

## 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.

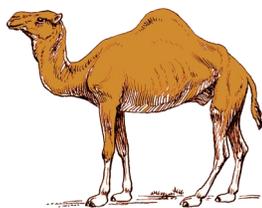
*Twelve and Twelve page 96*

## 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 descriptions 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.





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 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/>



NOVEMBER 2022

| FUN IN SOBRIETY |

## The Gift of Gratitude

*One way to keep a grateful heart is to remember what AA has given us. The following passages were selected from our vast Grapevine Story Archives, which goes back to 1944. Thank you for sharing your stories with us*

“Love is the principle that guided my first friends in AA. They welcomed me without question into their Fellowship. They were not concerned about anything except that I was a drunk. I was asked if I wanted help, if I had a place to sleep that night, and if I’d care for a cup of coffee. I was allowed to be myself, as best I could. No demands were made, no expectations were declared, no conformity was required. I was simply invited to share what they offered.”

Greg H., Moreno Valley, Calif.  
From “Principles to Live By,” August 1994

“AA has rewired my thinking. What makes me happy now isn’t living the life I saw on TV when I was a kid. It truly is an inside job. AA has taught me how to try things I didn’t think I could do. I learned that I have to go through fear and can’t avoid it by going around. After I went to the mat with a few of my monsters, I realized that I really wasn’t afraid of things so much. I had some successes, and the failures weren’t so bad; sometimes they even ended up changing things for the better. I count on that now. When I face a tough problem it helps me to

remember that the next time it comes, I will be able to go through it more easily; that hope and confidence give me happiness.”

Paula C., Houston, Texas  
From “Happily Ever After,” May 2013

“I now live in a nursing home, where the message has to be carried to me, as I am unable to get out to meetings. The AA community in Trempealeau County, Wis. has a meeting at my nursing home every Sunday night. I have a cell phone, which I use to call half a dozen or so AAs a day, keeping in touch to give encouragement and offer what I know of the program. I keep their numbers in a pocket on my wheelchair. It’s funny how now I can call another AA from my wheelchair. When I got into the program phones were attached to the walls, and they were “party lines” where neighbors shared the same line, so we didn’t talk much AA on the phone, as the neighbors could pick it up and hear whatever anyone was saying. Anonymity is a bit better nowadays!”

Oliver P., D.M., Mondovi, Wis.  
From “It’s a Wonderful Life,” November 2012

“God gave me another chance 13 years ago; it was my last chance. I know that my body, left in this ravished condition by alcohol, could never weather another of my kind of drunks...I only began living 13 short years ago; only became aware then that the sun could shine so brightly, that there were birds singing, flowers blooming, green grass growing under my feet and God’s blue heaven over my head. To lie down at night and sleep the night through and wake with a clear head was something new to me.”

C.U., Dade City, Fla.  
From “The Boy Grew Up,” June 1955

“I’ve come to have moments of thankfulness without having to search for reasons.”

John X., Ottawa, Ontario  
From “Quote of the Month,” June 1998

“I’m especially grateful for those painful rough times, those first few years in AA. It was because of them that I had to put the effort into doing all that the Big Book suggested. I sponsored many girls, worked in service, but knew I couldn’t make spiritual progress unless I worked the Steps. The Fourth Step revealed much. I had to do it over several times. I wanted to be honest. Today I can accept the things I can’t change. My hearing is gone. I don’t drive, which makes me dependent on others. I lost Ed after 37 years of a wonderful AA marriage. I live alone by choice. With all of this I have a peace of mind and serenity I never believed possible. I can accept and feel grateful for all I’ve been given. I have friends, a loving family—all the result of getting honest and working the Steps.”

Albertine R., Indio, Calif.  
From “A Tremendous Journey,” July 1998

“One of the first suggestions given me in my early sobriety was an excellent one. I was told every morning, when I woke up, to thank my Higher Power for that night’s rest and ask for help in my helplessness to stay sober for that day. Then I was to spend some time in thinking about the simple rewards of sobriety: waking up in my own bed; not being sick with the dry heaves; no fear as to where my car was or that the telephone might ring informing me about some horrible incident of the night before; being able to look out the window and enjoy the sight of green grass or white snow. Following this, I was to arise and face the day, certain of the fact that if I followed the directions given me by Alcoholics Anonymous, made contact with other members, and placed my trust in the God of my understanding, I would receive the gift of another day of sobriety.”

Alf S., St. Cloud, Minn.  
From “Arise and Face the Day,” December 1999

## Group Contributions – October 2022

| Group            | Month  | Y to D   | Group                  | Month           | Y to D            |
|------------------|--------|----------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 6 O'Clock        | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Lufkin                 | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| A New Beginning  | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Lumberton SOP          | \$0.00          | \$160.00          |
| Any Lengths      | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Mid County             | \$0.00          | \$40.00           |
| Anahuac          | \$0.00 | \$120.00 | Murray Street          | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Bolivar          | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Mustard Seed           | \$0.00          | \$1,146.00        |
| 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   | <b>Orange</b>          | <b>\$20.00</b>  | <b>\$200.00</b>   |
| Deweyville       | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | <b>Pecan Groves</b>    | <b>\$10.00</b>  | <b>\$60.00</b>    |
| Downtown         | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Pineywoods             | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Fellowship       | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Personal Stories Group | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Fresh Start      | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | Port Arthur            | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Friends of Bill  | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Primary Purpose        | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Hope Group       | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Serenity               | \$0.00          | \$880.00          |
| Jasper Noon      | \$0.00 | \$400.00 | St Francis             | \$0.00          | \$989.09          |
| Jasper Serenity  | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | The Buck Stops Here    | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Keep It Simple   | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | <b>TLC</b>             | <b>\$266.00</b> | <b>\$477.00</b>   |
| Kirbyville       | \$0.00 | \$200.00 | Vidor                  | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Kountze Daylight | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | West End               | \$0.00          | \$221.15          |
| Lewis Drive      | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | Unconditional Love     | \$0.00          | \$643.00          |
| Liberty          | \$0.00 | \$150.00 | Way Out                | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| Lifeline         | \$0.00 | \$0.00   | <b>Totals</b>          | <b>\$296.00</b> | <b>\$5,886.24</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 — E-mail: steppingstones@abeaumont.org — 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

#### 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 2407  
James A. Farley Station  
New York, NY 10116-2407

## 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 4, 2022 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

### Next 9th Dist. Intergroup Meeting

January 22, 2023 At 2:00 PM

West End Group

1235 Crockett, Beaumont, TX

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

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



# Ninth District Intergroup Association

*If you have a problem with drinking, we have a solution.*

4224 College Street, Beaumont, Texas 77707



## *Holiday Open House*

*Please Join Us On*

*Saturday December 10, 2022*

*10:00am to 4:00pm*

*Refreshments*

*Food, Fun, Fellowship*

*Enjoy 25% Off*

*All Merchandise*

*( No Group Charges )*





Happy Birthday To You!!!

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



## 11th Promise

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

DISTRICT 90 ANNUAL

# GRATITUDE

in action

## Dinner

SPEAKER-RAFFLE-FOOD

### NOVEMBER 12TH

4:00pm - 9:00pm

Tickets **\$10**

- 4:30 pm - Alanon Speaker
- 6:00 pm - Dinner
- 7:00 pm - Raffle
- 7:30 pm - AA Speaker

Door Prizes and a 50/50 raffle, so bring extra cash!

**CARL PARKER CENTER**  
1800 LAKESHORE DR., PORT ARTHUR, TX 77640

Monetary donations can be mailed to the Port Arthur Group, 548 W 11th Street, Port Arthur, TX 77640

CASHAPP TO \$PORTARTHURGROUP

## 11th Step Principle

### Awareness



**We are not a glum lot.**