

Step 7

“Humbly asked 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 means 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 im-

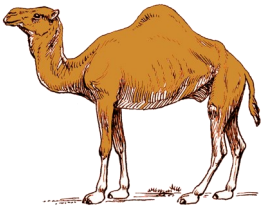
mense resources now being harnessed promise such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory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

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—Page 70

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, 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: 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 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.

Excerpts from The A.A. Service Manual/Twelve Concepts for World Services—pg. 27 of the Concepts Section



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous



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

Grapevine Online Exclusive



Virtual Meetingland

Imagine if Bill and Dr. Bob could see us now? A member's lifeline during a crisis is just a button away

How am I supposed to stay sober during this? There are no stories of experience, strength, and hope during a plague! I've checked the Big Book. What do we do now?

I'm writing this while on lockdown due to COVID-19. I had big plans coming up: It's my brother's birthday, two concerts lined up, and friends visiting! All this was hijacked by a lousy microscopic virus. Not fair.

OK, so "one day at a time." Instead of dwelling in the past (I wish I'd celebrated earlier with my brother), or projecting (What if I get sick...or my husband or brother or neighbor? What if...what if...), why not stay where my feet are? The sun is shining right now; it's early spring, and things are blooming, birds are singing. I'm perfectly healthy and I'm following all the latest health alerts to stay that way. Not bad. Just for today, I'm content. I have time to pray today for those in trouble with COVID—or alcoholism.

So how do I pray during such a colossal planetary crisis? I've had

several friends who've lost a parent in the last three weeks. I've even been to Shiva—on my computer! It's really overwhelming. Where's the Higher Power in all of this? I have prayed to a Higher Power through the deaths of both of my parents and even during the 80 mph winds of Hurricane Sandy. I stayed sober through it all. So, I guess I'll turn the planet over to my Higher Power. I'm not in charge today—and I'm not alone—and that's comforting.

Our literature says alcoholics even stayed sober during a World War, while cut off from sober friends and family. Sobriety, apparently, isn't just limited to church basements. A month ago, I had never heard of virtual AA meetings. Now it's my connection to my AA groups, sponsees and friends. I've been reaching out in our "virtual meetingland" almost every day now. Imagine if Bill W. and Dr. Bob could see this! Reaching out the hand of AA looks so different now. Luckily for us, change is not a bad thing.

It's now been 85 years, and AA has gotten us through many difficult things. Today, as we share our experience, strength, and hope on our phones and computers, there's laughter, relief, jokes, smiles, even toilet-paper memes. Our sharing helps lighten the dark places in our lives. It helps bring me closer to my fellows.

I'm an introvert and relish a great deal of alone time. I am wonderfully blessed (spoiled) to have a sober husband of whom I'm still quite fond after 35 years together. We attend our virtual AA meetings; we laugh and pray together and encourage each other. Many of us have access to each other and to the Fellowship, literally at the push of a button. But not everyone has this blessing. If you don't have AA literature at home, you can easily find it on the Internet:

aa.org and aagrapevine.org can help you.

Every day, pandemic or not, I need to fill my mind with positive sober messages and hope as an antidote to the 24/7 news cycle. Some days it's not easy, but this too shall pass; we will be face to face again, hopefully, soon. I am hoping to not take your hugs for granted ever again.

We need each other for sobriety; Bill and Dr. Bob found this out 85 years ago, as two drunks who got together and said, I won't drink, just for today.

Since then, we alcoholics have added conventions, rehabs, coins, slogans, anniversary cakes, many books and readings. But we're back to basics now, and that's not a bad thing. Those two men left us a program to keep us sober through wars, hurricanes, tornadoes, and any kind of upheaval, personal or planetary—even this one. Gratitude helps. Humility keeps me grateful. I'm going to stay sober through the storm, yes, even this one—one day at a time.

BY: JUDITH H. | LEWISBURG, PA

Group Contributions — March 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2020

| Group | Month | Y to D | Group | Month | Y to D |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 6 O'Clock | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Lumberton Singleness of Purpose | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| A New Beginning (Woodville) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Mid County (Nederland) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Anahuac | \$65.00 | \$65.00 | Murray Street | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Bolivar | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Mustard Seed | \$0.00 | \$402.00 |
| 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 | \$80.00 | \$120.00 |
| Downtown | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pecan Groves | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Fellowship | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Pineywoods | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Fresh Start | \$0.00 | \$26.90 | Pin Oak Group | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Port Arthur | \$0.00 | \$37.28 | Primary Purpose | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Hope Group | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Serenity | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Jasper Noon | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | St Francis | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Jasper Serenity | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | The Buck Stops Here | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Keep It Simple | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | TLC | \$0.00 | \$229.60 |
| Kirbyville | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Un Dia A La Vez | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Fannett Grace | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Vidor | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Lewis Drive | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | West End | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Liberty | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | Winnie (Unconditional Love) | \$0.00 | \$181.00 |
| Lufkin | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | Personal Stories Group | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Lifeline | \$50.00 | \$50.00 | Totals | \$395.00 | \$1,361.78 |

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

Ninth District Intergroup

4224 College St
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

August 2, 2020 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

Cancelled Until Further Notice

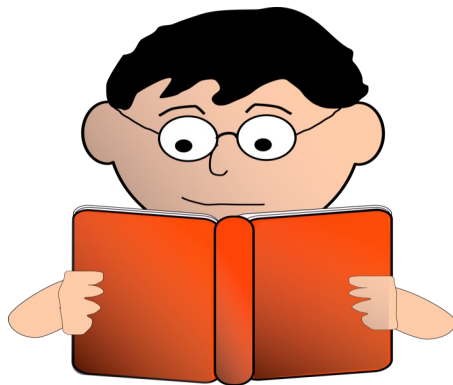
Westgate Memorial Baptist Church

6220 Westgate Drive, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

**MAIL RECIPIENT PLEASE MAKE THIS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF STEPPING STONES AVAILABLE TO YOUR GROUP**





Coming Soon!

Dear friends,

As most of you are aware, in the spring the decision was made to cancel the 2020 International Convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While this was a difficult decision, and a disappointing outcome for those planning to attend, we are confident it was the most appropriate action to ensure the health and safety of our members. There is good news, however, as we now have an opportunity to bring together many of the special components that make International Conventions memorable — by utilizing a virtual platform. For this purpose, we are planning a 2020 International Convention digital site. Throughout the month of July, the 2020 International Convention will come alive online to provide a new experience that includes A.A. speakers; a digital "Carrying the Message Pavilion"; sharing from nonalcoholic friends of A.A. and special guests linked to our history; a presentation of the 40 millionth Big Book; a new Archives video on the history of A.A.; an AA Grapevine video created for the Convention, and more.

The virtual experience will also help us reaffirm the International Convention's goals, which include rededicating ourselves to the primary purpose of A.A.; sharing the success and growth of the A.A. program around the globe; and letting the world know that A.A. is alive, flourishing and available as a community resource internationally.

We will be up and running on aa.org by July 1, 2020, to coincide as closely as possible with the original Convention date, and the site will be available throughout the entire month of July. Please stay tuned for updates on aa.org.

In fellowship,

Julio E., 2020 IC Coordinator.



Happy Birthday To You!!!

TLC Group July Birthday's

Eddie - 6 years

Mark - 22 years



7th Step Principle

Humility

7th Promise

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



**We are not a
glum lot.**