

Step 7

“Humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings.”

Since this Step so specifically concerns itself with humility, we should pause here to consider what humility is and what the practice of it mean to us.

Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps. For without some degree of humility, no alcoholic can stay sober at all. Nearly all A.A.'s have found, too, that unless they develop much more of this precious quality than may be required just for sobriety, they still haven't much chance of becoming truly happy. Without it,

they cannot live to much useful purpose, or, in adversity, be able to summon the faith that can meet any emergency.

Humility, as a word and as an ideal, has a very bad time of it in our world. Not only is the idea misunderstood; the word itself is often intensely disliked. Many people haven't even a nodding acquaintance with humility as a way of life. Much of the everyday talk we hear, and a great deal of what we read, highlights man's pride in his own achievements.

With great intelligence, men of

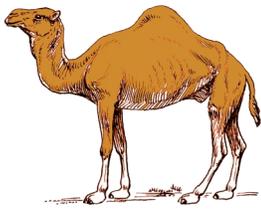
science have been forcing nature to disclose her secrets. The immense resources now being harnessed promise such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory seems to be that once everybody's primary instincts are satisfied, there won't be much left to quarrel about.

(Continued on page 2)

Tradition 7 Long Form

“The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligations whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A. A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

Self-supporting alcoholics? Who ever heard of such a thing? Yet we find that's what we have to be. This principle is telling evidence of the profound change that A.A. has wrought in all of us. Everybody knows that active alcoholics scream that they have no troubles money can't cure. Always, we've had our hands out. Time out of mind we've been dependent upon somebody, usually money-wise. When a society composed entirely of alcoholics says it's going to pay it's bills, that's really news.



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 VII

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section

This concept may appear to be contradictory; it may look like the collision of an irresistible force with an immovable object. On the one hand we see a Board of Trustees which is invested with complete legal power over A.A.'s funds and services, while on the other hand we find that A.A.'s General Service Conference is clothed with such great traditional influence and financial power that, if necessary, it could overcome the legal rights of the Board of Trustees. It can therefore give the Trustees directives and secure compliance with them—practically speaking.

This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees. This superior power in the Conference flows from the large majority of group-chosen Delegates in the Conference. And finally, in any great extremity, it would rest upon the undoubted ability of the Delegates to deny the General Service Board the monies with which to operate—viz., the voluntary contributions of the A.A. groups themselves. Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only, but practically speaking it has all of the ultimate rights and powers that it may ever need.

When we reflect that our Trustees have no salaried financial interest in their posts, we can be quite sure that such a Board would never think of legally contesting the clear and sustained will of the Conference Delegates and the A.A. areas they represent.



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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



Grapevine Online Exclusive

A letter from prison

Prison has been a rewarding experience for me. Time in here has helped me build a strong, sturdy foundation in recovery. I do not regret anything. I have forgiven myself for all my past transgressions. Everything happened this way for a reason. Now that I know God has a plan for me, it's easier to stay on track.

Prior to prison, I had a tiny taste of "the good life." With only 11 months of sobriety, I believed I could take on the world. I was motivated, worked a full time job, took care of my daughter, went to a ton of AA meetings, did service, worked at conventions and created real friendships within the Fellowship.

Then, somewhere along the line, I got too confident. I moved out of my sober living house, cut back on meetings, didn't do what my sponsor suggested and began dating random guys. I believed I could do it all on my own. I was wrong.

I relapsed within a week of moving out. Soon I quit my job and ignored all my

family and friends. It was horrible. Remorse and guilt overwhelmed me. I had abandoned happiness for despair. My addiction flew out of control and I landed here in this Arizona Prison serving a six and a half-year sentence.

Yet today I have never been happier. It may sound unbelievable, but it's true. I have a personal freedom today I never believed I could obtain. AA has given me a second chance at life. I've spent my time in here learning about who I really am. Recovery has completely changed me for the better. I've never been so stable and grounded.

The men and women of AA who take the time out of their lives to bring us meetings are an inspiration. They give me hope for the future. Some have been to prison or jail before and now come back to help others. I plan to do an H & I commitment when I'm released in 2019. I look forward to sharing my experience, strength and hope with others.

Currently, we have six meetings in my yard. Only

two of them have outside people who chair; the other four are chaired by two wonderful women named Colby and Mel. They are inmates just like me. These women have touched many of our lives. One of our meetings has up to 170-plus women.

Recovery is hard work, but the rewards of sobriety make every day worth living. I have an amazing sponsor who tells me how it is. Today I can be honest with myself and others. I've done my Steps twice in the last two years, and each time I remember more. My family has forgiven me and my 7-year-old daughter and I are best friends again.

I love the woman I have become. I look in the mirror and love who looks back at me now. I pray all the time. Meditating has proven to be a challenge for me, but I refuse to give up. Working with others and doing the next right thing gives me joy. Thank God there is a solution.

-- Andi F.

Arizona

Group Contributions — June 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	\$70.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$10.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Dam Group (Hwy. 225)	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$10.00	\$40.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$83.76
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rule #62 Young Peoples Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$2,270.79	Serenity	\$0.00	\$386.36
Fresh Start	\$68.35	\$591.57	St Francis	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$50.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$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	\$33.00	\$33.00
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	\$121.35	\$4,672.01

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

August 6, 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.

Area Events

- **Lifeline Group—36th Anniversary—
July 15th—5:30 pm— 704 Ellis, Lufkin
TX**
- **St Francis Eating Speaking Meeting—
July 22nd—6:00pm—Wesley Methodist
Church—corner of Major/Folsom—
Beaumont, TX**
- **38th Annual District 90 Convention—
August 18th-20th—Holiday Inn Plaza—
Beaumont, TX**

"We Were Reborn"

36th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 18, 19 & 20, 2017

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Fri. 7:00 pm Opening Ceremony</p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Jennifer H.K.H. Tyler, TX</p> <p>Fri. 10:00 PM AA Secundino A. Rosenberg, TX</p> <p>Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 AM AA Rick F. Pensacola FL.</p> <p>Sat. 1:00 PM Al-Anon Beverly B. Lewisville, TX.</p> <p>Sat. Al-Anon Teen Kenna D. Beaumont, TX.</p> <p>Sat. 03:00 PM AA Workshop "History of AA"</p> <p>Sat. 04:15 PM AA Old Timers</p> <p>Sat. 08:00 PM AA Harold G. Baltimore MD</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 PM Dance</p> <p>Sun. 10:00 AM AA Marti R. Austin TX.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Please make hotel reservations directly with:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Beaumont Plaza 3950 I-10 South at Walden Road Phone (409) 842-5995/Fax (409) 842-7810 Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Beaumont Plaza (I-10 & Walden)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Convention Rate - \$97 * per night * If reserved by Cut-Off Date – July 29, 2017</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pre-Registration ends Aug 11, 2017! (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)[†] Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 18, 2017 at 2:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea Alateen: \$ 5 ea Dance only: \$ 5 ea Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dance admission included with convention registration *"Dance only" tickets will be sold at ballroom door Sat night</p>
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Hospitality Suites... Sobriety Countdown... First Timers Contest... Raffle... Marathon Meetings... Ice Cream Social
WE STRIVE TO BE SELF-SUPPORTING – PLEASE DONATE TO THE COFFEE AND HOSPITALITY SUITE CONTRIBUTION CANS!

Note: The city of Beaumont has a smoke free ordinance. Smoking hotel rooms are available, but we encourage you to register early due to limited availability.
Outdoor smoking areas will be designated to accommodate our smoking guests during the convention.

<p>Name 1 : _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen¹</p> <p>Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</p>	<p>Name 2: _____</p> <p>Email Address: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State, Zip: _____</p> <p>Badge Name: _____</p> <p>Home Group: _____</p> <p>Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> AA <input type="checkbox"/> Al-Anon <input type="checkbox"/> Alateen¹</p> <p>Check if Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> ASL Interpreter <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Translator <input type="checkbox"/> Special Accom/Need</p>														
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _	_____		{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _	_____		{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _	_____		<p>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">District 90 Convention Treasurer PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619</p>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:														
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{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _														

{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _														

We urge everyone to pre-register and to book any rooms before the July cut-off date where possible. This helps keep registration fees low/max. convention exp./hospitality/available scholarships—that we may Serve and Carry the Message.

DEAR EBBY

Dear Ebby: In last month's column there was a question about a "mascot." Just curious ... did you receive any other queries about AA mascots? *Curious from Colorado*



Dear CFC: It's funny you should ask. I received a letter from a reader who suggested that the "AA Mascot" be the skunk. He stated, "My drinking was a lot like a tomcat makin' love to a skunk. I didn't get all I wanted, but I had all I could stand!"

Dear Ebby: A friend of mine has decided to quit smoking. He says there are several ways to taper down. I was wondering if there are any ways to quit drinking besides quitting "cold turkey?" *Searching from Sacramento*

Dear SFS: Probably the best way to quit drinking is to talk to your doctor. Nowadays, we have treatment centers to help with that. But your question reminded me of a story I heard in the rooms years ago. It seems there were two guys trying to make it home after a long night of partying. The driver saw the red and blue flashing lights in the rearview mirror. He tells his buddy to grab two longnecks and peel off the labels. When the trooper walks up and asks if they had been drinking, they had put those labels on their foreheads. The driver said, "Not to-night officer. We're on the patch!"



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



7th Step Principle Humility

7th Promise

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.



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Phone: 409-832-1107

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**MAIL, FAX OR EMAIL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS,
GROUP NEWS AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS TO THE
NINTH DISTRICT INTERGROUP**