

# Michigan City Daily Reprieve

## Step 7

**H**umbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, p. 70

The subject of humility is a difficult one. Humility is not thinking less of myself than I ought to; it is acknowledging that I do certain things well, it is accepting a compliment graciously.

God can only do *for* me what He can do *through* me. In the light of this awareness, how can I take pride in my accomplishments? I am an instrument and any work I seem to be doing is being done by God through me. I ask God on a daily basis to remove my shortcomings, in order that I may more freely go about my A.A. Business of "love and service."

DAILY REFLECTIONS p 199

### The Seventh Step Prayer

"My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do Your bidding. Amen."

## Tradition 7

*"Every A.A. Group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."*

The A.A. Groups themselves ought to be full 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 of 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 caring any obligation 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.



### "The Seventh Promise"

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

## 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.

# JULY BIRTHDAYS



George P	7/04/1988	23 years
Denise W	7/05/2006	5 years
Darlene C	7/07/1991	20 years
Ron S	7/08/1987	24 years
Steve L	7/19/2006	5 years
Sherry M	7/21/1984	27 years

**Happy Birthday to All!**

To publish announcements of AA Birthdays celebrated by members each month, send name and number of years to: District 21, P.O. Box 58, Michigan City, IN 46360 or email to [district21mc@comcast.net](mailto:district21mc@comcast.net)

**The Area District 21 Business Meeting  
and the Public Information Meeting - 7 PM**

**on the 2nd Thursday of every month**

**at the Michigan City Christian**

**Church at 11232 W. Earl Rd.**

**Next meeting: July 8, 2011**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**

## The Traditions Checklist

### *Tradition Seven*

Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

AA Grapevine January 2011 issue

**11th Step Meeting  
Spiritual Kindergarten  
Monday Evenings @ 7:00 P.M.  
St. Paul Church Office  
Ninth & Franklin  
Michigan City, IN**

# Step Seven

“Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.”

After you have made your personal inventory, shared it with yourself, another person, and God, and became willing to have all your defects removed, what's next? Step Seven is the step that compels us to seek the grace of our Higher Power. Here we ask Him to effect a spiritual change in which we become reborn.

The literature of Alcoholics Anonymous states that “They have become persuaded, and rightly so, that many problems besides alcohol will not yield to a headlong assault powered by the individual alone.” It is therefore necessary that we acquire a degree of willingness to trust and rely upon our Higher Power. We look at our selfish, ego-centric selves and then face with the facts of our behavior and character flaws, become willing to change and we discover that alone we cannot change! A degree of humility is required to change.

My experience is a dependence upon the literature to find the solution and the practice of taking the actions the literature describes to me. The 12 & 12 states that “The basic ingredient of all humility, a desire to seek and do God's will, was missing.” In my experience I had become comfortable in some of my defects of character, they had become a defense mechanism against living life on life's terms. What I had to discover was an understanding of unselfishness, if I was to “fit myself to be of maximum service to God and our fellows.” My defects stood in the way of my ability to help others. Step Seven and the principle of humility became a deciding factor in me working toward growing in the image and likeness of my creator.

So I then understood my inability to change myself, the necessity of that change, and I acquired the desire to seek and do God's will. All that was left was to ask, and to keep asking. The day I shared my fifth step I said the same prayer I said this morning and that I continue to say with fellow alcoholics. “My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength as I go out from here to do Your bidding, Amen.”

# Tradition Seven

*Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”*

Donating that good old' dollar has made tradition seven likely one of the few traditions that most members of AA are familiar. At first glance many people may feel doubtful that an organization made up of alcoholics could be self-supporting, and in the early days of AA this was a significant struggle. In the first years of Alcoholics Anonymous, when there was no "Big Book" and only three established groups existed, the founders desperately needed money and in large sums, in order to get the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* up and running and to also send out Alcoholics Anonymous 'missionaries' with the hopes of starting many more groups to reach other alcoholics. From 1940-1945 the Rockefeller Center donated about \$3,000 a year to the cause of Alcoholics Anonymous, which included financing Dr. Bob and Bill W's families while they focused solely on Alcoholics Anonymous getting up and moving and also writing and publishing the Big Book. It's an amazing and beautiful testament to this program and its true purpose and necessity that within a few years Alcoholics Anonymous was able to become self-supporting and no longer needed the contributions of the original donors. It became clear that any money beyond the basic needs of the organization would be dangerous to the organization itself, that money and spirituality did not mix. Alcoholics Anonymous had a lot of believers after the article in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1941. Many of these people had a lot of money that they wanted to give to A.A. because of their gratitude for the program whether it was because of their own recovery or the recovery of a loved one. This very well could have led to Alcoholics Anonymous being a very wealthy organization. Of course the discussions began concerning what would be done with that much money, and of course disagreements quickly followed. As the trustees discussed this there was both support and opposition. Thankfully, even this early in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous, there were experiences that could be looked back upon for experience, strength and hope. One example given to us in the 12 & 12 is of a hospital that was given to A.A. Quickly afterward the owner's son became the primary patient and "manager." Another example occurred when a group was given \$5,000 and there was nothing but arguing and dissension for years! Bill realized that "Whoever pays the piper is apt to call the tune, and if the A.A. Foundation obtained money from outside sources, its trustees might be tempted to run things without reference to the wishes of A.A. as a whole" (Twelve and Twelve, pg. 164). Despite the problems that money can bring to the A.A. groups Bill W. wisely once said "There was a place in A.A. where spirituality and money would mix, and that was in the hat" (Twelve and Twelve, pg. 163). It is a responsibility for us to be self-supporting for various reasons. Some of the reasons include; we previously were not self-supporting as practicing alcoholics, not being self-supporting would likely lead to outside interference, alcoholics themselves would no longer be moved to support Alcoholics Anonymous, and too much money would tempt the foundation to try and do other philanthropic things that would inevitably divert Alcoholics Anonymous from its primary purpose. One of the most beautiful things about Alcoholics Anonymous is that we do not need a lot of money to fulfill our primary purpose and knowing that having that money would indeed divert Alcoholics Anonymous from our primary purpose is priceless.