**Wally P.**

**From:** Wally P. [wallyp@theriver.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 05, 2012 12:22 PM

**To:** ------

**Subject:** RE: B2B in the Florida area

I thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to the (local) Intergroup Service Committee, your Back to the Basics of the Twelve Steps flyer, and the testimonials from some of the folks in your area who have been through the four, one-hour sessions.  Yes, many lives have been changed as the result of your efforts to help facilitate the ‘original” Beginners’ Meetings, and I know many more will be changed in the months and years ahead.

Please pass on my very best wishes to Glenn, Lynne, Mike, Jackie, George, Frank, Chris, Jeff and Derek.  I am most grateful they were willing to put in writing their first-hand experiences with the Beginners’ Meetings.  As the Big Book says, “*Tell him exactly what happened to you*.   Stress the spiritual feature freely” (page 93, para. 0, lines 3-4).  Thank the writers for telling us “exactly what happened,” and how their lives were positively affected by the meetings.

I read each testimonial in depth and detail.  I sensed many of our A.A. pioneers resonating through them as they relayed their recovery stories.

In their expressions of appreciation, I was able to, yet again, revisit my early sobriety and realize how fortunate I was to have been taken through the Steps “quickly and often.”  When I first came in, I too was scared, dazed and confused.  My first sponsors saved my life and provided me with tools to help guide others through the work.

Since the Beginners’ Meetings were reintroduced to the fellowship in 1997, I have witnessed more than 500,000 recoveries as the direct result of the four, one-hour sessions.  As Bill and the other “Big Book” authors stated, “It works, it really does.”

I have summarized some of the points I gleaned from the letters:

1. Back to Basics provides a solid spiritual foundation for recovery.
2. It takes away the fear and confusion surrounding the recovery process.
3. It takes away the fear of finding a sponsor.
4. It takes away the fear of sponsoring others.
5. The meetings provide a clear and concise introduction to the Steps.
6. The meetings are “profound, effective and vitally necessary.”
7. They re-energize old-timers and jump-start those who may be “stuck.”
8. They provide an ongoing opportunity to be of service.
9. They bring the “Big Book” alive.

For me, the Beginners’ Meetings have helped fulfill the promise on page 89 of our “Big Book,” “Frequent contact with newcomers and each other is the bright spot of our lives.”  I have also found that, “This is an experience you must not miss.  We know you will not want to miss it.”

I think your Beginners’ Meeting flyer is phenomenal.  It’s one of the best I’ve ever seen.  It has all the necessary information, is pleasing to the eye, and even gives people the opportunity to “audit the class” (learn and/or work the 12 steps).  It satisfies our tradition of “attraction rather than promotion” in a very positive way.  Based on this flyer, I certainly would want to attend the sessions so I, too, could recover and participate in 12-step sponsorship.

You have most certainly taken the spiritual high road in terms of getting your meeting listed and I commend you for your life-saving efforts.

In Spirit,

Wally