

MAIA

TIPPLER

FEB 2024

Step 2 Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition 2 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.

Concept 2 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.

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Much to our relief, we discovered we did not need to consider another's conception of God. Our own conception, however inadequate, was sufficient to make the approach and to effect a contact with Him. As soon as we admitted the possible existence of a Creative Intelligence, a Spirit of the Universe underlying the totality of things, we began to be possessed of a new sense of power and direction, provided we took other simple steps. We found that God does not make too hard terms with those who seek Him. To us, the Realm of Spirit is broad, roomy, all inclusive; never exclusive or forbidding to those who earnestly seek. It is open, we believe, to all men.

-Big Book, page 46

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FROM AA GRAPEVINE
FEBRUARY 2019

BY: JIM F. | DEVONPORT

No longer in the center of the universe, a longtime member in Tasmania is content to deal with things as they come along

When I got to AA, I thought that an alcoholic's problem was alcohol and AA was just about stopping drinking. What I was hearing in meetings in Sydney in 1974 seemed to confirm that, with most speakers at meetings just talking about the horrors of drinking and the wonders of sobriety. There was hardly any talk about recovery.

This convinced me that the people at meetings were alcoholics, but I wasn't at all sure about myself. For me, stopping drinking would mean I was going to go off my "medication." I would be bringing my insanity to the surface.

When I quit drinking, my job as a high school teacher didn't get easier, as I became more erratic, angry and paranoid. I recall telling someone that my job used to drive me to drink and now it drove me to meetings. I would often go to four meetings on a Sunday to brace up for starting a new work week, which filled me with impending doom. I have since learned that feelings aren't facts and doom was not impending. It was my feelings that were screwed up. My feelings were not to be relied on for real information.

For about 18 months, I was going to 10 meetings a week and still thinking that the problem was alcohol and the solution was sobriety. It didn't seem like much of a solution for me. But there was at least some hope that life would get better if I kept going to meetings and none if I returned to drinking. I had tried drinking long enough to know that!

Then I went back to Illinois to visit family. While I was there, I went to more meetings and brought back some meeting tapes. On one of them, the speaker said, "The second and fifth drinks are caused by alcohol, but the first is caused by sobriety. It just gets so rotten that you have to drink."

It was then I began to realize that alcohol was the problem when I was drinking, but once sober, the problem became living without the stuff.

I now see that we need Step One to diagnose our disease and the other 11 Steps to treat it. Recovery is finding the promise in Step Two, being returned to sanity, or, in many cases, getting there for the first time. Sanity is the ability to adjust to reality and, for me, that isn't much of a problem now. I have come to understand myself and the world around me. I have gotten out of the center of the universe, which is too damn crowded anyway. I'm content to sit on the edge and deal with things as they come along, seeing them as they are and acting or accepting appropriately.

What I have most wanted out of life was contentment. But I was always a bit wary of contentment because it seemed akin to complacency. For me, skimping on the things I need to do today to maintain my sobriety because life seems close to ideal would be complacency. It would mean sliding backward. My ideal sober situation is when I can find contentment by doing the things I need to do to maintain my sobriety.

I'm still not very sure about God and heaven, and my faith is an assumption that I base my life on. I am glad that we are told that God will relieve our alcoholism if he were sought and not if he were found.

When I was new, I saw a sign that said, "People who think they know everything upset those of us who do." I nodded in agreement before I realized it was a joke. But I am pretty sure that either I will find life after death to be wonderful or I'll be too dead to care. I recall someone saying that the reward for living a good and sober life is a good and sober life.

I have been living in a 99-year-old house since I moved to Tasmania to retire 14 years ago, after 20 years spent teaching English in Japan. There is nothing here in Devonport that I wish wasn't ... or not here that I wish was. I have arranged my life so that I do something I enjoy doing every day. And that includes all those little routines of life.

When I lived in Japan, I felt the need to travel, mostly so I could go to English-speaking meetings. Now, here in Tasmania, I have four such meetings a week I can walk to. In recent years, my only travel has been to drive to St. Helens on Tasmania's East Coast for the AA weekend event held there every March.

I used to do a lot of writing and have gotten a bit slack in recent years. But I look at what others have written and then I play Scrabble against my computer. What a life. It's like living in paradise.

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 9:00 am - 10:30 am District 24 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm District 22	
4	6:45 - 7:45 pm Treatment Committee 8:00 - 9:00 pm District 21 Committee	5 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Correctional Committee	6	7	8	9	10
11 11:00 am - 12:00 pm District 23	12	13 6:00 - 7:00 pm Memphis Area Grapevine Committee	14 6:00 - 7:00 pm District 25	15	16 6:45 - 7:45 pm Memphis Area Accessibility Committee	17	
18	19 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm CPC/PI Committee	20	21	22	23	24	
25 3:45 - 5:00 pm Memphis Area Archives Committee	26	27	28	29	1	2	

DISTRICT & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 3 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am
District 24 Hybrid (ID 9186700041) p/
w welcome
Highland Heights Presbyterian Church
2855 Morning Sun Road
Lakeland, 38016
February 3 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
District 22
Area 51
3563 Thomas St
Memphis, TN 38127

February 5 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Treatment Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

February 5 @ 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
District 21 Committee
Meeting
Crosstown Concourse
1350 Concourse Ave #1072
Memphis, TN 38104

February 6 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Memphis Area Correctional Committee
Came to Believe
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

February 11 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
District 23
Zoom password 847990

February 13 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Memphis Area
Grapevine Committee
White Station Church of Christ
1106 Colonial Rd

February 14 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
District 25
Germantown United Methodist Church
2324 Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

February 16 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
Accessibility Committee
2865 Walnut Grove
Memphis, TN 38111

February 19 @ 6:45 pm - 7:45 pm
CPC/PI Committee
The Way House
1203 Peabody Ave
Memphis, TN 38104

February 25 @ 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm
Memphis Area Archives Committee
Two Doors Down
1578 Yorkshire



MAIA

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Monday - Friday: 8 am - 4 pm
Closed for lunch daily from 1 pm - 2 pm

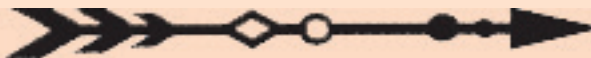
The MAIA Intergroup Representatives business meeting is held on the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us on February 11, 2024 at Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road, Memphis, TN 38122, or join on Zoom. Please call or email the office for the meeting ID & passcode.

BECOME A HIGH FIVER

Memphis Area Intergroup has been the link between the A.A. recovery community and the newcomer and, even as importantly, with one another since 1960. Many of us are grateful to the office for its helping hand, but have either not known that Intergroup needs our support, or our contributions have been put off due to our new busy and happy lives. "High Fivers" is a way we have found to allow members to show their gratitude by making sure the services provided by the office continues. High Fivers is a program of commitment; we commit to a \$5.00 contribution per month, either monthly, quarterly, or annually. Contact our office with details on the ways with which you can submit your monetary contributions. Intergroup, in return, will send an acknowledgement for your contributions at the end of each calendar year. These contributions are tax deductible. As an expression of gratitude, you will receive a hard copy of this newsletter in the mail each month.

SCAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO MAIA

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.



Hollywood

- Felix H. 35 yrs
- Dominic C. 34 yrs
- Atitia C. 33 yrs
- Marvin Q. 30 yrs
- Anthony F. 23 yrs
- Jermar W. 9 yrs
- Devereaux J. 44 yrs

Out of Towners

- John W. 26 yrs
- Rose W. 26 yrs
- Mike C. 23 yrs
- Janet F. 23 yrs
- Marlo M. 2 yrs
- Shonda B. 1 yr
- Rebecca B. 1 yr

Real Deal

- Modessa N. 28 yrs



BY: RONALD H. | MEMPHIS, TN

A dream, a storm and a letter to his dad helped him find his way to Step Two

I first got to AA in May of 1983 after a sufficient bottom. I had lost my job and home. I took the invitation to join a friend of mine in Michigan at his house. Each day my friend would drive east to Brighton and drop me at a center for recovering drunks, then pick me up around dinnertime when he got off work. At night I made meetings with my friend and socialized with a great group of fun-loving AA people.

When I returned to Memphis, a fellow AA elected himself as my “bodyguard” for several months. His name was Tim B. It was evident to him that I had a tendency to wander off. However, I worked with him on the Steps, and I even started a couple of meetings, called Sanity and High Anxiety. I became the Intergroup rep for both groups, then a GSR, and I was elected the program chairman for our local Bluff City Fellowship. I also sponsored two guys and made the rounds.

Around that time, I became vice president of marketing in the investment division of a local bank. We attended a convention in San Francisco and unveiled a new system of giving savings institutions real time quotes and market news through an international news service. After two long days of set up, we were live with our satellite dish on the roof of a hotel in Union Square. Just as we exhaled and received a few pats on the back, the news guy and I went for a meal at a little Italian place on a boulevard not far from the Square. The waiter arrived and we both ordered. “We’ll have the lasagna,” I said. The waiter scooped up the menus and dashed off. Then he turned around to me and asked, “Red or white?” Before I could blink, I answered, “Red.”

Before long the news guy and I hooked up with the cast of a beer commercial filming across the street. I remember Mickey, Marv and some blonde. I don’t remember much, but Marv was from my hometown. Then came the blackout. I finally came to in my hotel room. The staff must have helped me get in.

Nine months later, I finally called my sponsor. “We gotta talk,” told him. “I have a resentment.” He and I did not meet as usual, but dived into the phone deep.

“Why didn’t you tell me I was going to get drunk?” I asked. “I did everything right, everything you told me and more. Where did I go wrong?”

“Well, I believe you never developed a relationship with a Higher Power of your understanding,” he replied. Silence. “Oh, that,” I said. “Maybe,” he added, “or maybe you just need to get honest. Ask a God of your understanding for help. Think you can manage that?” Silence. “I’ll have to,” I replied. “Is this where you fire me, or I fire you?”

“Nah,” he replied. “Let’s get serious and get busy. Read the Doctor’s Opinion and the Forwards and call me tonight.” And we were off. Two months later we were at Step Eight. I still didn’t know if I had the God thing down, but I was sober and playing it low key. I called my sponsor with my list, and he asked right away, “Did you get everyone you ever lived with?”

“Ugh, yeah,” I answered. “Mom, brother, Sissy, Cheryl, Josie, Michael.”

“That it?” he asked. “Yeah, pretty much,” I replied, “the others didn’t stay long.”

“You have a father?” he asked. “Yeah, but he’s dead,” I said. “Put ’em down,” said my sponsor. Silence. “What am I supposed to do with the ol’ man?” I asked. “Write him a letter,” he told me. “Walk to the grave and read him the letter.”

“I just don’t want to drink anymore, but this?” I asked. “Do it,” he said, “and call me tomorrow when you’re done.”

I did what he asked. Afterward I was exhausted. I stayed in that night and fell into an uncommonly deep sleep. I dreamed about a memory from when I was 8. At that age I loved to ride my motorbike just before the rain in the hot summers when it cooled down before the pour. Four houses away, rounding the corner and two houses up, lightning struck a 200-year-old oak, slashing half of it to the ground with a giant rumble. It knocked me on my side, off the bike. Right away, I got back on my bike and headed for home. While rounding the corner I heard my father’s distinct whistle, “Whew-EEt-Whe-ewe.”

That can’t be him, I thought, he’s never home this early. But I could see him standing there on our lawn waiting for me. I just left the bike running and jumped into his arms. In that moment, I knew I was going to be alright.

I woke up clear and electric from this colorful dream. I remembered that day of the storm, the lightning, the fear. I sat there and prayed to bring my dad peace and to give me the strength to stay sober another day.

From that night in 1985, I’ve had a Higher Power that will not keep me from the storms, but will hold me safe through the storms of life. I have a relationship with my Higher Power now because I know I can take a bit of loving care with me wherever I go. And I’ve not had a drink since December 2, 1984.

Reading How It Works

Most of the AA meetings I go to begin with a reading of the AA Preamble and How It Works. The following applies to both documents. The purpose of these being read at the beginning is to inform the reason for the meeting, remind attendees what each of us should concentrate on for the next hour or so, and most significantly, to inform newcomers the true purpose of what AA meetings are for, to recover from a devastating illness that not only causes pain to ourselves and others but may even be fatal.

I have been to meetings where conversations are going on when the readings are being done because some feel they know what it is all about, or getting coffee and cookies, or running to the rest rooms. And some think that the reading of How It Works should be skipped because it is redundant to them. Many don't realize how important it is for newcomers, especially first timers, to hear what can be gained, to help them concentrate on the AA program during the meeting, listening to the lead and comments, and learn the recovery process.

To my disappointment many people choose to read How It Works, either picking it up when they come in or telling the secretary (yes, that's the person who leads the meeting) that they will read How It Works to the group. Actually the secretary should choose who they wish to read at the beginning of the meeting, many times an individual's first time at the meeting.

Very often the reader will rush through reading How It Works as quickly as they can to get it over with or to demonstrate their skill for reading and often slur or mispronounce the words. Some even change the context to their more beneficial translation of what has been printed in Alcoholics Anonymous, known as the Big Book.

Many years ago, when I first started going to meetings to recover from alcoholism and abuse, I was one guilty of these actions when I read How It Works to the group. Wow, I could get through it in 2 ½ minutes so we could get business done and improve the lead and comment time of the meeting.

When I listen at meetings today, many years later, or when I am given the privilege to read How It Works, I feel that it should be read clearly and in a manner that expresses the purpose of why I and others, long timers, beginners, or first timers, have come to an AA meeting today. For myself I believe it is to learn to change my behavior in life outside of the meetings, to continue my recovery from alcoholism, and to help others in their recovery.

This can be better done in the reading of and listening to How It Works as read in a voice that speaks the words specifically in terms of an individual saying the sentences in a manner of being spoken, rather than having the words read in a rush by someone making their own point, that is, showing how great they can read a page or just to get it over with in a hurry.

Forgive me, but this is my opinion which has been developed from my attendance of AA meetings during the time I have been coming to meetings and maintaining sobriety a day at a time.

Earling P.



I Am at a Turning Point Each and Every Day

My path has been a lonely one but I am here because of a common bond. I know I can no longer travel alone, and that honesty, trust, and love for one another is the path to freedom. I am willing to begin this journey each day and not be afraid of failure. I can face my addiction and let it go. First, let us know these things; that our lives matter because we are born with potential, that we are not victims of circumstances, that to be free we must master our own habits, that we can be part of something greater than ourselves and thereby find the greater part of ourselves. Then, let us do these things; humble ourselves to learning, learn to be learners, out of respect for our own potential and out of respect for those who teach us. Let us take courage against our fears and be steady in our efforts. Let us help each other and draw strength from each other, for the one who falls low can bring us all down, unless we help him or her rise, because the one who rises high can take us all higher, if we strive together and build a future that is better than our past.

Anonymous

STORY SOLICITATION

“Do you think you’re different?” Pamphlet Update

The trustees Literature Committee is seeking stories from AA members with diverse backgrounds. This is in response to the 2022 Conference Advisory Action that the trustees' Literature Committee revise the pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different?” to update the stories to represent greater diversity.

The Trustees' Literature Committee requested that consideration be given to stories from multicultural populations, stories from A.A. members whose experience reflects multiple factors, and from diverse populations not addressed in other current A.A. literature.

Please encourage members in your area to write their personal stories for possible inclusion in the revised pamphlet “Do You Think You’re Different.” Stories should reflect “in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now.”

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages.

Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of your manuscript. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files.

The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not.

Instructions for submitting your manuscript:

Deadline: Please submit on or before **April 30, 2024**

Submit your story by following this link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5a77c27d179d4856b32eed86b01e3426>



Additional ways of sending your story:

Email: pamphletstories@aa.org

Subject Line: “Do You Think You’re Different?”

Postal Mail: Attn. Literature Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

On the envelope: The word “Pamphlet” should be written on the envelope and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.

Thank you for your participation in the process!

JANUARY 2024 GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Jan 23</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>
Any Length Group	0.00	25.00	0.00
Bozos on the Bus	0.00	200.00	0.00
Came to Believe Group	150.00	0.00	150.00
Central Gardens Group	50.00	0.00	50.00
Collierville Group	459.00	567.72	459.00
Covington	25.00	25.00	25.00
Downtown Thursday Night Group	0.00	819.45	0.00
Frayser Group	0.00	345.00	0.00
Fredon Road Recovery	0.00	40.00	0.00
Friends of Bill W	200.00	0.00	200.00
Germantown Noon	180.29	206.40	180.29
Horn Lake	0.00	5.00	0.00
IG Monthly Reps Meeting	0.00	34.00	0.00
Lakeland	112.50	66.00	112.50
Morning Glories	43.00	0.00	43.00
Neshoba Awakening	10.00	10.00	10.00
Pleasant Hill	0.00	108.21	0.00
Primary Purpose	50.00	0.00	50.00
Real Deal	0.00	10.00	0.00
Second Chance	50.00	0.00	50.00
Seriously Sober	11.22	41.65	11.22
Shady Ladies	0.00	150.00	0.00
Sober Journey	0.00	160.00	0.00
South Memphis	10.00	20.00	10.00
The Nooner	132.14	257.48	132.14
Traditions	0.00	100.00	0.00
Two Doors Down	300.00	300.00	300.00
Unity Group	169.63	0.00	169.63
WAAGL	100.00	100.00	100.00
Winchester	167.50	194.50	167.50
Worldly Indeed	0.00	493.00	0.00
TOTAL	<u>2,220.28</u>	<u>4,278.41</u>	<u>2,220.28</u>



Second Tradition Checklist:

- Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Old-timers?
- Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with any AA Twelfth Step job or other AA responsibility?
- Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
- Do I have to save face in group discussions, or can I yield in good spirit to the group consensus and work cheerfully along with it?
- Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
- In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?

“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!

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____

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