 1996.

Thailand is a beautiful country inhabited by some 70 million charming Thais. The main religion is Buddhism, but there are many Muslims in the South on the Malaysian border. There are also some Thai Christians.

Alcohol is a big problem; even in the poorer parts of the country. Thailand is the number one importer in the world of Johnny Walker Black Label Whisky! The local "Mekong" whiskies sell at about US\$3-5 per bottle and are quite palatable.

As in other Asian countries alcoholism is said to be a problem of the "Farangs"

(foreigners); c.f. "Gwailo" in Hong Kong and "Gaijin" in Japan!

The first known AA meetings were in the Capital, Bangkok, about 1972 though there may have been unknown "loners" before then. In 1972 a wonderful Roman Catholic Priest called "Father Jack" was "12th stepped" in hospital by "Jim"; one of his parishioners who gave him a copy of the "Big Book". Unknowingly at that time the seeds of AA progress in Thailand had been well and truly planted. Father Jack was not shipped back to the US, but allowed to continue his work at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Soi Ruam Rudee. His name was included in the International Directory as a "loner". Whenever visiting alcoholics called Jack's number and said "When is the next meeting!", Jack would always reply "When you get here!". During that time Jack met many very interesting characters including an Australian who pulled out a .38 revolver at a meeting and an American who was arrested for walking down the main street wearing nothing but a hat! This did not go down too well in a Buddhist country!

In 1979 Jack was called to the Hospital to 12th step a lady called Norah, another of his parishioners. About this time an experiment of three meetings per week was started and that was when I first met Bangkok AA and discovered that Father Jack and I were "belly-button twins" though born at opposite sides of the world. These meetings were very well received and from then onwards the programme boomed. There are now seven meetings per week at the same venue plus two other evening meetings and a Sunday morning "Brunch" meeting held in a restaurant owned by a member.

Chiangmai is the capital of the North. At one time there was only a "loner" in the area. There are now seven meetings per week. Pattaya, the beach resort also has two meetings per week.

{THAI PARTICIPATION}

Although the growth of AA amongst expat residents and visitors has been phenomenal, the infiltration into Thai society has been poor. Thais do not really accept the concept of "Group Therapy".

Buddha is not quite the same as "God", therefore they find it difficult to accept the "Higher Power" concept. At one time there were 5 Thais attending regularly and a Thai meeting was started. Unfortunately this died. At present there is one very faithful Thai member who has been sober about 5 years. He represented Thailand at the San Diego Convention. The "Big Book", "Living Sober" and various pamphlets have been translated into Thai but so far not many people

are reading them!

At one time there was a very receptive (to AA) Thai psychiatrist working in one of the hospitals. When he retired his much younger successors were not interested in maintaining contact. Likewise AA is not allowed into the prisons, due to non co-operation by the powers that be.

With the recent opening up of Cambodia, Laos and Viet-Nam, Bangkok AA has become a centre of information concerning meetings in these countries. Notices of meetings and loners cover the board.

I am sure that in time the AA programme will penetrate into Thai society in the same way that it has in most other countries.

《Dr. John S. [REDACTED]

AUSTRALIA

To begin, the following is a summary of the historical background of AA in Australia:

Enquiries from Australia about Alcoholics Anonymous first reached the G.S.O. in New York in the year 1942; but it was 1945 before Alcoholics Anonymous was functioning in Sydney, New South Wales, on an established basis, to accept Alcoholics Anonymous as a means of recovery from the ravages of alcohol.

During the next two years, the message of Alcoholics Anonymous spread to other States and the year 1947 saw group meetings established in Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. It took a further two years for the Fellowship to reach Tasmania and the first meeting was held in Hobart in 1949. Perhaps, by reason of its geographical isolation, it was much later before Northern Territory was to experience the impact of Alcoholics Anonymous. The inaugural meeting was held in Darwin in 1955.

By now meetings were springing up all over the continent and several Central Service Offices were opened in various capital cities, the first being in Sydney.

At present there are Central Service Offices in all the capital cities and provincial centres.

In 1954 the suggestion, emanating from N.S.W., was proposed that the States get together for a national forum discussion. This resulted in subsequent pooling of ideas which culminated in the first National Convention being held in Melbourne in 1959. At this Convention a resolution to establish a federal AA body, to be known

as the Australian Service Conference, was passed by an overwhelming majority of the Conventioneers. The resolution contained a proviso that it would not become effective until confirmed by the various States.

This confirmation was forthcoming and it was decided to hold a second National Convention in Sydney over the Easter weekend of 1961; the first one under the auspices of the Australian Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

During this Convention, elected representatives from the various States met in session for the first Australian Service Conference meeting. The Australian Service Conference was then, and is now, an all Australian body in which Australian AA can act on its administrative side at the national level of General Service. Among many other things it was resolved at this first Conference to explore the possibility of establishing an Australian publishing body along the lines of the similar services within the parent movement in the U.S.A.

Further Conferences were held annually in the various capital cities on a rotation basis and, on some occasions, there have been two Conferences in the one year. At the Conference in 1976, it was resolved that future Conferences ought to be conducted in Sydney.

The year 1967 saw the emergence of AA Publishing Pty. Ltd. which then began to supply most of the literature needs of Australia.

At the Conference held in Sydney in 1970, a plan, known as operation '76, was designed to achieve progress towards the formation of the Australian General Service Board by the year 1976. This plan was carried out and all necessary preliminary procedures were completed as scheduled.

Following a recommendation from the 1972 Conference a General Service Office was opened in Sydney in the same year. This made it possible to more smoothly and effectively operate the General Service function.

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia, was incorporated in 1979, and is operated by twelve Trustees, eight alcoholic and four non-alcoholic. The board carries out the work of the Australian General Service Conference between conferences, is essentially custodial in its character, and should truly reflect the voice of the "Group Conscience" of AA in Australia.

The General Service Conference structure now covers six Regions, 18 Areas which in turn contain 1,800 groups. Delegates travel to Conference with the aid of the Cost Equalisation levy, and meet in Sydney each November.

Today support continues to be expressed in some circles for the idea for a mono-

service structure. However, the reality is that the General Service structure is reasonably stable. In co-operation with the other Service arm, the Central Service Offices, the AA groups are serviced, and it also allows contact to be made with outside agencies.

In a recent letter to all Trustees and Conference delegates, the Chairman of the General Service Board states:

Over the last 20 years in Australia persons in the alcoholism field have been used to sending the sick alcoholic to Detox or Rehab centres. At present the drop in Government funding has seen the closing of these facilities drastically in some areas and not so drastic in other places of the country.

This has changed the way persons come to the Fellowship. It now gives the Fellowship in Australia the opportunity to raise the profile of Twelfth Stepping the still-suffering alcoholics. This will place a greater emphasis on Public Information and one to one communication.

There are problems associated with drug addiction and associated areas encroaching on the AA Fellowship, and diverting the Fellowship from the primary purpose to pass the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

Although literature has been translated in many languages there is a need in Australia to carry the Public Information into the different language groups within the multi-lingual Australian community. The 1996 General Service Conference decided to produce a pamphlet entitled "Is Alcohol a Problem", to be translated into 15 languages including Filipino, Cantonese and Mandarin.

If we make available ourselves and all our Service facilities we can return to the basics of passing the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, then our rewards will be enormous. Maybe a former Vietnamese or Cambodian who attained sobriety in Australia, on return to his country of birth will assist in carrying the message to suffering alcoholics in that country. Who knows what will happen when we look at the explosion of AA in the former Eastern European Bloc as an example.

Again, with the passage of time and some small structural changes within the Fellowship in Australia, the Australian Service Manual, the necessary tool for General Service within the AA community, is at present undergoing revision.

Regional forums are held, which are service orientated, in different regions on a yearly basis. In addition, rallies, round-ups and group anniversaries are held

frequently in many areas. Every year at Easter, the Australian AA Convention is held in a town or city which has successfully bid, at a previous AA Conference, to run the Convention.

Finally, some statistics: there are about 17,000 members and around 1,800 groups in Australia. A recent survey shows that 31 per cent of members are women and the age of members is falling, with 12 per cent aged between 20 and 29, and 33 per cent aged between 30 and 39. In addition, membership has changed from the formerly perceived skid-row derelict to a wide sprinkling of members from all the professions, the clergy, the military, white-collar workers, etc.

Many other matters will be raised at this meeting where we may be able to enlighten you to other aspects of the Fellowship in Australia.

{ Bob J. [REDACTED] }

HONG KONG

Alcoholics Anonymous in Hong Kong celebrates its 28th year this October. AA started off very small and has steadily grown over the years. The fellowship today comprises of mainly English, American and Australian members. Hong Kong, by nature being a transient location, has had the fortune of members visiting from all parts of the world.

Alcoholics Anonymous HK is structured somewhat differently from conventional American groups. We have 25 meetings a week in several locations that are under one large committee. Committee Meetings are held once a month, with all meeting secretaries in attendance, to discuss all aspects of business concerning AA in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong AA is very fortunate to have a wonderful, government donated facility at Borrett Road, where most of the meetings take place. Other meetings are held in Churches and Clubs and sometimes hospitals.

At present we have approximately 100 members of which 75% attend quite regularly. Lately, due to the handover, there has been a larger turnover in membership.

Hong Kong AA we feel is rather well organised with various committees such as Public Information, where members visit schools, talk(anonymously) on radio and have spoken with members of the press; Hospital & Institutions, where members try to visit both doctors and patients; Literature; Phone Answering (a team of members

constantly monitor all calls and initiate 12 step calls when required); Financial, etc...

Despite AA being set-up rather well we have not seen a steady increase of local members. The majority of our recent newcomers are westerners who have had some previous exposure to AA that led them to our rooms when all else had failed. A few of the members were advised to seek our help from their doctors or psychiatrists/ counsellors/therapists. Recent local newcomers were urged by their therapists, none being in the low bottom category. We are quite concerned about our low local attendance and have recently tried to take some steps that will help in spreading the word - keeping our traditions in mind. We have decided - in our recent committee meeting - to have a permanent minute in the agenda of all future committee meetings, to discuss where we are in spreading the word to local Chinese members. Hopefully by keeping this issue in constant focus we will have the active support of all our members.

Another promising development is that a Hong Kong Society of Alcohol Abuse has approached us to set up meetings for patients in a major local hospital.

Most of our members do not speak Chinese very well.

Generally, members feel that the level of awareness - that AA is an effective alternative - among those who suffer in HK, should be raised. So when they "hit their bottoms" they have some exposure to AA. And to achieve this we feel that we will require more Chinese literature and more effective distribution. However, translation is an issue that needs to be discussed.

We can only put forth our best efforts and await Good Orderly Direction.

《Blacke C

JAPAN

In March 1995, just after the first Asian Oceania Service Meeting, AA celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Japan. About 1,700 people registered for a commemorative convention. Many AAs from abroad - from Asia, Oceania, and the United States - shared our joy and gratitude. Professionals who participated in the event had the impression that the Fellowship had matured. For the occasion, we published the 20 Year History of AA in Japan. The book was written with the cooperation of members from all over the country and is the first official accurate history of AA in Japan.

During the celebration there was an important meeting of general service representatives. GSRs from all parts of the country voted to establish a General Service Board and also to convert the General Service Meeting, that has gathered annually since 1988, into a General Service Conference. With these two decisions, AA in Japan has constructed the principal framework of the general service structure. This has been for us a cause of great joy, since the establishment of such a structure has been a long standing wish. The project was initiated just after the Ninth World Service Meeting, the first WSM to which Japan sent a delegate.

The Japanese General Service Board, composed of two non-alcoholic and six AA trustees, was elected in October 1995. It started operating in January of 1996 with its six trustees service committees. The GSB holds seven sessions a year. The first session of our General Service Conference was held in March 1996. The second one was held this February. Now in preparation is a Japanese Service Handbook that will make the AA Service Manual easier to understand and relate to the local conditions. This is being published this summer.

There are 290 registered groups and several English speaking groups in Japan. We estimate that between 3,500 and 4,000 members regularly attend the roughly 700 meetings held weekly. We are still small, but we are growing. The number of groups has increased by a factor of 2.7 over the past 10 years. Of course we are not satisfied with this figure. There are over 2,200,000 alcoholics still suffering in Japan.

To present a clear picture of Japanese AA we are preparing a membership survey which will be put into practice early this summer.

As we come of age, setting up our offices, the Fellowship is becoming better known in some fields. Almost all psychiatrists in urban areas and almost all social workers who take care of alcoholics in all parts of Japan know about Alcoholics Anonymous. We often see newspaper reporters, researchers, and social welfare students as well as social workers and nurses at our AA events. Research is being done on AA services. At the last GSC two students helped us with our secretarial work. Business organizations have begun to pay attention to the AA program for their employees.

In general, there is an increasing interest in self-help groups in Japan, and many 12 step groups have been formed. A lot of books on adult children were published last year. Recently a long soap opera about alcoholism was presented on

TV. The heroine was an AA member and worked for a mental hospital as a social worker. Also, since the huge earthquake that struck Kobe the year before last, volunteer activities have attracted a great deal of attention.

Carrying the message to correctional facilities has just started. It is growing slowly but steadily. A weekly meeting is now being held at a prison in central Japan. Some regular message meetings are also being held at two halfway houses after prison. We are talking with officials at some other institutions about the conditions under which we might meet with inmates. Japanese prisons are well-known for their strict regimes. They are tightly closed against the outside world. But the authorities' attitude toward us is improving. Last year we were asked to provide an introduction to the AA at a workshop on alcoholism for correctional facilities personnel.

Almost all titles of the principal AA literature have been translated. We have produced a Meeting Handbook in Braille and an audio cassette version of the Big Book for those who need them. We have just published "Came to Believe" and "AA Tradition - How It Developed". The first Conference recommended that each of our seven regions should produce their own publicity posters.

We have registered three AA trademarks: AA, ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, and Alcoholics Anonymous in Japanese characters.

In the summer of 1995 the Japanese GSO experienced a slight financial crisis. There was a deficit of almost a whole month's expenses. Volunteers assembled a special working group and made appeals for contributions to groups all over the country. At the same time, GSO made efforts to cut down on expenses. Four months later the office was able to make ends meet. Because of the crisis, members' financial awareness was, on the whole, elevated and since last year GSO finances have been balanced. Now the office is reserving a working fund. Our next challenge is the finances of our central offices which always appear to be walking a tightrope. Salaries for secretaries working there are lower than the average for Japan.

I'd like to conclude by saying that AA has expanded, and will continue to do so, in our country.

《Kosei Y [REDACTED]

THE SECOND ASIAN OCEANIA
SERVICE MEETING DELEGATES

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OTHER CORRESPONDENCE MALAYSIA

February 1997

Hi, John,

My name is Bill. I am an American living in Malaysia, and have been for the last three years.

Congratulations on the job. I think service work is the best way to stay sober, for me anyway. I keep in contact with AA's in Singapore, Bangkok, Pattaya, KL, Australia, come to think of it a few other countries too.

The group here gets visitors from all over, you see it is a tropical island and a tourist trap. I try to keep in touch with people to help with my sobriety.

When I arrived here there was a woman here who had arrived after I did, but before I decided to get back into meetings. She waited by herself for a month waiting for someone to come. That act taught me a lot and has been the focus of my program, I do what it takes to stay sober. Enough about me.

About the group. We are five here, one NA and four AA's. The NA guy has eight years sober and gives us his ES&H. Two expats, and two locals who have gotten sober in the group. We haven't looked into literature in local languages. They speak Bahasa Malaysia, Hockien Chinese, and Tamil, along with other dialects of the same, oh yes English, thank god.

We haven't had a lot of success with non English speaking members but for that matter we haven't had a lot of success other than to plant a lot of seeds. The local guys seem to think the problem has to do with the western flavor of the program; they are both western oriented and feel this has been the difference. From my conversations with KL and with Bangkok group they seem to have the same problem. Any advice you have in that area would be helpful.

I guess we are a bit isolated but with so many friends around in so many different ways to connect it is easy to overcome, I think.

The Thailand round-up is on the 21st in Pattaya. Last year they asked about getting a Asian newsletter going. I will be checking on the status of that I think it would be helpful.

Will minutes of the meeting be made available, that would be interesting and could prove helpful, especially the results of the meeting. I guess my question to you is how can we be of help. We are listed in the American International Directory. Do they have similar publications in Auckland, New Zealand and

Australia? We always try to pass contact numbers to people passing through.

I hope I have been of some help and if I can be of any help please feel free to contact me.

Please keep us posted on the results of the meeting. I will take the letter you sent with me to Pattaya and bring up the subject at the Round-up.

Your friend in AA,

Bill C, Penang, Malaysia

INDONESIA

18th February 1997

Dear John,

Thank you for your letter dated 10.12.96. My apologies for the delay in responding.

I wasn't quite sure how to respond to your questions, so I thought I would write and make contact.

What exactly is the Asia/Oceania Zonal Meeting? Is it an AA General Service Meeting?

We really appreciate your offer of help. It is very encouraging.

We have small meetings here (usually 2 to 10 people) 3 times a week, so we are very close and supportive. The majority of our members are expatriate, however, we are looking to start up meetings in Indonesian language. I think we could benefit from more literature and we also need medals for anniversaries. Do you have order forms?

To make contact easier, I have a phone/fax number, which you are welcome to use at my house.

Once again thank you for your letter and we look forward to further communication with you.

Yours faithfully,

Julia M., Jakarta, Indonesia

SOUTH AFRICA

March 17, 1997

Dear Yukie,

Thank you for your letter inviting me to attend the forthcoming Asia Oceania Service Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. I apologise for not replying sooner.

As you have probably surmised by now, I shall unfortunately not be able to attend. At present our structure only caters for the World Service Delegate attending the World Service Meeting itself. Any change is subject to Conference approval. Our Conference meets in May. We also do not have the funds at present to send a Delegate so soon after the World Service Meeting. Hopefully we shall be able to attend other Service Meetings in the future.

Please convey my AA love to all, especially Kosei and Naoto as well as Simon and Trevor from New Zealand and Tom from Australia. Thank you.

Yours in Fellowship,

Peter F [REDACTED] World Service Delegate

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