

## Step 9

**“Make direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others.”**

*GOOD judgement, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence — these are the qualities we shall need when we take Step 9.*

*After we have made the list of people we had harmed, have reflected carefully upon each instance, and have tried to possess ourselves of the right attitude in which to proceed, we will see that the making of direct amends divides those we should approach into several classes. There will be those who ought to be dealt with just as soon as we become reason-*

*ably confident that we can maintain our sobriety. There will be those to whom we can make only partial restitution, lest complete disclosures do them or others more harm than good. There will be other cases where action ought to be deferred, and still others in which by the very nature of the situation we shall never be able to make direct personal contact at all.*

*Most of us begin making certain kinds of direct amends from the day we join Alcoholics Anonymous. The moment we tell*

*our families that we are really going to try the program, the process has begun. In this area there are seldom any questions of timing or caution. We want to come in the door shouting the good news. After coming from our first meeting, or perhaps after we have finished reading the book “Alcoholics Anonymous,” we usually want to sit down with some member of the family and readily admit the damage we have done by our drinking.*

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 83-84*

## Tradition 9 Long Form

**“A.A., as such, ought never organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.”**

WHEN Tradition Nine was first written, it said that “Alcoholics Anonymous needs the least possible organization.” IN years since then, we changed our minds about that. Today, we are able to say with assurance that Alcoholics Anonymous \_\_ A.A. as a whole \_\_ should never be organized at all. Then, in seeming contradiction, we proceed to create special service boards and committees which in themselves are organized How, then, can we have an unorganized movement which can and does create a service organization for itself? Scanning this puzzler, people say, “What do they mean, no organization?”

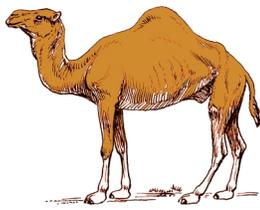
Well, let’s see. Did anyone ever hear of a nation, a church, a political party, even a benevolent association that had no membership rules? Did anyone ever hear of a society which couldn’t somehow discipline its members an enforce obedience to necessary rules and regulations? Doesn’t nearly every society on earth give authority to some ot its members to impose obedience upon the rest and to punish or expel offenders? Therefore, every nation, in fact every form of society, has to be a government administered by human beings. Power to direct or govern is the essence of organization everywhere.

Yet, Alcoholics Anonymous is an exception. It does not conform to this pattern. Neither its General Service Conference, its Foundation Board\*, nor the humblest group committee can issue a single directive to an A.A. member and make it stick, let alone mete out any punishment. We’ve tried it lots of times, but utter failure is always the result

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 172-173*

*\* in 1954, the name of Alcoholic Foundation, Inc., was changed to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., and the Foundation office is now the General Service Office.*

Step 9  
Stepping



I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible.

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**Stepping Stones** is a monthly newsletter of the Ninth District Intergroup with the office located at: 6640 Eastex Freeway, Suite 149A, Beaumont, TX 77708. It is about, by and for the members of the Fellowship of AA. Opinions expressed herein are Not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of information imply any endorsement by either AA or the Ninth District Intergroup.

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**Contributions from our readers is encouraged.** Submissions are edited for space and clarity only. Contact information is required and anonymity is respected. ■

# Concept IX

**Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section*

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures. But once we have created a basically sound structure, that job is finished, except for occasional refinements.

With *leadership* we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks. Since our future effectiveness must thus depend upon ever-new generations of leaders, it seems desirable that we now proceed to define what a good service leader should be; that we carefully indicate in each level of service, especially in our Board of Trustees, what special skills will always be required; and that we review our present methods of finding and choosing that leadership.

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 36 of the Concepts Section*



# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>



## Grapevine Online Exclusive

# Of Time and the River

**An AA member shows how his life changed with sobriety**

I came to the point of nothingness after having lived in hell for 48 years. I have experienced all kinds of wickedness, all of them masterminded by myself. There was no one to blame, although blaming someone would have allowed me a more or less decent escape. All I was looking for was how to live a life where I could live at peace with others, and myself.

I was cornered, with nowhere to go. They say, "God will never give you more than you can handle." I did not know this, but something moved me to surrender, and surrender I did. "Help!" I blurted out between sobs, as I cried the river of my life.

I walked through the doors of AA and said, "I am Jesus and I am an alcoholic. An alcoholic of my kind is an undesirable individual. I am nothing, I came from nothing, and I am going to remain nothing. All I want is not to drink, to not hurt anyone anymore. And I need help." How sweet is the medicine that I found in AA. I

was told the magic words, "You are going to be OK."

I was encouraged to come back the very next day, and I could not wait to go and get more of that magic medicine called, love. I received my daily dose of love from some 30 people every day. Oh! How many times did I have their attention, and how many times did they sit down with me and put me to rest. It was the love of these people that helped me back to health. Soon I was enjoying a good six hours of sleep. It was wonderful.

I was able to come home when I said I would be home. The grass changed color from brown to green, and the sound of the lawnmower was music to my ears. I felt that all I was doing was just following directions, I never had time to think of something that I was going to do; I was always doing something that someone told me to do.

I heard my fellow AAs say things like: "I came home on time;" "I got up and cut the grass;" "I got up and

surprised my wife with a clean table cloth and all the gear for breakfast ready to go." They suggested that I do what they did if I wanted what they had. And I did. I have never stopped. Time flew by: one year, then two, then it was five. I am now 24 years sober. It is me who tells newcomers, "It's going to be OK."

Today, I know what it is like to be nothing. That feeling is different from the one I used to feel when I came into AA. I came to AA to build my life, but I stayed to pray. The old feeling has become one of humility.

The music of Alcoholics Anonymous before the meeting is like practicing the tune that is going to be played. Then there is the rhythm of the meeting, compared to the waves of the ocean, there is a crest and then a dip, and we all move at the same time. This is how we can practice humility. It is with love and tears that I have written this small testimony, after 24 years of enjoying living sober, because of God and AA.

—Jesus A., Tarzana, Calif.

*Group Contributions — August 2016*

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$30.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$434.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$100.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$0.00	\$70.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$200.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>Pineywoods</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>	<b>\$85.00</b>
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$30.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$789.77
<b>Fresh Start</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>	<b>St Francis</b>	<b>\$208.86</b>	<b>\$308.86</b>
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$201.60
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$331.44	West End	\$0.00	\$100.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$20.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$380.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Lumberton Singleness of Purpose</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>	<b>\$275.00</b>	Woodville	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$40.00			
Murray Street	\$8.80	\$68.00	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$407.66</b>	<b>\$3,588.67</b>

**We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:  
 Ninth District Intergroup Association — 6640 Eastex Frwy., Ste. 149A — Beaumont, TX 77708  
 Phone: 409-832-1107 — Fax: 409-898-8977 — E-mail: intergroup9@att.net — Web: aabeaumont.org  
 If you see mistakes, please call, write or come in. We want to be accurate and ask that you verify your totals.**

**Would You Be On Our 12 Step List?**

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Area In Which You Will Serve: \_\_\_\_\_

Car Available: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Languages Spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Times Available: (Circle Choices Please)    8 AM – 6 PM    6 PM – 12 MDN    12 MDN – 8 AM

Days Available: (Circle Choices Please)    SU    M    TU    W    TH    F    SA

**Addresses AA Entities**

**Ninth District Intergroup**

6640 Eastex Frwy, Suite 149 A  
 Beaumont, TX 77708

**District 90 GSR Committee**

PO Box 21279  
 Beaumont, TX 77720-1279

**Southeast Texas Area 67**

PO Box 130433  
 Houston, TX 77219-0433

**AA General Service Office**

PO Box 459  
 New York, NY 10163-0459

## *Opportunities For Service*

### **SHARE THE MESSAGE IN THE COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL FACILITIES**

We need men and women to go into the County jail on Sat. @ 11:30 each week. There is also a need for men to go into the State and Federal facilities on a weekly basis or even just once a month to give current volunteers a much needed break. Each facility requires a background check before you enter. To find out more information please come to the monthly CSR meeting and talk with the correction committee members or call Intergroup @ 409-832-1107.

### **TREATMENT FACILITY COMMITTEE**

We need volunteers to go into both the men and the women's facilities. Come to the next

## *Announcements*

**Next District 90 GSR Meeting**  
**September 25, 2016 At 2:00 PM**  
**West End Group**  
**1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting**  
**October 17, 2016 At 2:00 PM**  
**Westgate Memorial Baptist Church**  
**6220 Westgate Drive, Beaumont, TX**

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.  
Meeting is held in the rear of the building.



# Happy Birthday To You!!!

Lumberton Singleness of Purpose

September 25, 2016

Eat at 6, Meet at 7

Celebrants: Mike B.—26 years

Cliff E.—1 year

Speaker: TBA

# Joyous & Free in 2016

## 34<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the

### Bridge City Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

**Date: Saturday, September 17th, 2016**

Noon – 1:00pm – *Speaker Meeting*

1:00pm – 4:00pm – Free BBQ • Fellowship • Outdoor Games

4:00pm – 5:00pm – *Speaker Meeting*

5:30pm – 6:00pm – Raffle Drawing

8:00pm – 9:00pm – *Speaker Meeting*

9:00pm – 9:30pm – Clean Up/Wrap Up

**DIRECTIONS TO THE  
BRIDGE CITY GROUP OF AA:**

**From Beaumont:**  
Hwy 69 North to Port Arthur;  
Hwy 73 to Bridge City (see below from P.A.)

**From Port Arthur:**  
East on Hwy 73 over Veteran's Memorial Bridge  
to Bridge City;  
Left at 1<sup>st</sup> Traffic Light (Ferry Road);  
Right on Dobbyn (2<sup>nd</sup> street on right);  
Last Building on left before N. John St.

**From Orange:**  
West on 73 over Cow Bayou bridge to Bridge City;  
Right on John St (first street after Tequila's Restaurant);  
Left on Dobbyn (1<sup>st</sup> street on left);  
AA hall is 1<sup>st</sup> building on right.



*For more information, contact Jessica H. @ 409.998.6751*

## T.L.C.

New Speaker Meeting on 3rd Friday  
of the month.  
Starting Sept. 16, 2016



The First Speaker to Kick Off Will Be  
**Bill T**  
Jasper Noon Group

Meeting starts 6pm to 7pm  
845 Hiway 96 business  
Silsbee, TX

# DEAR EBBY

Dear Ebby: I just finished reading the “Big Book,” and I could really identify with Bill’s story. The way it is written seems to me to be woven together so masterfully. Was Bill the only author or were there others? *Curious in Quebec*



Dear *CIQ*: The book was mostly written by Bill, but I believe there were others who contributed. As for the “weaving” together of the book, I’m not surprised. Only the alcoholics are “experts” at weaving!

Dear Ebby: My home group has a Big Book study meeting every week. I was struck by the rapid spread of our marvelous program. From our conception in 1935 to 2001, the forewords to each edition, the fourth edition being the last so far, it states that we had grown to 150 countries! Have you attended any groups outside the United States? *Awestruck in Alabama*

Dear *AIA*: Yes, I have. Several years ago our family took a vacation trip to Italy to visit our long lost relatives in that country. (I’ll never forget it.) My uncle Luigi asked for my help in starting a new group in his boyhood home. He arranged a meeting with the city officials and some local alcoholics to hammer out a plan of action. You can’t imagine how surprised I was as he drove into town and reached the location of his choice to start the new group. We had entered the town of PISA and wanted the group to meet inside the Leaning Tower of Pisa!!! He turned to me and said, “I can’t think of a better place to help the drunks!!!!”

# THE FUNNY BONE

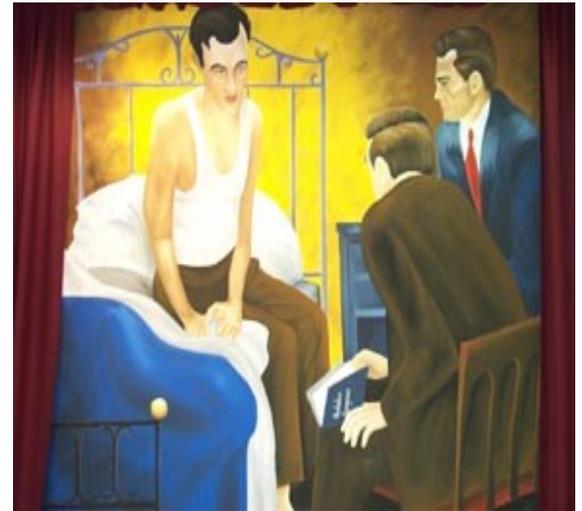


**I dialed the number** of a newcomer and got the following recording: “I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes.”

*From the Grapevine, April 2006*

**I had a terrible handicap** that made me feel sorry for myself in early recovery: I suffered more from self-pity than anyone else around.

*From the Grapevine, December 2007*



## 9th Step Principle

## Justice

## 9th Promise

**Self-Seeking  
Will Slip Away.**

