

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.

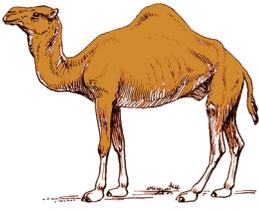
*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions—
Pg. 106*

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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DECEMBER 2020 |

Time to be kind

BY: MATT M. | SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Through a little faith and effort, a husband's longtime holiday resentment becomes a gift to someone he loves

Cliff, an old-timer in my home group, used to say that in order to recover, I would have to see things I don't want to see, hear things I don't want to hear and do things I don't want to do. How true that has been for me.

In my first trip through the Steps, I listed my resentments as shown in the Big Book. With the help of my sponsor, I tried to see my part in all these situations. But some of my resentments persisted, even though I could admit having some part in creating them. I felt "justified" in holding on to some of these resentments.

When I completed the Fifth Step with my sponsor, I reviewed my progress. My sponsor was big on honesty so I tried to be honest with

myself as I reflected and thanked God from the bottom of my heart so that I might know him better. As I did this, a wave of relaxation and reassurance came over me. It was undoubtedly a spiritual experience for me.

In spite of this beautiful and very real experience, I held on to some of my resentments and sometimes they reared their ugly heads again and came roaring back. These were those "justified" resentments. As I was working the Sixth and Seventh Steps, I was confronted with a big one. This had to do with my wife's Christmas decorations.

Over the years, we had accumulated more and more boxes of decorations that needed to be brought down from the attic each year. I grumbled about it and even ruined a couple of Christmases for her with my bad attitude. My view was that this was all fine for her, but why did I have to devote so much time on the Thanksgiving weekend to bring down at least 50 boxes from the attic, set up the tree (sometimes multiple trees) and more? She didn't have a job (another resentment of mine), so why couldn't she do all of this excessive decorating by herself?

I was in therapy with a counselor when I did my Steps. Both he and my sponsor and other friends in the Fellowship all came up with variations of the same idea to deal with my resentment. Why not try being kind about it? Why not try to see the joy she gets from it? Why not try tolerance in this situation, giving her the right to be wrong? Or how about just supporting her?

In my drinking days, I would have considered this being hypocritical. I told myself that I couldn't lie, I de-

cidated that I must be honest with her. Then my sponsor reminded me that the honesty of the AA program is to help me get honest with myself, not to bludgeon my wife with a club of truth.

They suggested I be willing to try this idea of kindness and to be open to seeing her joy, exhibit a little positive enthusiasm or just work at not showing my unhappiness. No one twisted my arm. They were just sharing their experiences, and I grudgingly agreed to give it a try. I now see this as an act of faith.

It was indeed miraculous. And it worked. A little bit of effort—with faith—returned remarkable gifts way out of proportion to the effort I put into it. My wife was so grateful for my change in behavior and we actually had fun.

After the second year of my change in attitude, my wife started talking about how she felt bad about her disorganization and having so much stuff. The boxes reduced in number over the years without any effort or management on my part. In our new house, she actually built a small closet in the garage that holds almost everything. Amazing.

This kind of result has continued to come about every time I'm willing to use the process to see what I don't want to see, hear what I don't want to hear and, especially, do what I don't want to do.

Group Contributions — November, 2020

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton SOP	\$160.00	\$160.00
A New Beginning	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$160.00	\$160.00
Anahuac	\$0.00	\$65.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$140.00
Bolivar	\$50.00	\$50.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$1,164.00
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	\$220.00
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	\$101.90	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$50.00
Friends of Bill	\$0.00	\$0.00	Port Arthur	\$0.00	\$37.28
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$0.00	Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	St Francis	\$0.00	\$380.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$200.00	TLC	\$0.00	\$656.60
Kountze Daylight	\$0.00	\$0.00	Un Dia A La Vez	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lewis Drive	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vidor	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	\$50.00	\$200.00	West End	\$0.00	\$50.00
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$50.00	Unconditional Love	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Totals	\$440.00	\$3,684.78

**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

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 3, 2021 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

January 17, 2021 At 2:00 PM

Westgate Memorial Baptist Church

6220 Westgate Drive, Beaumont, TX

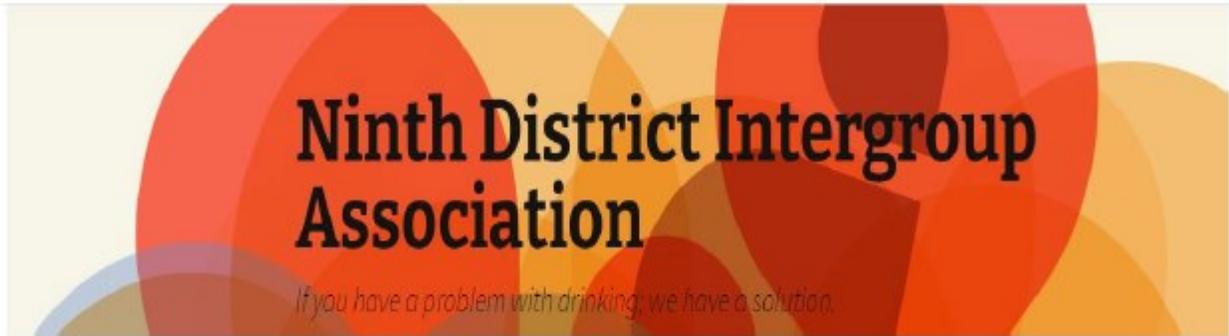
Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Meeting is held in the rear of the building.

Intergroup will be closed on the following dates:

December 24th , 25th

December 31st , January 1, 2021



Holiday Open House

Please Join Us On

Saturday, December 12th, 2020

10:00am to 4:00pm

Refreshments

Enjoy 25% Off

All Merchandise



Twelfth Step Prayer

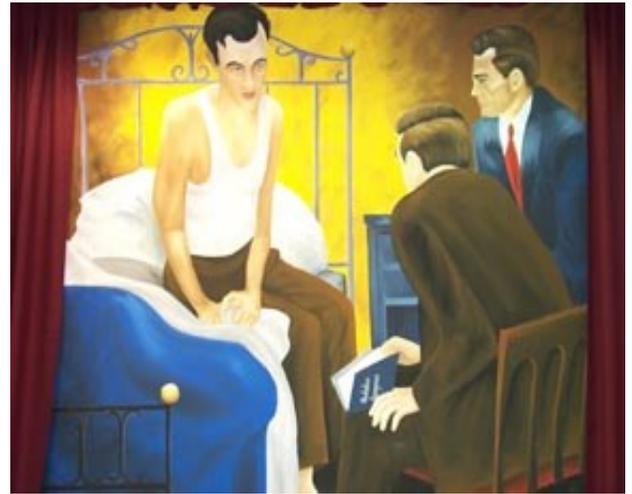
Dear God, Having had a spiritual experience, I must now remember that "faith without works is dead." And PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. So, God, please help me to carry this message to other alcoholics! Provide 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.



**We are not a
glum lot.**