

Step 11

“Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God *as we understood Him*, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Prayer and meditation are our principal means of conscious contact with God.

We A.A.'s are active folk, enjoying the satisfactions of dealing with the realities of life, usually for the first time in our lives, and strenuously trying to help the next alcoholic who comes along. So it isn't surprising that we often tend to slight serious meditation and prayer as something not really nec-

essary. To be sure, we feel it is something that might help us to meet an occasional emergency, but at first many of us are apt to regard it as a somewhat mysterious skill of clergymen, from which we may hope to get a secondhand benefit. Or perhaps we don't believe in these things at all.

To certain newcomers and to those one-time agnostics who cling to the

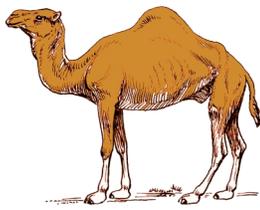
A.A. group as their higher power, claims for the power of prayer may, despite all the logic and experience in proof of it, still be unconvincing or quite objectionable. Those of us who once felt this way can certainly understand and sympathize. We well remember how something deep inside us kept rebelling against the idea of bowing before any God.

(Continued on page 2)

Tradition 11

“Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.”

Without its legions of well-wishers, A.A. could never have grown as it has. Throughout the world, immense and favorable publicity of every description has been the principal means of bringing alcoholics into our Fellowship. In A.A. offices, clubs and homes, telephones ring constantly. One voice says, “I read a piece in the newspapers...”; another, “We heard a radio program...”; and still another, “We saw a moving picture...” or “We saw something about A.A. on television...” It is no exaggeration to say that half of A.A.'s membership has been led to us through channels like these.



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: 4224 College St, Beaumont, TX 77707. 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 XI

While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants, Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications for their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

The longtime success of our General Service Board will rest not only on the capabilities of the Trustees themselves; it will depend quite as much upon the competent leadership and harmonious association of those non-Trustee committee members, corporate service directors, executives and staff members who must actively carry on A.A.'s world services. Their quality and dedication, or their lack of these characteristics, will make or break our structure of service. Our final dependency on them will always be great indeed.

Far more than most of the Trustees, these servants will be in direct contact with A.A. world-wide, and their performance will be constantly on view. They will perform most of the routine labor, They will carry on most of our services. They will travel widely and will receive most visitors at the Headquarters. They will often originate new plans and policies. Some of them will eventually become Trustees. Because this group will form the visible image of world service, most A.A.'s will measure our service values by what they see and feel in them, Members of this group will not only *support* the world leadership of the Trustees; in the nature of the case they will be bound to *share* world leadership with them.

Fortunately we already have a sound internal structure of service in which a very competent group of non-Trustee servants are now working, Only a few refinements and changes will still be needed in A.A. World Services, Inc. and at The A.A. Grapevine, Inc., the later being a comparatively recent comer to our service scene. The main outlines of this underlying structure are now defined, and the effectiveness of this arrangement has been well proven.

AA GRAPEVINE



The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous <http://www.aagrapevine.org/>



Grapevine Online Exclusive

OK for this day

She got sober just in time to face a breakup and a new baby—and her sponsor's words held true

I could barely make it through each day without ending up drunk, but that was all I could do in that day. How would I ever manage a difficult pregnancy and eventually a brand-new baby?

But the woman sitting at the front of the room was my first and most vital lesson on how it could be done—by living life one day at a time and continuing to do “the next right thing” when life got rough. Donna B.'s husband was stationed in an extremely dangerous area of Iraq. “I buried him every day in my mind,” she told me later. But she managed to raise three terrifically rambunctious kids and keep this meeting alive for anyone who needed it, three days a week—all the while simply waiting for her husband's next call, whenever it would come, to know he was still alive.

She became my first sponsor, and I followed her every step during my first year in the program. I rarely left her side and she helped me work the Steps for the first time.

Donna never told me how to live my life without alcohol—she just showed me

that she could live hers that way. She told me during difficult times, “When you get sober, life isn't going to be OK—but as long as you don't drink, you will be.”

Truer words were never spoken. I sobered up just in time to face a terribly colicky baby, severe postpartum depression and the discovery that my six-year marriage, rock-solid through so many of my husband's military deployments, now consisted of a hollow relationship that was devoid of any emotional intimacy or caring. Desperately I tried every imaginable remedy for us, and eventually learned another lesson, all on my own: I could not change someone else.

So I changed myself—my life and sobriety were both in danger by the time of our final split, and that night I took my 13-month-old daughter to a meeting where I vaguely knew some of the old-timers. There I sobbed out my story, ending with the fearful realization that I had no idea where I was going to live or how I would even get my daughter's crib there in a few short days.

But by the end of the meeting, that group of gentlemen had an apartment, a rental truck and a moving date all arranged for me. I could hardly believe it—how could these people give so much caring and support to a virtual stranger? The answer was through the miracles of my Higher Power and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Today life is not always OK—in fact, sometimes being a single parent makes me wonder if any part of life will reach “OK” again. However, through this program, I am now close friends and neighbors with many of those old-timers, and I know that I can count on them when going any further by myself seems unmanageable again. In fact, I even sit in Donna's chair at that original meeting, now my home group, three days a week. We frequently have First Step meetings for newcomers, and I always tell them what Donna told me: For today, because I am here, I am OK.

-- Kate K.

Lakewood, Washington, USA

Group Contributions — October 2017

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$240.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$40.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$10.36	\$10.36
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$231.00	\$918.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$250.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$10.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$10.00	\$110.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$10.00	\$80.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$2,570.79	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$83.76
Fresh Start	\$50.00	\$716.57	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$594.86
Hope Group	\$100.50	\$211.41	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$50.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$155.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$256.24	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$33.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$256.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$50.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$451.86	\$6,775.99

**We want to sincerely thank you for your contributions. Please address your gifts to:
Ninth District Intergroup Association — 4224 College St — Beaumont, TX 77707**

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

9th District Intergroup

4224 College
Beaumont, TX 77707

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

December 3, 2017 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

January 14, 2018 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.

Save the Date:

Sunday, December 31st

9th District Intergroup

New Year's Eve Dance

More Will Be Revealed

56th Annual SETA Convention

January 19, 20, 21, 2018
 "As The Result Of These Steps... (AA pg. 60)"

Registration

Registration Fees:

AA/Al-Anon Early **\$10**
 On site **\$15**

Alateen/Child **Free**

Saturday Dance (ONLY) **\$5**
Dance included in registration fee

Early Registration:

Open through (December 28, 2017)

Onsite Registration

Opens 2:00pm on Friday

Friday

8:00pm AA Speaker- Jimmy L, Wallis TX
 9:00pm Ice Cream Social
 10:00pm Spanish Speaker, TBD

Saturday

9:00am Drew G., Katy TX
 10:30am AA Speaker-Patrick C., NYC
 1:00pm Alateen Speaker- Gracie, Beaumont, TX
 1:30pm Al-Anon Speaker-Father Tom, CA
 3:00pm CFC Speaker-TBA
 4:30pm Spanish Speaker-TBA
 7:30pm AA Speaker-Father Tom, Oakland CA
 9:30pm Dance

Sunday

11:00am AA Speaker-Thelma J, Beaumont, TX

Hotel room rate **\$109 per night/Hotel out of date, December 28, 2017.** Please mention the convention when making hotel reservations (409)842-5995. Holiday Inn & Suites, 13501 10 South (at Weldon Rd.), Beaumont, TX

Note: Most associations like to hold conferences/conventions. In AA, a conference/convention is an important opportunity to share the AA experience in a broad way. There are many AA conferences held around the world. One of the most common misconceptions of these gatherings is that they are AA meetings, and since there are no dues or fees for AA membership, there should be no fee to attend these conferences. Conventions and conferences are social events, not regular meetings. They require months of planning, preparation, and delivery to present. Since most events are in hotels/convention centers, the hotel/convention center will require that the group purchase coffee and food. Other expenses include travel and lodging for conference speakers, printing of flyers, programs and schedules, postage and supplies. A large event requires a substantial amount of money. Attendance at a convention/conference is voluntary. Furthermore attending as part of a group is optional, but as a responsible AA member we must "pay our own way!"

Name _____	Badge Name _____	Quantity	Price	Cost
Home Group _____	circle one AA Al non Alateen	AA	_____	_____
Name _____	Badge Name _____	Alanon	_____	_____
Home Group _____	circle one AA Al non Alateen	Alateen	_____	_____
Address _____	Phone _____			
City/State/Zip _____	Email _____	DANCE	_____	_____
		Scholarship(s)	_____	_____
		Total	_____	_____

Register Online: <https://www.2018setaconvention.eventbrite.com>

By Mail: 2018 SETA Convention, PO Box 73, Silsbee, TX 77656

Alateens must have permission slips!!

Please Indicate Special Needs in space provided below:

Eleventh Step Prayers

Morning Prayer

God, direct my thinking today so that it will be empty of self-pity, dishonesty, self-will, self-seeking and fear. God, inspire my thinking, decisions and intuitions. Help me to relax and take it easy. Free me from doubt and indecision. Guide me through this day and show me my next step. God, show me what I need to do to take care of any problems. I ask all of these things that I may be of maximum service to you and to my fellow man. In the spirit of the Steps I pray. AMEN



Nightly Prayer

God, forgive where I have been resentful, selfish, dishonest or afraid today. Help to not keep anything to myself but to discuss it all openly with another person. Show me where I owe an apology and help me to make it. Help me to be kind and loving to all people. Use me in the mainstream of life God. Free me of worry, remorse, or morbid (sick) reflection that I may be of usefulness to others. AMEN

Derived from text found on page 86 of Alcoholics Anonymous - the Big Book

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, make a channel of Thy peace. That where there is hatred, I may bring love. That where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness. That where there is discord, I may bring harmony. That where there is error, I may bring truth. That where there is doubt, I may bring faith. That where there is despair, I may bring hope. That where there are shadows, I may bring light. That where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted. To understand, than to be understood. To love, than to be loved. For it is by self-forgetting that one finds. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. It is by dying that one awakens to Eternal Life. AMEN

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions p. 99

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11th Step Principle Awareness

11th Promise

We will intuitively know how to handle situations which use to baffle us

