

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-

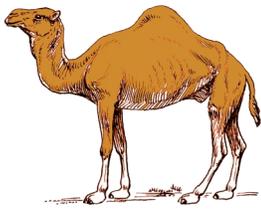
mense resources now being harnessed promise such a quantity of material blessings that many have come to believe that a man-made millennium lies just ahead. Poverty will disappear, and there will be such abundance that everybody can have all the security and personal satisfactions he desires. The theory 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, 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 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



A Mom's Return

BY: CLAUDIA N. | SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

Through living amends, a grateful sober mother comes full circle with the children she once abandoned for booze

I never expected the desire to quit drinking to enter into my mind in any way, let alone find forgiveness for myself. But that's exactly what AA gave me with an incredible spiritual experience at 23 years sober.

I was a married woman with four young children. I was drinking on a daily basis and had gotten to the point of running away from my family, myself and my responsibilities. I was just living to drink.

Since I couldn't drink like others did—go have a few and come home at a decent hour—I would run away from home and justify my behavior by telling myself I was “misunderstood” and a “victim” of circumstances.

I didn't start out drinking daily but that's exactly where I ended up. I always found reasons to leave the house so I could drink. As my drinking progressed, I wouldn't come home for days at a time. It really boggles my mind how I

could justify leaving my children home, with no mother and no way their father could go to work without someone home to take care of the children.

My denial was deep and my pockets were full of excuses to keep drinking and leaving. I would always come home with my tail between my legs, begging for forgiveness and swearing I wouldn't do it again. Yet I would continue to break these promises for a very long time.

One night I came home to find my husband standing at the door with our 2-year-old son in his arms. He held our son out for me to hold. “You take him,” my husband said, with a look of disgust on his face. “Be a mom. Do something!” In that moment, I knew couldn't step over that threshold and not drink. So I set my son down in the doorway and walked away. As I was doing so, I had a moment of clarity or grace or whatever you would call that crack in the universe where truth comes tumbling down. My moment of clarity was clear: You put alcohol ahead of your children—what are you doing?

I couldn't drink enough that night to shut down my head or the thoughts that were coming at a rapid pace. This was not the first time I had put alcohol ahead of my children, but it was the first time the truth broke through to me. All my denial stopped working. I got willing and returned home. This time I surrendered. I didn't know what else to do.

I joined AA, got a sponsor, found a God of my own understanding and worked the Steps. Ever since my first day in AA I've stayed involved in service and helped other women. Yet I still lived with gnawing guilt over how I had left

my children.

When I got sober, the children didn't live with me right away. Over time I slowly worked on our relationships. When I got to the point in my recovery where I needed to frankly analyze my past and make amends, I got to show my children how I had changed by making living amends, by being present in their lives to show that I wouldn't abandon them again. This took a very long time.

Then one night, everything changed. I had just finished making amends to my son Harry and he informed me he and his girlfriend were having a baby. Due to the progress we had made through the amends, I was invited into the delivery room to witness the birth of Harry's son. As I was standing by my son in the delivery room and his son was finally coming into the world, we were all very emotional. My son's knees were going out from under him and, as he started to fall, I held him up to greet his son.

We hugged and cried for joy that night. I left the hospital and went to an AA meeting at a nearby treatment center. The topic was forgiveness. The moment in the delivery room came to me. I thought about how 23 years earlier I had put that same son down in the doorway and walked away because I had to drink. Now, I had held him up so he could greet his son's arrival in the world.

I had truly come full circle as a result of AA. I thank God. It's never too late for forgiveness.

Group Contributions — June 2021

Group	Month	Y to D	Group	Month	Y to D
6 O'Clock	\$0.00	\$0.00	Lumberton SOP	\$0.00	\$0.00
A New Beginning	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mid County	\$80.00	\$80.00
Any Lengths	\$0.00	\$550.00	Murray Street	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anahuac	\$55.00	\$55.00	Mustard Seed	\$0.00	\$924.00
Bolivar	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Life	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bridge City	\$0.00	\$0.00	Newton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Buna	\$0.00	\$0.00	Nueva Vida (Port Arthur)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cornerstone	\$0.00	\$0.00	Orange	\$20.00	\$120.00
Deweyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pecan Groves	\$0.00	\$0.00
Downtown	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pineywoods	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	Personal Stories Group	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fresh Start	\$150.00	\$350.00	Port Arthur	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Bill	\$0.00	\$0.00	Primary Purpose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hope Group	\$0.00	\$702.46	Serenity	\$0.00	\$800.00
Jasper Noon	\$0.00	\$250.00	St Francis	\$300.00	\$700.00
Jasper Serenity	\$0.00	\$0.00	The Buck Stops Here	\$0.00	\$0.00
Keep It Simple	\$0.00	\$0.00	TLC	\$274.00	\$497.20
Kirbyville	\$0.00	\$130.00	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	\$100.00
Liberty	\$0.00	\$100.00	Unconditional Love	\$33.70	\$33.70
Lifeline	\$0.00	\$0.00	Way Out	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lufkin	\$0.00	\$0.00	Totals	\$912.70	\$5,392.36

**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**

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 1, 2021 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

July 18, 2021 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

**INTERGROUP WILL NOW START RECEIVING CASH
ONCE AGAIN FOR PURCHASES.**



EXACT CHANGE FOR PURCHASE WILL BE REQUIRED.

**A DONATION CAN BE MADE TO THE INTERGROUP TO
ROUND UP TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR AMOUNT.**

EXAMPLE

(PURCHASE \$18.86, PAY WITH \$20.00, PUBLIC DONATION = \$1.14)

WE WILL KNOW PEACE

40th ANNUAL DISTRICT 90 CONVENTION August 20, 21 & 22, 2021

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONVENTION SPEAKERS</u></p> <p>Fri. 08:00 PM AA Adam T. Los Angeles, CA. Fri. 10:00 PM AA Robert S. Fellowship, Bmt,Tx. Sat. 8:30 AM AFG Four Faces of Al-Anon Sat. 10:00 AM AA Rick F. Boca Raton, FL. Sat. 01:00 PM Alanon TBD Sat. 02:15 PM Alateen TBD Sat. 03:00 PM AA Rick F. AA - Historian Sat. 04:15 PM AA Old Timers Sat. 08:00 PM AA Kent C. Sanduskie, OH. Sat. 10:00 PM Dance Sun. 10:00 AM AA Tina Albert Wilmington, CA.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MCM ELEGANTE HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2355 I-10 Access Rd SOUTH (GPS) 1355 EXECUTIVE BLVD, BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77705 409-842-3600 ROOM RATE - \$99 PER NIGHT / \$129 SUITE PER NIGHT EARLY DEADLINE - 8/4/2021</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">ONSITE REGISTRATION</p> <p>Pre-Registration ends July 31, 2021 (AA/Al-Anon \$10, -teen \$3)[†] Onsite Registration opens Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 2:00 PM</p> <p>AA/ Al-Anon: \$ 12 ea. Alateen: \$ 5 ea. Dance only: \$ 5 ea. Coffee: Incl. w/ registration</p> <p>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



Name1 : _____ Email Address: _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen [†] <i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need</i>	Name 2: _____ Email Address: _____ Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____ Badge Name: _____ Home Group: _____ Check One: ___AA ___Al-Anon ___Alateen [†] <i>Check if Needed: ___ASL Interpreter ___Spanish Translator ___Special Accom/Need</i>												
<table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Pre-Registration:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Amt. Enclosed:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>{ } Sponsorship Donation</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">TOTAL ENCLOSED</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>†Alateens must have signed permission slips!</i></p>	Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:	{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____	{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____	<p>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AND MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS TO:</p> <p>District 90 Convention Treasurer PO Box 1591 Groves, TX 77619</p>
Pre-Registration:	Amt. Enclosed:												
{ } AA @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Al-Anon @ \$ 10.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Alateen @ \$ 3.00 each	\$ _____												
{ } Sponsorship Donation	\$ _____												
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$ _____												

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.



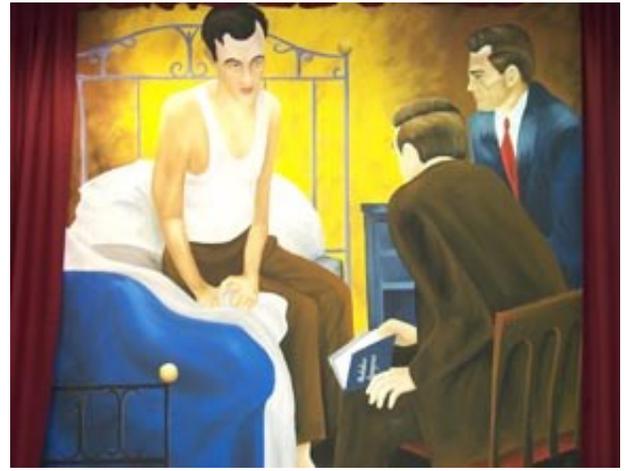
Happy Birthday To You!!!

Intergroup would like to congratulate everyone who is celebrating a birthday in July !!!



ONE DAY AT A TIME

Julian L.—July 28, 2001—20 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.