

FAX

To : DENNIS BAUER
From : Alberto Pascal
Date : October 31, 1994
Copy : Bob McElroy – Massachusetts

Dear Dennis:

How fortunate your kind letter of 10-24 has gotten to me, Denny.

I've been feeling sort of uneasy and uncomfortable at big-shotting, concerning the Service Forum: my AA fellows are publishing a special bulletin and I was interviewed about the structure trouble that we've had for several months; I am now in charge of a committee of AA fellow translators; had to call it quits of my service as chairman of a small bulletin at a service district; it seems also that I won't be any more able to assist my fellows at the Area Bulletin Committee, and am currently updating my résumé since I'll probably have to serve again at one of the two corporations under the General Service Board. This roller-coaster makes me long for my highly beneficial, spiritually-speaking, unassuming and humble habits; so hard to comprehend and even harder to adopt. However, I do enjoy this God-given opportunity I have to be in touch with you sponsor, and be of little service to those AA fellows who have saved my life.

This time of the year is somewhat odd in this country. There are some indigenous traditions by which we recall our dead loved ones, and offer them meals, candy, spirits, and the like (well, I actually don't). On the eve of the 2nd of November, all the cemeteries are jammed all night long with people adoring their dead relatives. All of this, together with Halloween makes a very nice mixture. In reflecting how death and life are pretty much only concepts, I feel we all get somewhat humanized.

Thanks a lot for your patience, Denny. I must have written to you since early last week, but I'd rather made the decision to gather some more accurate information and let you know about:

»The program for the opening and closing of the Forum is now ready. I am sending you, attached and by airmail, and also to Bob, this schedule. As you can see, Denny, we took the liberty of including you with the subject "A.A. as a Whole" as the last speech in the opening. Next come the sharings at the University. This all, God willing, is going to be on Saturday.

The closing will be on Sunday and there are scheduled two meetings. This is no definite schedule though, since we first need to know if Mr. Jake L. Ham is going to join us. There are, then, two sharings with no subject specified. One for Bob and the second one for you. The subjects, my fellows at GSB decided, are to be those of your dearest judgment. Related to the translation, we discussed on two possibilities: a direct one and a written one

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translated into Spanish and then read after a paragraph in English by myself. It was hard to convince my fellows on the second choice. I had two basic reasons: the first one is that translating after the speaker person is a very difficult task, for it needs a professional and, as I have seen it from some American protestant priests, the message of the speaker is always either altered or inaccurate, and the listeners don't usually catch it, and get tired.

For my service at the bulletin committees I have gained a lot of experience in translating articles, basically from the Grapevine magazine. I don't think so, but my fellows listeners or readers like the articles, and the aim of carrying the message has been thus achieved. My fellows who have read your message and Bob's after my translations are all, thrilled, excited and want to hear from you personally. That's why I pushed so hard against the idea of a direct translation. I would ever forget myself in spoiling your message, or Bob's or Mr. Ham's.

» The suggested schedule would be:

- Friday - 13:50 Meeting you at the airport
14:30 Driving to Cuernavaca
16:00 Arriving in the private residence you and Maggie and Gail and Bob will stay in.
19:00 Joint meeting (informal) and in a question-and-answer session with service delegates, former delegates and current trustees.
21:30 Good night.
- Saturday - 10:00 – 12:00 Forum Opening.
- Saturday - There will be three schedules of sessions (ninety) sharings as per the themes attached. Only if you so decide to attend these sessions. There will be fellow AA translators. My fellow speakers would be delighted having you in the audience. However, please feel free to be our guests. There will be transportation to take you anywhere you want to go.
- Sunday - 10:00 – 13:00 Forum closing
It will be your choice to stay overnight in Cuernavaca or be driven to Mexico City. Here you'll also sleep in a friend's house.
- Monday - About noon – We'll drive you to Mexico City airport.

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» I expect to send you the amount for the air tickets next Thursday. I'll be receiving the check today. However, tomorrow is a holiday (State of the Union address), and next Wednesday is a holiday to (the Day of the Dead ones).

» About that wonderful gift from John, I have evaluated several possibilities, and would like to ask for your help, once more. I called United Parcel Post this morning, about the cost of freight and expenses from Northfield, NM to Mexico City. The lady told me it would be about 150-200 dollars, and the time about twelve working days. Would you please give these people in your area a ring, and let me know the amount, so I can send it to you?

I am sending a copy of this to Bobby too. So I'd like you to say hello from me to Maggie and Gail.

May God bless you, brothers, until we meet.

Yours in love and service,