

Step 6

“Were entirely ready to remove all these defects of character.”

“This is the step that separates the men from the boys.” So declares a well loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.’s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults — *without reservations whatever* — has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator.

Of course, the often disputed question of whether God can — and will, under certain conditions — remove defects of character will be answered with a prompt affirmative by almost any A.A. member. To him, this proposition will be no theory at all; it will be just about the largest fact in his life. He will usually offer his proof in a statement like this: “Sure, I was beaten, absolutely licked. My own will-power just wouldn’t work on alcohol. Change of scene, the best efforts of family, friends, doctors, and clergymen got

no place with my alcoholism. I simply couldn’t stop drinking, and no human being could seem to do the job for me. But when I became willing to clean house and then asked a Higher Power, God as I understood Him, to give me release, my obsession to drink vanished. It was lifted right out of me.

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Tradition 6 Long Form

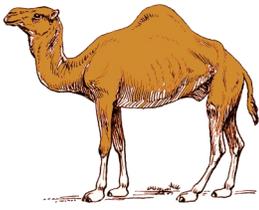
“Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places or recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. — and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. A.A. group can bind itself to no one.”

The moment we saw that we had an answer for alcoholism, it was reasonable (or so it seemed at the time) for us to feel that we might have the answer to a lot of other things. The A.A. groups, many thought, could go into business, might finance any enterprise whatever in the total field of alcoholism. In fact, we felt duty-bound to throw the whole weight of the A.A. name behind any meritorious cause.

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Step 6

Stepping
Back



I am responsible.
When anyone, any-
where, 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 VI

On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics anonymous..

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section

Just as the A.A. Groups find themselves unable to act decisively respecting world service affairs unless they delegate a great amount of active authority and responsibility to their Conference, so must the conference in turn delegate a liberal administrative authority to the General Service Board, in order that its Trustees may act freely and effectively in the absence of the Conference itself.

This critical need for Trustee liberty of action raises several important questions. Next to the Conference, A.A.'s Board of Trustees should be the most influential group of world servants that we have, and therefore we shall have to consider carefully the kind and degree of authority, responsibility, leadership, and legal status the Trustees must possess in order to function at top effectiveness over the years to come. We shall need to review and perhaps amend somewhat our present methods of choosing Trustees. We shall need to define clearly the several kinds of professional and financial skills that will always be required for a balanced trusteeship. Only by so doing can we permanently insure the Board's capability of future leadership

In order to avoid continuous confusion, it will also be necessary to show precisely how the Trustees ought to be related to the Conference and just how they in turn should related themselves to their active service corporations, A.A. World Services, Inc. (including its division of A.A. Publishing) and the A.A. Grapevine, Inc., our monthly magazine .

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 24 of the Concepts Section

“I have a feeling that if I ever find myself in Heaven,
it will be from backing away from Hell.”

*Father Edward Dowling, as quoted by AA Co-Founder, Bill W., June 1960
“To Father Ed -- Godspeed!”
The Language of the Heart*

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 — May 2017

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$456.00
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	\$250.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$10.00	\$60.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$10.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$30.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$60.00	\$83.76
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$500.00	\$2,270.79	Serenity	\$0.00	\$386.36
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$523.22	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$50.00	\$50.00
Hope Group	\$110.91	\$110.91	TLC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$192.62	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$127.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Women's Gratitude Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00			
Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$730.91	\$4,550.66

**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

June 25, 2017 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 16, 2017 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.

Please visit our website (aabeaumont.org) for information or to download a copy of the flyer for the following:

- . Pinewoods 33rd Anniversary—June 24th**
- . New Life Group - June 25th**
- . Lifeline Group - 36th Anniversary - July 15th**
- . District 90 36th Annual Convention - August 18th**



If you are celebrating this month, you could have had your name, sobriety date, years of sobriety, home group listed.

To All June Celebrants!!!

**New Life Group
Birthday Celebrates**

**James S. - 28 yrs
Sunday, June 25th
Eat at 7:00pm
Meet at 8:00pm**

Happy Sober Life!!!



**6th Step Principle
Willingness**

6th Promise

**That feeling of uselessness
and self-pity will
disappear.**

