

SOBRIETY VARIETY PAGES

Hill Country Intergroup

The Gun, the Bottle, or God

Volume 9, Issue 10

October 2009

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Step Ten

Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

Two years of sobriety and it was a dry and desolate condition without a substantial connection to a Higher Power or any other human for that matter. If it were not for the loving and persistent cajoling of two AAs in particular, this member may very well have succumbed to a

bullet or a slower departure through the bottom of a bottle. You see, there was much that remained for me to learn and practice in sobriety, but I was being stifled in the bondage of self similar to the movie "Alien" where the space traveler lay motionless while a gruesome creature slowly envelops and

mercilessly dominates him about the face and neck-a most horrifying image, but was it not my condition exactly?

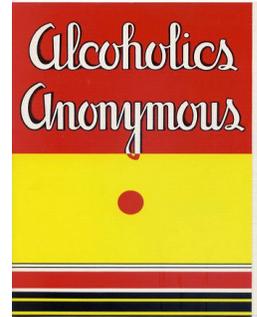
My recovery hygiene at the time did not help matters. Due to my extreme importance at work (grandiosity) my

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South Austin Big Book Group—Big Book Study Renewal!

The South Austin Big Book Group is renewing their classic Big Book study on Wednesday, October 7th, 2009 at 7pm and continuing every Wednesday thereafter. The meeting is a closed discussion, and will be a methodical trip through the first 164 pages of the Big Book, plus Dr. Bob's Nightmare, the Twelve Traditions and selected Appendices. If you're interested in studying the ideas contained in AA's basic text, and not just covering ground, you should consider giving this meeting a try.

The group meets in the Salvation Army Community Center,
1001 Cumberland @ S. 5th in south Austin.



ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



Tradition Ten

No AA group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate AA, express any opinion on outside

controversial issues—particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics

Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

meeting attendance fell to a nadir of but one or two a week and I could barely break away to see my sponsor. I occasionally lied to him about some emergent matter which precluded our meeting, but in actuality I only wanted for the safety and isolation of the domicile couch. In retrospect, though, I learned more lying to my sponsor and cleaning it up than I would have by always telling the truth. I believe that was humiliation turning to humility and honesty.

Just like that alien invader, I had me-on-me so thick that I was separated from God and from my fellows, slowly smothering, sitting miserably attempting to master my problems with intellect and skilled management totally disregarding that my mental prowess got me to AA more dead than alive. Hence, I was being sponsored by myself and, thus, being sponsored by a killer. The agony mounted until one evening I began obsessing about a gun I owned and the pointlessness of my life. Fearfully I promptly pawned that gun to have never retrieved it.

Although pondered death by bullet, my consideration to drink always ended abruptly as I knew it would kill me fairly quickly as I remain with much serotic liver--the keen alcoholic mind? I languished daily in a self imposed mire of pity and depravation. To make matters worse, it was where "boy meets girl on AA campus" and love follows at first sight that difficulties developed. My deep-lying emotional handicaps rose up under pressure and crippled me (see 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, page 119) and, thus, she was gone and I was to never ever know love and companionship from that moment forward (drama-trauma).

As it were, at one of my cameo visits to an AA meeting a friend approached me and indicated he was vacating a commitment as a Group Service Representative (GSR) and I should consider such a service opportunity. I immediately projected a theme of incompetence as a means to avoid the responsibility; however, it is clear to me

today that I did not want to be placed in the public eye and risk failure and possible rejection. I now realize that growing up in public can be awkward and embarrassing, but we do, in fact, grow up and that is critical if I am to be useful among God's children.

Repeatedly my friend wheedled me to the part and I submitted and was promptly elected GSR. This new duty took me about Texas to workshops and voting assemblies to meet many people and occasionally slip out of self and enjoy our fellowship and its camaraderie. This tendency grew as the bondage slowly slipped away. Today at large gatherings I find myself buzzing and mingling with all goes with an honest interest in their lives and doings. How was this happening? I understand perfectly today. Of myself I am afraid and withdrawn, but being in 'action' I am less able to think of myself and attention must be directed to the task at hand and as a result the God within ever so slowly begins shining through.

As a very hopeless alcoholic I may rise one day and fall again the next and it is the daily effort to seek God that is necessary, but of myself I just seemed to dedicate insufficiently. Lack of effort was my dilemma. God's intention for those willing, however, seems to be through the loving and ever persistent actions of others. Again, an angel of human proportion approached me regarding jail and prison meetings. At some of this I balked, but saw the good in it and happily volunteered for training and assignment. Taking meetings to those behind 'the walls' was so incredibly powerful and uplifting I could barely understand. I came to believe that for at least that hour of the day, I was really doing God's will. The remainder of the day may well be spent in the ditch, but I was on the God-beam for that brief time and I was effected. To this day, when serving, I get a warm and comforting feeling that rises up from deep within and crescendos through my thoughts and the one most prevalent is that I am going to be all right!

Regarding this caring presence of God within, I was told by an elder statesman of AA of many years that this is God saying, "You're welcome". These days, I actively seek this connection with the diligence one might possess for breath and sometimes as often. It is true of the Big Book that God comes to all those who seek Him!

These last four years have found me in many service commitments because AA deserves my best and I like what I receive, to be sure. Additionally I work with many sponsees and to really understand the 12-step process is to take others through the work. There are times I am so uplifted in a session with a sponsee that I have difficulty falling asleep, but I do indeed sleep in great comfort knowing I am 'on the give' today and not 'on the take'. Moreover, I repeatedly emphasize to the new-comers that there be no delay in the 'action' of the program that they may avoid the malingering I afforded for nearly two years before an effective contact with God was realized.

The vast expanse of Step 12 finds fruition when taken into the home and into all my affairs. I must ask with great earnestness things such as, how am I treating God's daughters? When I error, am I to admit to my daughter that she experienced a bit of poor parenting (incidentally that is always followed by her loving grin), and am I each day attempting to bring the vision of God's will into all my activities?

I have recovered with many faults along the way and actually seem to learn more in failure than in victory as it would seem greater honesty, open-mindedness and willingness are required to transcend failure. For an alcoholic of my type, I should have perished many times over, but the road is broad, roomy, all inclusive, and never exclusive, and it is surely true that only in AA could a low-bottom such as me find a Power greater than myself that would solve my problem. And today, at days end, I find that it is all for fun and for free.

D. A.

September Volunteers

Thank You!

Office:

Billy C., Keli D., Evelyn A., Jim H., Kevin B., Roland P., Will T., Eileen B., Abbie H., Nancy K., Buster S., Marla K., Tom B., James B., Jamie D., Gordon D., Kimberly H., Rachel Z., Kathleen G., Lesly J., John B., Don B., Eric M., Marty C., Patrick M., Will T., Barbara M., Clare B., Deb J.

Hotline:

Rachel Z., Nancy K., Scott C., John G., Amy M., Cullen L., Cheryl F., Deb J., Donita T., Marty C., Russell B., Dennis/Deanie L., Jim G., Nancy N., Paul B., Shabd K., Jenna H., Karen M., Katherine H., Danny/Tonya S., Glenn S., Mary T., Dave E., Abbie B., Stewart G., Mark A., Kelly Q., Dennis "Pete" P., Carol M., Gordon K., Erick H., Tommy V., Jerry T., Drew W.

September Donations from Groups

Thank You!

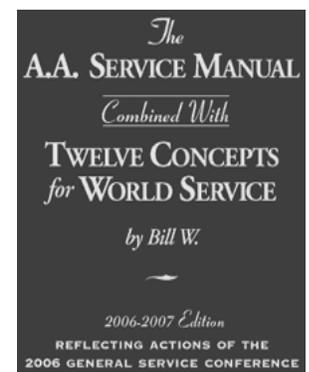
Hope(Cedar Park) - \$365
 Phelan Road - \$10
 Central - \$65
 Austin City-Wide Group (ACWG) - \$300
 Miracles - \$30
 Started in Service - \$12
 North Austin 24 - \$50
 Bridge to Shore - \$1,015
 Sunrise at Sun City - \$40
 Sunshine Group (Georgetown) - \$200
 Brushy Creek Serenity - \$50
 1313 - \$350
 1825 - \$150

Nada Glum Lot - \$128
 Lake Travis Serenity - \$250
 Renegade Ducks - \$75
 Westlake - \$450
 Elgin - \$10
 We Agnostics - \$250
 Four Points - \$100
 Solutions - \$200
 Things Are Looking Up - \$100
 On the Colorado
 South Austin Big Book Group - \$40
 Second Chance (Buda) - \$108
 The Turning Point - \$70



Concept Ten

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.



Total

\$ 4428

HILL COUNTRY
INTERGROUP

*If you want to drink,
that's your business.
If you want to stop
And can't
that's our business.*



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WWW.AUSTINAA.ORG

Attention AA Members !

Join the Hill Country Intergroup's BIRTHDAY CLUB !

Bring in a suggested donation of
\$1 *or more* per year of sobriety to:

HCI, 1825 Fortview Rd. #104, Austin, TX 78704

HCI will acknowledge you as a member of our **BIRTHDAY CLUB** by sending you an **ID Card** and by listing your name (1st name, last initial)

In this publication.

HCIA Birthday Club – New Members September, 2009

Richard K. – Bouldin – 10 years

Don B. – Hilltoppers – 11 years

Darrin A. – Bridge to Shore – 6 years

John B. – South Austin Big Book Group – 24 years

Anonymous donations- (?) \$25.00

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

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

There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.



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