

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.

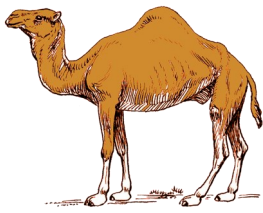
Tradition 11

“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.



Stepping Stones



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.

Inside this issue:

Step 11—Tradition 11	1
Concept 11	2
Spiritual Experience	3
Contributions	4
District//Intergroup	5
New Years Eve Bash	6
11th Promise, Tyler AA 73rd Anniversary	7



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/>

To Receive Grapevine go the website and order



SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

The terms "spiritual experience" and "spiritual awakening" are used many times in this book which, upon careful reading, shows that the personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism has manifested itself among us in many different forms.

Yet it is true that our first printing gave many readers the impression that these personality changes, or religious experiences, must be in the nature of sudden and spectacular upheavals. Happily for everyone, this conclusion is erroneous.

In the first few chapters a number of sudden revolutionary changes are described. Though it was not our intention to create such an impression, many alcoholics have nevertheless con-

cluded that in order to recover they must acquire an immediate and overwhelming "God-consciousness" followed at once by a vast change in feeling and outlook.

Among our rapidly growing membership of thousands of alcoholics such transformations, though frequent, are by no means the rule. Most of our experiences are what the psychologist William James calls the "educational variety" because they develop slowly over a period of time. Quite often friends of the newcomer are aware of the difference long before he is himself. He finally realizes that he has undergone a profound alteration in his reaction to life; that such a change could hardly have been brought about by himself alone. What often takes place in a few months could hardly be accomplished by years of self-discipline. With few exceptions our members find that they have tapped an unsuspected inner resource which they presently identify with their own conception of a Power greater than themselves.

Most of us think this awareness of a Power greater than ourselves is the essence of spiritual

experience. Our more religious members call it "God-consciousness."

Most emphatically we wish to say that any alcoholic capable of honestly facing his problems in the light of our experience can recover, provided he does not close his mind to all spiritual principles. He can only be defeated by an attitude of intolerance or belligerent denial.

We find that no one need have difficulty with the spirituality of the program. *WILLINGNESS, HONESTY AND OPEN MINDEDNESS ARE THE ESSENTIALS OF RECOVERY. BUT THESE ARE INDISPENSABLE.*

"There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance--that principle is contempt prior to investigation."

-- HERBERT SPENCER

Group Contributions – October 2019

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$400.00	\$400.00
A New Beginning (Woodville)	\$0.00	\$60.00	Mid County (Nederland)	\$0.00	\$80.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$0.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$50.00	Mustard Seed	\$462.00	\$1,526.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$20.00	\$130.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$85.74	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$200.00	\$2,130.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$100.00
Fresh Start	\$0.00	\$200.00	Pin Oak Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill (Port Author)	\$0.00	\$2.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$355.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$809.27
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$201.55	St Francis	\$0.00	\$1,080.97
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$314.00	\$574.00
Kirbyville	\$96.40	\$184.40	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	West End	\$200.00	\$400.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$150.00	Winnie (Unconditional Love)	\$0.00	\$278.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$1,692.40	\$8,936.93

**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 GSR 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.

Announcements

Next District 90 GSR Meeting
December 8, 2019 At 2:00 PM
West End Group
1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting
January 19, 2020 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.



**NINTH DISTRICT ANNUAL NEW YEARS EVE BASH
FUNDRAISER**



**Back to
80's**

\$15.00

**Per Person
In Advance**

\$20.00

**Per Person
at the Door**



**MORESI'S FOUNDRY EVENT CENTER
CLIFTON STEAMBOAT MUSEUM
8727 FANNETT RD - BEAUMONT TX**



DECEMBER 31ST, 2019

6:00 PM FELLOWSHIP

6:30 PM DINNER

7:30 PM SPEAKER

8:30 PM RAFFLE

9:00 PM - 12:00 AM DANCE



73rd Tyler AA Anniversary



January 10-12, 2020

"Rocketed Into A Fourth Dimension"



Join us in celebrating seventy-three years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Tyler with speakers, workshops, raffles, food, fun and fellowship!

2000 W. Front St., Tyler, TX

Pre-register for a chance to win a set of speaker CDs!

Host Hotel Information:

**Holiday Inn Tyler Conference Center
5701 S. Broadway Avenue
Tyler, TX 75703
903-561-5800
\$79.00 plus tax (including breakfast)**

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TylerAAAnniversary/>

For more information, contact:

Todd H. (903) 681-1629

Ricky R. (903) 721-0523

aatyleranniversary@gmail.com

www.tyleranniversary.com



11th Promise

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

11th Step Principle

Awareness

