

District 21
Michigan City

AA 12th Step &
Answering Service

Conference Approved
Literature Source

Printed & On-Line

Local Meeting Info

Tradition Study &
District Group Conscious

AA Information
for Institutions

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Is Hope a Maybe or a Certainty
- ◆ Service Opportunity at the Michigan State Prison
- ◆ District Meeting Second Thursday of the Month Michigan City Christian Church 11232 West Earl Road Michigan City
- ◆ Michigan City AA Hotline (219) -879-8808
- ◆ Our Web-site www.MichiganCityAA.org

2015 International Convention Of Alcoholics Anonymous

July 2-5, 2015 Atlanta, Georgia

80 Years of Happy, Joyous, and Free

Celebrate our 80th Anniversary. Check with your Group rep for the information brochure and registration form. Reservations in advance are required. There will probably be more than 70,000 persons in attendance including members of Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon and Alateen. Meetings for everyone and plenty of other activities begin Thursday at midnight.

Every Human Being is Bestowed with an Ego.

(Note from the Author:) I hope it makes sense, folks. In any case, it helped me to finish writing it...

While the Father of Psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, based an entire field on its study, the ego is mundanely simple in concept.

One dictionary definition of the word "ego" reads, "The 'I' or self of any person; a person as thinking, feeling, and willing, and distinguishing itself from the selves of others."

In short, it is the part of our brain that cries out, "Me, me, me!"

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Is Hope a Maybe, or a Certainty?

It can be, and is, both. It is really a word with multiple definitions.

The Random House Dictionary defines hope as "The 'feeling' that what is desired, is also possible. If you attend AA meetings you are addressing and claiming your "desire" to quit drinking. The definition says it is also "possible", which means it is attainable. This turns hope into a reality, not a maybe but a certainty if you want it badly enough. To say, "I sure hope I can stop drinking" becomes a maybe if you don't truly put into action the tools available from your Higher Power which are the 12 Steps, meeting attendance, and your sponsor or someone to whom you are accountable.

If you do use these tools because you want sobriety badly enough, this hope will become a certainty to you. "I hoped for sobriety and I got it." Now keep it. In this case it results in victory, not defeat. It was a certainty, not a failed maybe. A synonym for hope is expectancy. Very encouraging.

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Words cannot explain the joy many incarcerated AA members experience when able to attend a closed meeting of AA behind the walls. For many of them, it's the biggest joy of the week in a place which doesn't offer much happiness

Service Opportunity: Meetings at the State Prison

The community involvement section of the Indiana State Prison requested us to provide AA meetings for the inmates.

Currently, AA Meetings are being held in the minimum security side of the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

Those meetings are being held Thursday Evening at seven o'clock.

We hope to soon have meetings at the maximum security side of the prison. Currently everything is all set to start up waiting for the warden's final approval.

In order to serve at the prison, volunteers must attend a two or three hour orientation. Volunteers also must pass security screening.

Call our Ron S for more information about the orientation, the screening process or to volunteer to serve.

**Help
Wanted**

Newsletter Editor
Computer Literate
Able to Work with
People

District 21 Meeting

2nd Thursday

**Michigan City Christian
Church**

11232 West Earl Road

District 21

Conference Approved

Book Prices

Big Book Hard Cover	\$9
Big Book Soft Cover.....	\$9
Big Book Large Print.....	\$10
12&12 Hard Cover.....	\$8
12&12 Soft Cover.....	\$8
12&12 Large Print.....	\$8
Living Sober.....	\$4
As Bill Sees It.....	\$8
Daily Reflections.....	\$8

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These Conference Approved Books At Case Lot Prices

Every Human Being is Bestowed with an Ego

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Some of the ego's functions are innate and essential. It helps us preserve our physical state of being. It perceives information and allows us to weigh potential benefits and threats. When directed properly, it can drive us to accomplish great things on behalf of others.

In the case of alcoholics, it also can be the thing that compels us to drink. When our spiritual lives are weak, a malignant ego can become a prison of the self.

We fortify its walls with alcohol in order to protect us from pain and fear of imagined threats. We trick ourselves into feeling like kings and queens of our own inner domain. We use it to keep away those we unfairly resent, and in the process, we insanely separate ourselves from our Higher Power.

Instead of being a necessary component of life on Earth, our ego becomes a home to self-pity, self-delusion, cynicism, and anger at ourselves and others. An inner death inevitably comes, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.

For me and for many others, the only way out of this trap was to put down the drink. Only then could the ego have a chance to return to anything resembling a natural state.

But as we know, ceasing alcohol consumption is merely where the work begins. It takes the Steps to deflate, repair, and reconfigure the defective egos that got us to where we were.

By the grace of God, alcoholics are not normal people, and our egos are particularly out of the ordinary. But by working a simple program, there is hope we can function in ways that return us to sanity.

Is Hope a Maybe, or a Certainty?

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On the other hand hope can be totally out of our control. "I hope I win the lottery" or "I hope it doesn't rain today". Those results are anybody's guess at best. The weakest usage of the term I can think of is "I hope the Cubs win the world series". The phrase hope against hope leaps to mind. But even here it is still possible, but not bloody likely.

In the Bible, the book inspired by my Higher Power, hope is defined this way, "Having faith in the future based on past accomplished facts". I know Jesus already paid my ransom long ago. Therefore the scripture "Christ in me, the hope of glory" is a done deal. It has been accomplished. It's a certainty. Literally, hope springs eternal.

From the Big Book, I quote a portion of Bill's story on page 13. "I humbly offered myself to God as I understood Him, to do with me as He would. I placed myself unreservedly under His care and direction. I admitted for the first time that of my own direction I am nothing; that without Him I was lost. I ruthlessly faced my sins and became willing to have my New Found Friend take them away, root and branch. I have not had a drink since."

Bill's hope resulted in victory for certain. So have hope and keep coming back. It works if you work it sober. Is hope a maybe, or a certainty?

Words of Wisdom from A Preacher in AA

We never have to ask God to lead, guide and direct us because He always is leading and guiding and directing us.

We simply need to learn to eliminate those activities and thoughts from our lives that are preventing us from seeing His will for us.