

# Michigan City Daily Reprieve

## Step 6

**W**ere entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

....we then look at Step Six. We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 76

Steps Four and Five were difficult, but worthwhile. Now I was stuck on Step Six and, in despair, I picked up the Big Book and read this passage. I was outside, praying for willingness, when I raised my eyes and saw a huge bird rising in the sky. I watched it suddenly give itself up to the powerful air currents of the mountains. Swept along, swooping and soaring, the bird did things seemingly impossible for mortal birds to do. It was an inspiring example of a fellow creature "letting go" to a power greater than itself. I realized that if the bird "took back his will" and tried to fly with less trust, on its power alone, it would spoil its apparent free flight. That insight granted me the willingness to pray the Seventh Step prayer.

It's not easy to know God's will in each circumstance. I must search out and be ready for the currents, and that's where prayer and meditation help! Because I am, of myself, nothing, I ask God to grant me the knowledge of His will and the power and courage to carry it out—today.

DAILY REFLECTIONS p 163

## Tradition 6

*"An A. A. Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A. A. Name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."* Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A. A. Should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A. A. Group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A. A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A. A. Name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who

financially support them. For clubs, A. A. Managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A. A.—and medically supervised. While an A. A. Group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A. A. Group can bind itself to no one.



## The Sixth Promise

That feeling of uselessness and self pity will disappear.

## Concept VI

On behalf of A. A. As a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

# JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Dave B	6/06/2003	8 years
Brenda W	6/06/2005	6 years
Dave S	6/09/2000	11 years
Al A	6/12/2000	11 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)

**ALATEEN MEETING**  
Thursday evenings @ 7:00 P.M.  
Barker Hall @ Trinity Church  
600 Franklin Square  
Michigan City, IN

## **Gone but not forgotten**

Don Peters, a member of Yana and the Rolling High A. A. Group, passed away last month. He was know as "Sewer Don" (he had worked as a chemical engineer) Don was 78 years old and had 27 years sobriety.

## **The Traditions Checklist**

### *Tradition Six*

An A.A. Group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. Name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

1. Should my fellow group members and I go out and raise money to endow several A.A. beds in our local hospital?
2. Is it good for a group to lease a small building?
3. Are all the officers and members of our local club for A.A.'s familiar with "guidelines on Clubs" (which is available free from GSO)?
4. Should the secretary of our group serve on the mayor's advisory committee on alcoholism?
5. Some alcoholics will stay around A.A. only if we have a TV and card room. If this is what is required to carry the message to them, should we have these facilities?

AA Grapevine January 2011 issue

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

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: June 9, 2011

# Step Six

The Big Book tells us that after completing our fifth step, and if we can confidently say we have not skimmed on the matter, we are to look at step six, “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.” This sounds like an awfully tall order, to support that feeling the 12 & 12 mentions immediately that “this step separates the men from the boys.” Despite the large task at hand, the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in all its wisdom tells us just how we are to approach this task. We are reminded that “any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step six on all his faults is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his creator.”

For all intensive purposes, Step Six is a question of willingness. When we share our fifth step, we humble ourselves and pinpoint the exact flaws that exist in our character. By doing it with another person, we can no longer hide from ourselves, the truth about our behavior is no longer hidden. The first step in changing our character has been achieved; we have identified the problem.

Step Six is the next step in the process of eliminating the illness within ourselves which resulted in the symptom that is alcoholism. The literature describes us as selfish and self-centered, the message it sends is that we are compelled by fear and that the solution to that fear is a faith in a Higher Power of our choosing. I must ask myself on a daily basis; “How willing am I to release the fear that is hindering my spiritual grow? Do I possess the courage to put dependence on something outside of myself? Have I begun to rest on my laurels, or is my desire to grow in the image and likeness of my creator present in all my actions today?”

How it works states “we are not saints”, yet the 12 & 12 on page 68 says “the difference between ‘the boys and the men’ is the difference between striving for a self determined objective and for the perfect objective which is of God” A rough translation would be that we are going to falter and fail at times due to the fact that we are human beings and fallible by nature, but despite this, everyday is a day in which I am to be willing to let go of my human frailties and grow toward God. This step is a perfect example of the incredible opportunity for spiritual growth that the program offers. Today, I can look back and bear witness to the level of growth that God has allowed me to experience, and I can set my gaze on the future and know that there will always be more work to be done, more to learn about myself, and the ability to grow nearer to my creator.

# Goodbye Chevy, you will be missed and we all love you

I was taught growing up that when someone dies you are not supposed to mourn your loss you're supposed to celebrate their life. I cannot think of a life more easily celebrated than that of my friend Chevy.

I met Chevy as a newcomer in A.A., and was instantly attracted to his down-to-earth personality and great sense of humor. Which says a quite a bit, considering the fact that I do not particularly care for people. Something about him just stood out. Perhaps it was the fact that despite his struggling to grab hold of Alcoholics Anonymous he always had a smile on his face and laughter was in the air.

Chevy naturally embodied the type of unselfishness that is required in A.A. He never had to work hard at helping others because that was just part of who he was. Like all of us, he had his demons; we would share our love and respect for our respective fathers, and related to each other about how we felt as though we were not the older brothers we should be. Chevy helped me to realize that I was not unique or alone. His outstanding character and honest nature gave me strength when I felt weak. He possessed the ability to share when appropriate and the humility to listen when the time was right.

In the couple years that I knew Chevy I would watch him come in and out of Alcoholics Anonymous. It was incredible to watch him grow and heart wrenching to see him go back out. I was taught by my sponsor that I need to live in the truth and that God exists in the truth. Sadly, the truth is that alcohol is "cunning, baffling, and powerful", and "what we really have is a daily reprieve contingent upon the maintenance of our spiritual condition." Chevy carried this message in his passing.

Chevy also carried another message, one of hope. I have never seen such an incredible difference in a person in just two months of sobriety. I knew walking into a 5:30 meeting I would see Chevy sitting by the chair persons table, and he always shook my hand and smiled. He gave me hope when life was really kicking my hind end, and that there existed a reason for me to sit in those meetings.

Today, I sit and ponder how I can convey a message that is not mine to carry. It was passed on to me by a lost friend. I wonder how to put into words my favorite memory of Chevy; laying on our backs spray-painting the bottom of an old truck and he had me laughing so hard I kept smacking my head on the undercarriage, and the warm feeling I get in my heart when I think of that day. It is my personal belief that today Chevy's suffering has ended, but no matter what happens, his message will be carried on in the hearts and minds of all those he brought joy and happiness to. Goodbye Chevy, you will be missed and we all love you.