

Wally Paton Abbreviated Biography

Wally lives in Tucson, Arizona. He is an archivist, historian and author. His primary area of interest is the miraculous growth of the Twelve-Step movement in the 1940's.

From 1992-1993, Wally held the position of Arizona Area archivist. From 1994-1995, he was a member of the National Archives Study Committee reporting to the General Service Office in New York City. Since 1999, he has been the overseer of the personal archives of Dr. Bob and Anne Smith. He makes presentations on their archival materials at various recovery events.

He is the originator of ***Back to Basics***, a re-enactment of a series of 1946 Beginners' Meetings during which newcomers TAKE all Twelve Steps in four, one-hour sessions. More than 700,000 people have taken the Steps using this time-tested and effective "program of action." Presently, there are more than 500,000 people who have recovered as the direct result of these Beginners' Meetings.

Wally travels throughout the United States, Canada, and around the world taking attendees through the Twelve Steps in one-day seminars. He also conducts seminars on "How to Sponsor or be Sponsored through the Twelve Steps in 2-3 Hours," "How Bill W., Dr. Bob, and the First 100 Took the Steps Before the 'Big Book' was Written," "The Importance of Nutrition, Exercise, and Meditation for Long-Term Recovery," and "How to Listen to the Indwelling Spirit," among others.

Wally has written four books:

But, For the Grace of God—How Intergroup and Central Offices Carried the Message of Recovery in the 1940's (presently out of print)

Back to Basics—The Twelve-step Beginners' Meetings of the 1940's

How to Listen to God—The Steps Bill W., Dr. Bob, and the Twelve-step Pioneers Took Before the "Big Book" was Written

Back to the Basics of Recovery—How to Take the Twelve Steps "Quickly and Often"

(This is a 2016 version of the Beginners' Meetings modified for all addictive and compulsive behaviors with gender neutral "Big Book" passages)

Wally makes no money from the sale of any books, DVD's or CD's he has authored or produced. This is his Twelfth Step work for which he cannot be paid. Donations to the 501 (c) 3 Back to Basics Foundation help fund his life-saving work.