

# Step 12

**“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”**

The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards.

Here we begin to practice all Twelve Steps of the program in our daily lives so that we and those about us may find emotional sobriety.

When the Twelfth Step is seen in its full implication, it is really talking about the kind of love that has no price tag on it.

Our Twelfth Step also says that as a result of practicing all the Steps, we have each found something called a spiritual awakening. To new A.A.'s, this often seems like a very dubious and improbable state of affairs.

“What do you mean when you talk about a 'spiritual awakening'?” they ask.

Maybe there are as many definitions of spiritual awakening as there are people who have had them. But certainly each genuine one has something in common with all the others.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—  
Pg. 106*

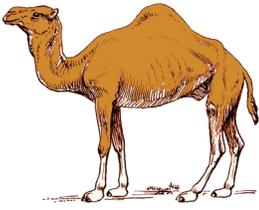
# Tradition 12

**“Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”**

The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. Because A.A.'s Twelve Traditions repeatedly ask us to give up personal desires for the common good, we realize that the sacrificial spirit—well symbolized by anonymity—is the foundation of them all. It is A.A.'s proved willingness to make these sacrifices that gives people their high confidence in our future.

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Pg. 184*





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 XII

**“General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Traditions, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”**

*The AA Service Manual/ 12 Concepts for World Services—pg. 60*

*The Concept here considered consists of Article 12 of the Conference Charter. There are good reasons for placing it in this context.*

*Taken as a whole, our Conference Charter is the substance of an informal agreement, which was made between the A.A. groups and their trustees in 1955. It is the agreed basis upon which the General Service Conference operates. In part, the Charter is an elastic document; its first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.*

**But Article 12 of the Charter stands in a class by itself. An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. (This would include all A.A. groups known to the general service offices around the world.) Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.**

*Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.—pg. 60*

# AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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## Leap of Faith

My drinking started when I was 18, and continued until I was 59. Drinking for me, like a lot of people, was a way to cope with my insecurities; not being good enough, not being tall enough, not good looking enough, the list goes on.

I enjoyed drinking. It made me come out of my shell somewhat and be able to interact with people. I never was one who wanted to be the center of attention, always lurking on the fringes of a group of people. Wanting to fit in but not knowing how.

After many years of drinking, it eventually took me to places I never imagined I would go; being abusive to my kids, unfaithful to my wife, encounters with the law.

In 2008 I hit a bottom and sought out help through a treatment center in a large Texas city. After spending 22 days there I was released and went home not quite sure I could handle the outside world sober. Well, I lasted 7 months and started drinking again, telling my wife that I was tired of living my life with the brakes on (I just did not enjoy life without drinking).

For ten more years I continued to drink, all the while steadily increasing the amount, not caring who I hurt, or how.

In the end alcohol was my master, and I it's servant. No longer drinking for enjoyment, but just to satisfy my bodies need for alcohol. Inevitably another bottom was coming.

While serving probation for a misdemeanor charge in 2013, I was visited by my probation officer (unannounced) at my home and beer was in my fridge. He only gave me a stern warning and left it at that. No probation violation was entered, which would have extended my probation period set at 2 years.

My addiction told me it was okay to drink while on probation, even though it is strictly forbidden to consume drugs, or alcohol.

I knew I did not have the will power to quit on my own, so off I go to the same treatment center as before, truly beat down, and hopeless.

What I did not do the first time out of treatment was to truly work the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. This time around I found a sponsor the day after leaving treatment and began working the steps. What AA has given me is a new way to live my life. It truly is a design for living.

Although the obsession to drink was miraculously lifted from me the day after entering the treatment facility the second time, I know if I do not continue to stay committed to this program and it's principles, my life will change for the worse.

Coming into the program, I did not know there was a spiritual aspect that you must at least be willing to accept. Being raised a Catholic, this what not hard for me to grasp, although I do struggle staying in contact with my Higher Power. I know he is always going to be there as he always has whether I choose to ask for his guidance or not.

Part of my devotion to AA comes in the form of service work that helps me get out of self. I have a home group, and attend meeting's regularly. I am currently serving as alternate GSR for this group. I volunteer at the Intergroup at least once a week, and help out as much as possible.

At times, I do reflect on my drinking days, but for me the tape plays all the way through; the miserable hangovers, the not seeing, or talking to my children, and grandchildren, the way I neglected my wife, and her needs. I hope the tape continues to play all the way through, for this is a reminder of my past, a time when I lived on one the alcoholic's most common character defect, selfishness.

If I had only one thing I could tell a newcomer, it would be to give this program a chance, in other words keep coming back.

~ Barry S. ~

## Group Contributions — November, 2019

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton Singleness of Purpose	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$130.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$85.74	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$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
<b>Keep It Simple</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>	TLC	\$0.00	\$574.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$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	\$0.00	\$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
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$32.00</b>	<b>\$8,968.93</b>

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

#### 9th District Intergroup

4224 College Street  
 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. Come to the next GSR meeting to get more information or call the Intergroup office @ 409-832-1107

## *Announcements*

### **Next District 90 GSR Meeting**

**January 5, 2020 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.

### Lumberton Singleness Of Purpose

December Birthday's 12-29-2019

Eat at 6:00pm

Birthday at 6:30pm

Speaker at 7:00pm

*Cecil G.* - 33 years

*Steve P.* - 27 years

*Aaron C.* - 6 years

*Jon A.* - 1 year

Speaker: *Tom C.* ( TLC )

**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**



**\*\*\* Tickets available at Intergroup \*\*\***

## Twelfth Step Prayer

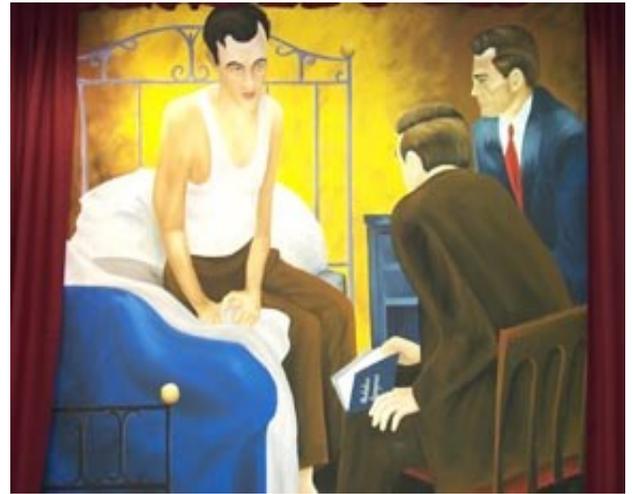
*Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide me with the guidance and wisdom to talk with another alcoholic because I can help when no one else can. Help me secure his confidence and remember he is ill.*

*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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## 12th Step Principle Service

### 12th Promise

**We suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.**

