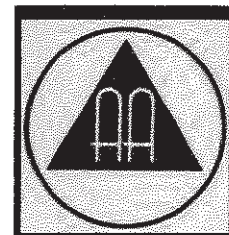


Michigan City

March 2011

Volume 2, Issue 1

Daily Reprieve Newsletter



Area 22 District 21

Step 3 - "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Every man and woman who has joined A. A. And intends to stick has, without realizing it, made a beginning on Step Three. Isn't it true that in all matters touching upon alcohol, each of them has decided to turn his or her life over to the care, protection, and guidance of Alcoholics Anonymous? ... Any willing newcomer feels sure A. A. is the only safe harbor for the foundering vessel he has become. Now if this is not turning one's will and life over to a newfound Providence, then what is it? TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS, P. 35

Tradition III

"The only requirement for A. A. Membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A. A. Membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A. A. Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

Concept III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A. A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."

The Third Promise

We will not regret the past or wish to shut the door on it.

The Area District 21 Business Meeting and the Public Information Meeting

7 P.M. On the 2nd Thursday of every month at the
Michigan City Christian Church at 11232 W. Earl Road

Next meeting: March 10, 2011

March Birthdays



Angie D	3/03/1989	22 years
Joe D	3/03/2001	10 years
Joe S	3/09/2009	2 years
Tim C	3/11/2010	1 year
Mary C	3/14/1984	27 years
Eric C	3/15/2010	1 year
Nancy W	3/16/2010	1 year
Laurie O	3/19/1988	23 years
Scott C	3/22/2008	3 years
Frances H	3/22/1982	29 years
Bob A	3/24/2010	1 year
Jennifer G	3/28/1992	19 years
Bob W	3/28/2004	7 years

Happy Birthday to All!

To publish announcements of AA Anniversaries 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

The Traditions Checklist

Tradition Three

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

AA Grapevine January 2011 issue

DVD showing of Bill W.

On the 12 Traditions of A. A.

St. Anthony Memorial Hospital

St. Francis Room Friday, March 25, 2011

7:00-8:00 P.M.

Northwest Indiana Southshore

Conference & Banquet

Saturday, April 9th

Woodland Park Oakwood Hall Portage, IN

Doors Open @ 6:00 P.M.

Tickets \$20.00

Banquet @ 6:30 P.M.

See Angie D or Dave S

Step Three

In Step 1 we admitted we were powerless, in Step 2 we came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could return us to sanity, now here in Step 3 we are making a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understand Him. It was very easy for me to over think this idea. How can I turn my will and life over to Gods care, when I don't know what His will for my life is? I pray, I meditate, I think I know what Gods will is but how am I sure that it's His will and not mine? These are big thoughts and can certainly overwhelm an already crowded mind but the step just asks us to make a decision. We are to make a decision to turn our will and our lives over to Gods care. That's it-just decide.

I ran into a situation in my life where when my will and Gods will were in agreement there were no problems. I knew it was His will for me to be sober and my will was for me to be successful. All was well for a number of years but when His will for me changed in my professional life, I rebelled and went back to the bottle. I resented God and said to myself "If this is what You're going to do, this is what I'm gonna do." For years, I literally sat on my couch praying for the knowledge of Gods will for me while drinking beer. As long as I didn't know what to do, I was going to drink. This was in no sense a surrender- it was a case of consciously quitting life. As long as I had the power of choice, I choose to drink until I lost the power of choice.

In my life, knowing that I am alcoholic, I have a choice of drunkenness or sobriety. If I choose the path of drunkenness, I know where that road leads- prison, insanity or death. The longer I hang around AA, the more I see that idea holding true. The other path, sobriety, which is Gods will for me leads me to "the Promises". This does not mean everything will be smooth sailing through out. I will make mistakes and run into some detours along the way but as long as I'm on the path of sobriety, I believe I will find my way to where I'm supposed to be.

Action is a very important aspect of step 3. Wallowing in self-pity, doing nothing, claiming that I do not know what Gods will for me is, is very ineffective. What I have learned concerning this is to take action. No matter what it is some action on my part must be taken for me to continue along the sober path. If I try something and it doesn't work out, I must realize that this must not be Gods will so try something else. If that doesn't work, try something else again. Sooner or later, I must have faith I will find the path that is in accordance with Gods will for my life. The taking of Step 3 is the beginning of the journey and it starts, simply with a decision.

Your Two Cents Worth

What Would the Master Do?

What a great question to ask when looking for guidance in a particular situation: "What would the Master do?"

Sometimes I can feel the onset of anxious feelings, usually brought on by critical thinking about a person or situation and when I agree these thoughts are not pleasing to God, the uncomfortable sentiment just melts away and peace returns.

The question, "What would the Master do?" appears on Page 142 of the *12 & 12* where the early members were trying to decide what to do in a perplexing situation. Today, because of AA experience and the spiritual growth since that time, the question facing those AA pioneers is easily answered.

That question challenging those early members was whether or not to allow a certain individual to join the group. The conclusion drawn was to deny Alcoholics Anonymous membership to an alcoholic was to give him the death sentence, and we don't have the authority to decide who lives or dies.

Because of the fatal nature of our disease we demand neither conformity nor a lot of ritual from the alcoholic to join our fellowship. You are an AA member when you say you are. Hi, my name is Bill, and I'm an alcoholic.