



## DR. BOB'S SON MARRIES ANONYMOUS WOMAN

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BY: MONA S. | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

A love affair to remember--if you can

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**THE PROPOSAL:** Several women have asked how Bob ("Smitty" to many) proposed to me, and I always say I don't know. One day he introduced me as his fiancé. I assumed the proposal had happened and didn't question him. No man likes to hear that his bride-to-be forgot the proposal. I still don't know how it happened. He obviously doesn't remember either. I'm living my seventieth year; Bob is in his eighty-fifth year. Memory lapses happen. But at this age, life is simpler. Relationships can be easier. Anyway, it doesn't matter how the proposal happened.

**THE HAPPY COUPLE:** The groom is Dr. Bob's son, twenty-three years in Al-Anon, the widower of a recovering alcoholic. He is retired and the father of four children; one of whom is deceased. I am the widow of a recovering alcoholic. I have twenty-six years in AA and thirty-seven years in Al-Anon. I'm the mother of three daughters, one of whom is an adopted niece. We both spent childhoods in homes with practicing alcoholic fathers.

**THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSE:** At the kitchen table, my adult daughters, who have gone to Twelve Step meetings since they were toddlers, gave me their thoughts and feelings--and warnings--about the relationship. "Whatever pleases you, please us." "We like him." Then the warning: "But, Mom, you do realize that he has alcoholism in his family!"

**THE RING:** The Pig 'N Whistle barbecue café, just outside Memphis, was where Bob gave me the engagement ring. Memphis is famous for its barbecue. Bob is not a famous romantic. The ring is an antique Russian ring that was a gift to Bob from his father, Dr. Bob. It is a wide white gold ring with a diamond in the middle and sapphires around it. It is also our wedding ring. It is a complete ring, physically and symbolically. I love and cherish it, as I love and cherish my husband.

**SENIORS DON'T MARRY:** When we went for the marriage license, the clerk looked past a young couple sitting in front of her desk, pointed to us, and said, "You two are old enough to know better." We got the license anyway. In these times, many senior citizens live together without marriage. We discussed and rejected that idea. We wanted to show our friends, relatives, children, grandchildren (and the clerk at the marriage license office) that we were committed to each other. We left with our license singing, "They tried to tell us we're too old. . . ."

We sing to each other often. We have heard and learned a lot of songs in our combined one hundred and fifty years of living and listening. Sometimes we sing together, and sometimes to each other by candlelight. Singing improves the spirit, the memory, and the breathing. Candlelight softens the soul.

**The next MAIA IG Reps business meeting will be Sunday, February 13, 2022 @ 1pm on Zoom**

**ID: 604 292 8975, PW: 76237**

THE WEDDING: When we started putting together a wedding invitation list, it looked as if we would need to rent a coliseum for the event. We were exhausted just thinking about it. We wanted to include the thousands of people who know and love Bob, hundreds of whom had told us they really, really wanted to be included in the wedding festivities. And of course we wanted to include my friends. My list is shorter than Bob's, but nevertheless, it is still a long one. At our age, we have more friends, but less stamina for celebration. Therefore, we decided to marry as soon as possible and to include only members of our immediate families present in Memphis, Tennessee. We were married four days later with six family members, the minister, and a photographer looking on. It was a small, lovely wedding that took place on September 25, 2002. Bob was quick to assure anyone who would listen that we did not "have to get married."

Bob tells people that during the wedding night, he was the one who sat on the side of the bed and cried.

DAY-TO-DAY LIVING: How do we live together every day after living alone for so many years--four years for Bob and eleven years for me? We close our mouths and breathe through our noses a lot. As my nine-year-old grandson said one day when my mouth didn't stay closed, "Grandma, give him a break. He's eighty-four-years old!"

Life is simpler in these later years. Whenever we can, we go where we are invited, be it across town or across the continent. We also make time to do serious and frequent snuggling.

Some things we practice, most of the time, are: If we already know the answer, leave the issue alone. If there is a difference of opinion, leave it alone. Opinions are neither right nor wrong; they are just opinions. Bob says, "If any two of us were just alike, one of us would be unnecessary." It's okay to be different. We celebrate the difference. When we can, we laugh about it, and we usually can. When we are angry, we say so. Anger is all right; aggression is not.

Having a companion and lover at our ages is not only the greatest gift we can imagine. It is a precious spiritual connection. Knowing that one cannot be spiritual and judgmental at the same time, we speak of our gratitude and show it by staying in good spirits with one another and almost everyone else. We share our story and our gladness with our friends and family.



## **TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO INTERGROUP, SCAN THIS QR CODE**

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. In keeping with A.A.'s Seventh Tradition of self-support, we accept contributions only from A.A. members.

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|   |   | W O R L D L Y I N D E E D         |                               |  |
|   |   | W O W                             |                               |  |

# GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

|                                 | Jan 22          | Jan 21          | Jan 22          |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| AMAA                            | 8.03            | 0.00            | 8.03            |
| Any Length Group                | 0.00            | 76.00           | 0.00            |
| Bullfrog Corner Group           | 0.00            | 488.70          | 0.00            |
| Came to Believe Group           | 50.00           | 150.00          | 50.00           |
| Central Gardens Group           | 50.00           | 50.00           | 50.00           |
| Central Group                   | 0.00            | 225.00          | 0.00            |
| Collierville Group              | 518.99          | 328.57          | 518.99          |
| Collierville Hopefuls           | 82.43           | 305.27          | 82.43           |
| Common Solution                 | 100.00          | 0.00            | 100.00          |
| Downtown Nooners N/S            | 200.00          | 0.00            | 200.00          |
| Downtown Thursday Night Group   | 77.37           | 0.00            | 77.37           |
| Earlybird                       | 140.79          | 0.00            | 140.79          |
| Germantown Happy                | 3,523.17        | 0.00            | 3,523.17        |
| Germantown Noon                 | 128.00          | 161.85          | 128.00          |
| Hollywood                       | 0.81            | 0.00            | 0.81            |
| Horn Lake                       | 10.00           | 5.00            | 10.00           |
| Lakeland                        | 272.62          | 241.76          | 272.62          |
| Love and Tolerance              | 0.00            | 100.00          | 0.00            |
| Midtown Group                   | 0.00            | 111.22          | 0.00            |
| Neshoba Awakening               | 10.00           | 10.00           | 10.00           |
| Out-of-Towners Fellowship Group | 0.00            | 90.00           | 0.00            |
| Personal Adventure              | 230.81          | 0.00            | 230.81          |
| Pleasant Hill                   | 88.76           | 96.12           | 88.76           |
| S.O.S.                          | 0.00            | 97.50           | 0.00            |
| Seriously Sober                 | 0.00            | 200.00          | 0.00            |
| Shady Ladies                    | 0.00            | 200.00          | 0.00            |
| Shipwreck                       | 48.51           | 0.00            | 48.51           |
| South Memphis                   | 10.00           | 0.00            | 10.00           |
| The Nooner                      | 138.00          | 0.00            | 138.00          |
| Three Legged Stool              | 0.00            | 100.00          | 0.00            |
| Two Doors Down                  | 300.00          | 200.00          | 300.00          |
| Unity Group                     | 0.00            | 49.42           | 0.00            |
| WAAGL                           | 100.00          | 75.00           | 100.00          |
| Winchester                      | 178.00          | 0.00            | 178.00          |
|                                 | <b>6,266.29</b> | <b>3,361.41</b> | <b>6,266.29</b> |





# A Member's Eye View

ONE OF THE MUST-READ PAMPHLETS FROM AAWS,  
AVAILABLE AT THE INTERGROUP OFFICE

A Member's-  
Eye View of  
Alcoholics  
Anonymous



This is A.A. General Service  
Conference-approved literature

"A Member's-Eye View of Alcoholics Anonymous," one of the most powerful and popular pamphlets in the A.A. library, almost never saw the light of day. Trustee Bayard P., an executive with a large advertising agency in New York, while on a business trip to California with his wife, Marjorie (also active in the program), look up an old associate at the agency (and fellow A.A. member), Allen McG. (Parenthetically, past trustee George D. remembers Allen McG. As a leader in Southern California A.A. when he joined in 1961, and says of him, "He was the most interesting man I ever met, the most stimulating. He was brilliantly articulate and touched many, many people.") When Allen met Bayard and Marjorie P. for dinner, he mentioned to them that he was making his annual speech about Alcoholics Anonymous to a class at U.C.L.A. which he had done for a number of years. They asked him if he had a manuscript of the talk, which he later showed them; it was called "A Members

Eye View of A.A." "We were absolutely thrilled by it," recalls Bayard. "It was the best thing of the kind we'd ever read, and we asked Allan's permission to take it back to New York and see if it could be an A.A. publication. Which we did."

When Herb M. brought the manuscript to the AAWS Board, staff member Ann M. raised strenuous objections based on the fact that it was one person's opinion and one person's writing and had not evolved through the group conscience as all the other Conference-approved literature had. The same opposition was raised at the Trustees' Literature Committee. However, the inherent excellence and value of the piece ultimately prevailed. It was approved by the Conference and published in 1970, with a prefatory explanation which read in part, "Though the A.A. program relies upon the sharing of experience the recovery process itself is highly individual. Therefore, the program is described here as it appears to one member; but the pamphlet does reflect Fellowship thinking." Although the pamphlet was originally conceived of to explain the program to alcoholism professionals and other outsiders, it has provided fresh insights for A.A. members as well.

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silkworth.net*

**"There must come a day, it seems to me, when every alcoholic, in or out of A.A., finally sits down in the presence of his enemies. When he does, he will be amazed to discover that he is attending a meeting of one—himself. The day the alcoholic in A.A. realizes that his enemy is within, that the tigers are largely creatures of his own design and lurk in his own unconscious, that is the day when for him A.A. becomes what I believe its founders meant it to be: a flight into reality."**

**page 23, "A Member's Eye View"**



# CONCEPT TWO



## SHORT FORM:

“THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF A.A. HAS BECOME, FOR NEARLY EVERY PRACTICAL PURPOSE, THE ACTIVE VOICE AND THE EFFECTIVE CONSCIENCE OF OUR WHOLE SOCIETY IN ITS WORLD AFFAIRS.”

## LONG FORM:

“WHEN, IN 1955, THE A.A. GROUPS CONFIRMED THE PERMANENT CHARTER FOR THEIR GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE, THEY THEREBY DELEGATED TO THE CONFERENCE COMPLETE AUTHORITY FOR THE ACTIVE MAINTENANCE OF OUR WORLD SERVICES AND THEREBY MADE THE CONFERENCE—EXCEPTING FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OR IN ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONFERENCE CHARTER—THE ACTUAL VOICE AND THE EFFECTIVE CONSCIENCE FOR OUR WHOLE SOCIETY.”

### THE CONFERENCE LISTENS – THEN SPEAKS

ONCE THE GROUP SHARES ITS CONSCIENCE, THE CONFERENCE DEVELOPS A COLLECTIVE CONSCIENCE (VIA CONFERENCE ACTIONS) SO THAT EFFECTIVE ACTION CAN BE TAKEN BY THE CHOSEN SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES (WHICH ARE THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD [TRUSTEES], A.A. WORLD SERVICES, INC. [WHICH INCLUDES THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE], AND A.A. GRAPEVINE, INC.) WHO ARE GIVEN OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY.

THE CONFERENCE LISTENS TO THE GROUPS, THEN SPEAKS, THEREBY PASSING EXECUTION RESPONSIBILITY ONTO THE APPROPRIATE SERVICE ENTITY TASKED WITH IMPLEMENTATION. GENERALLY, NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN UNLESS THE CONFERENCE DIRECTS IT TO BE DONE (SEE CONCEPT 3 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS).

### FROM TWELVE CONCEPTS OF WORLD SERVICE ILLUSTRATED

CONCEPT I ESTABLISHES THE “FINAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ULTIMATE AUTHORITY” OF THE A.A. GROUPS; BUT, IN ACTUAL PRACTICE, HOW ARE THEY TO MANAGE A.A.’S SERVICE AFFAIRS? BY DELEGATION, CONCEPT II DECLARES. BILL AND DR. BOB, ENTRUSTED BY THE EARLY GROUPS TO GET THE PROGRAM GOING AND TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE, FOUND NONALCOHOLIC FRIENDS TO HELP THEM.

THEY FORMED A TRUSTEESHIP AND DELEGATED TO IT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCES, THE BIG BOOK AND OTHER LITERATURE, PUBLIC INFORMATION, THE SERVICE OFFICE AND THE A.A. GRAPEVINE. HOWEVER, AS THE TRUSTEES CONSTANTLY LOOKED TO THE CO-FOUNDERS FOR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE AND THE GROUPS ALSO CONTINUED TO HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE A.A. GROUPS AS A WHOLE. BUT IF THE GROUPS WERE TO CARRY ON THEIR PRIMARY PURPOSE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO DELEGATE THEIR LEADERSHIP ROLE TO A GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE.

THEY DO THIS BY ELECTING A GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH GROUP. THESE G.S.R.s MEET REGULARLY IN AREA ASSEMBLIES AND EVERY TWO YEARS ELECT A DELEGATE FROM AMONG THEIR NUMBER. EVERY APRIL, THE DELEGATES FROM THE 93 AREAS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA MEET FOR SIX DAYS WITH THE TRUSTEES OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD, THE STAFFS OF THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE AND THE A.A. GRAPEVINE AND CERTAIN OTHER SERVICE WORKERS. THUS, THIS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF A.A. IS “THE ACTUAL VOICE AND EFFECTIVE CONSCIENCE OF OUR WHOLE SOCIETY IN ITS WORLD AFFAIRS.”

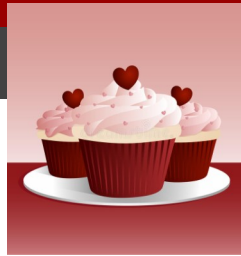
THE TEXT ABOVE IS AN EXCERPT FROM THE A.A. CONFERENCE APPROVED PAMPHLET (P8) *THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE ILLUSTRATED*. YOU MAY DOWNLOAD YOUR OWN COPY OF THE FULL PAMPHLET.

## CONCEPTS CHECKLIST

- 1.) DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF THE GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE (THE “CONFERENCE”)?
- 2.) WHAT IS A CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTION?
- 3.) DOES OUR HOME GROUP’S G.S.R., D.C.M., AREA DELEGATE REPORT BACK TO THE GROUP ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS?
- 4.) IS OUR GROUP MEETING ITS WIDER SEVENTH TRADITION RESPONSIBILITIES?

THIS CHECKLIST IS OFFERED AS PART OF SERVICE MATERIAL FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (SMF-91).

# February Birthdays



## REAL DEAL:

Attisha C.....30 years

Modessa N.....27 years

Jermar W.....6 years

Pat S.....6 years

Chris M.....3 years

Jerome S.....1 year

## DOWNTOWN THURSDAY

## NIGHT GROUP:

Katie Jo B.....14 years

Mickey S.....26 years

## UNITY:

Maurise Mc.....48 years

Gina N.....33 years

Larry O.....31 years

Drew M.....4 years

Rachel S.....2 years

## GERMANTOWN NOON:

Stacey W.....9 years

Betty L.....22 years

Doris H.....27 years

Todd C.....12 years

## MUSTARD SEED:

Devereaux J.....42 years

Judy C.....42 years

Debbie S.....32 years

Jim S.....32 years



# STEP TWO

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

# TRADITION TWO

“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” *(This is the short form of Tradition Two, which is actually longer than the long form of the Tradition. But love doesn't have to make sense.)*

## THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

**BILLY R.....42 YEARS**

**RANDY W.....26 YEARS**

**JOE H.....27 YEARS**





# HOME GROUP HIGHLIGHT

## TAKING THE TWELVE STEPS

*(A Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous)*

**Keener W. (3 years Sober)** Let's go back three years. After just going to meetings for 28 years, I had reached the gates of insanity that the Big Book talks about. After medical Detox, I was physically free of the alcohol and other things. The demons were still having a dance party in my head, but after a year the music was stopped. I had reached the age of 71. (How in the world did that happen?) I realized that my only way out was taking the 12 steps. Most people I talked with told me it would take months. I didn't have months.

In a discussion with Mark B., he told me he could take me through the steps in four one-hour sessions. How could this be? Well, this was the way it was done in the 1940's, when they had beginners' meetings. So along with Sherman O., Mark B. and Steve N. took us through the **Back-to-Basics** program, based on the book by Wally P. This book replicates the newcomer's meetings of the 40's and 50's that Dr. Bob and the pioneers of AA were having at the time.

We have been meeting at the WAAGL meeting room behind Stewart Brothers Hardware at 7715 US-70, Bartlett, TN. We have two meetings a week: 6:00 am on Saturday at 7:15pm on Wednesday. Since December 2019, more than **2500 people** have attended these meetings. **280** of these were newcomers; **80** have finished all four sessions.

We celebrate anniversaries on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. On January 5, two members celebrated 1 year, and two members received medallions for 2 years.

A new meeting has started at Came to Believe, 2865 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN, at 9:00 am on Sunday. We hope these Beginner Meetings will continue to grow throughout the area and help fulfill our 5<sup>th</sup> Tradition.

Here are other voices of experience from of our members:

**Chris B. (1 yr. sober)** The Back- to- Basics meetings for me literally saved my life. I was belligerent and resistant to things that were in my best interest, including working the steps as outlined in the Big Book. When I found the beginner meetings, I was technically sober, but spiritually and emotionally heading down a bad path. After attending these sessions, and, more importantly, coming back to help others through these sessions, I have come to thrive on AA step work in a way I never thought possible. For me, not only was just coming to meetings and not drinking not enough, I was also miserable when that was all I was doing, constantly angry, resentful, fearful... and ultimately thirsty. That alone was to me obviously not the path to lasting sobriety, but working the steps and being willing to be sponsor-able has completely changed this outlook and given me hope and the ability to be present in my life, really for the first time in decades.

**David S. (34 years sober)** Sobriety can sometimes be dry toast. You must chew it, but it doesn't have much flavor. Back to Basics meetings are good for the newcomer and the old timer and everyone in between that is in AA.

Back to Basics meetings enable an Alcoholic to help other Alcoholics through the steps. These meetings give an old-timer the opportunity to put some flavor back in their program by helping other Alcoholics take the twelve steps.



**Jeremy W. (2 years sober)** The Back-to-Basics program changed my life. I couldn't stop drinking and shooting up. We worked the steps in a rapid fashion. Instead of procrastinating, we went about it in a structured manner. The obsession, anger, and despair were gone. I have returned to help others with this process. The book tells me "Life will take on new meaning." It has.

**JB, N. (40 years Sober)** In my days on this journey there have been times when the view seemed, too much, the same. When I whined, some kind soul in these rooms would say "If you want to feel the joy you felt early in sobriety, do what you did in early sobriety." That remedy never failed to work! As a result of being active in the "Taking the Twelve Steps" meeting since December 2019, where all 12 Steps are taken in four meetings here in the WAAGL location, at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday evenings and 6:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings, I have been rocketed into the fourth dimension - again! It works, it really does!

**Mike N. (37 years Sober)** Going through the Twelve Steps again and again with newcomers, those who have completed the steps and come back again and again to carry the message, and many oldtimers who have joined us has given me an experience I would not have missed. The joy is lasting! And God is good!

February 1 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Memphis Area Correctional Committee  
Came to Believe; 2865 Walnut Grove

February 5 @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am  
Grapevine's "Eat and Pass Out" –  
The Cupboard; 1400 Union Avenue

February 5 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
District 24  
Highland Heights Presbyterian; 2855 Morning Sun Road, Lakeland

February 5 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
District 22  
Area 51 Group; 3563 Thomas St

February 7 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
Memphis Treatment Committee  
Came to Believe; 2865 Walnut Grove

February 8 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Memphis Area Grapevine Committee  
White Station Church of Christ; 1106 Colonial Road

February 9 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
District 25 Monthly Business Meeting  
Germantown Municipal Park; 1900 S Germantown Rd

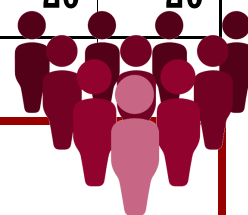
February 13 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
District 23 Committee Meeting  
Central Group; 3544 Forest Ave

February 14 @ 7:00 pm—7:00 pm  
District 21 Committee Meeting  
Crosstown Concourse; 1350 Crosstown Concourse

February 21 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm  
CPC/PI Committee  
The Way House; 1203 Peabody Ave

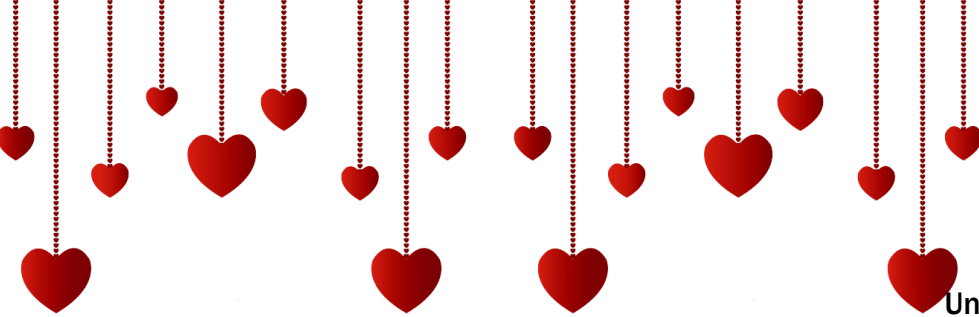
## February 2022

| Sun | Mo | Tue | We | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |    | 1   | 2  | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | 7  | 8   | 9  | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14 | 15  | 16 | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20  | 21 | 22  | 23 | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | 28 |     |    |     |     |     |



## HELP WANTED!

The Intergroup Office is in need of volunteers to work a morning or afternoon shift. Also needed are volunteers who would be able to fill in for the office manager during vacation or sick time. When filling in during the office manager's absence, there will be paid compensation.



Daily Reflections  
February 16  
**COMMITMENT**

**Memphis Area Intergroup Association**  
**3540 Summer Avenue, Suite 104**  
**Memphis, TN 8122**  
**901 454-1414**  
**memphisarea@bellsouth.net**  
**memphis-aa.org**

Understanding is the key to right principles  
and attitudes, and right action is the key  
to good living.  
**TWELVE STEPS AND TWELVE TRADITIONS,**  
p. 125

There came a time in my program of recovery when the third stanza of the Serenity Prayer — “The wisdom to know the difference” — became indelibly imprinted in my mind. From that time on, I had to face the ever-present knowledge that my every action, word and thought was within, or outside, the principles of the program. I could no longer hide behind self-rationalization, nor behind the insanity of my disease. The only course open to me, if I was to attain a joyous life for myself (and subsequently for those I love), was one in which I imposed on myself an effort of commitment, discipline, and responsibility.

**M.A.I.A.**  
**3540 Summer Avenue, Suite 104**  
**Memphis, TN 38122**

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“The Tippler” is a free monthly publication, and will be emailed to anyone interested. However, if you’d like to receive a copy via USPS, a contribution of \$5 monthly, or \$60 annually, helps defray the costs involved. Fill out the form below and, along with your contribution, mail to the above address. We thank you!

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