

THE NIGHT CAP

Published monthly by the Central Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio. Address all communications to P O Box 644, San Antonio, Tex.

Phone F-2523 Day or Night

Volume Two

JULY 1952

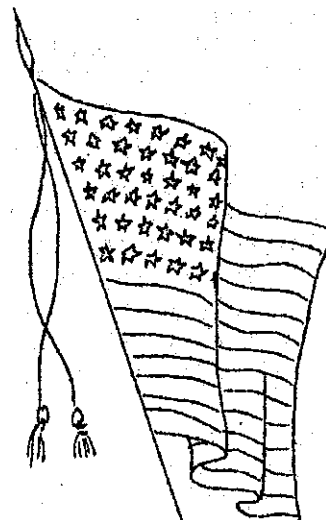
Number Ten

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT
STANDS, ONE NATION, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.

* * * *

(And God grant me the integrity to
abstain from alcohol in any form
for this 24 hours.)

* * * *



LET HIM CONTROL YOUR TEMPTATIONS

Most of us are so weak that we need some help in controlling our temptations. Our Lord knew that this weakness was real. He was always at hand. When He taught them to pray, He taught them to say, "Lead us not into temptation." When He came back from praying in Gethsemane and found His disciples asleep, He said, "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." Now, if those who were with Jesus, feeling constantly the power of His personality and example, needed help in controlling their temptations, does it not follow that we need it, too? There are not many hours in the day that some temptation does not knock at the door of our lives, urging us to yield.

Let me warn you not to confuse temptations and sin. Many people come to me burdened with a sense of guilt because they have been tempted to commit a wrong. They have not really committed the wrong, mind you, they have merely had a strong temptation. Don't worry when temptations come.

(Continued on Page 4)

AN INTERPRETATION of THE TWELVE STEPS

Step 6 - Were entirely ready to have
God remove all these defects
of character.

If you have faithfully and thoroughly acted on all the preceding steps to the best of your ability, you are now ready to ask God (as you understand Him) to help you in making many necessary corrections in your way of doing things and thinking.

Certainly you couldn't be ready for this sixth step if you hadn't been sober for some time and had taken an inventory of your moral self and know what all your personal defects are. This sixth step is one of the most difficult of accomplishment for the average alcoholic.

However, in order even to approach the sixth step, you MUST have taken the moral inventory called for in the

(Continued on Page 2)

THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS MEETING OF ALL OFFICERS AND GROUP REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTHWEST TEXAS REGIONAL ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CONFERENCE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1952, AT 2:00 P.M., IN ALICE, TEXAS. ALL AAs ARE WELCOME.

AN INTERPRETATION of
THE TWELVE STEPS (Cont'd from Page 1)

fourth step and made the admissions of the fifth step. It would be comparable, without having done so, to a man trying to sell a warehouse full of merchandise without knowing exactly what he had in the warehouse. You would, in effect, say to God: "I am ready to have all my defects of character removed, but I have no accurate knowledge of what they are."

Most of us now know what most of our defects are, and some of us are entirely ready to have them removed. But there are those who are staying sober as a matter of necessity to life who are not ready to have ALL our defects of character removed for various reasons.

Our reasons are myriad and among them are such as: "Am not ready to so completely change my way of life," "Have too recently been a no-good so-and-so to change so abruptly," and so on and on.

Here's a good place to call on our "Serenity Prayer," the prayer A. A. has adopted for its own from some unknown writer of the past, which is:

"God grant me the serenity to
Accept things I cannot change,
Courage to change things I can,
And wisdom to know the difference."

It has been said that there are as many ways to "get" the A. A. program as there are individuals who "get" it. Get, in this instance, means to be a successful or sober follower of the program. So however you, as an individual, choose to apply this to yourself, if that way keeps you sober for 24 hours, you are doing it the right way. And, with your hand in the hand of God as you understand God, your way will be a sober one.

- ARTHUR C.

THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF AA

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.
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.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary spiritual aim.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ social workers.
9. AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

TWELVE ESSENTIAL STEPS
LEADING TO A NEW WAY OF LIFE

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol -- that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His Will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual experience as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

-- AA --

(SW Tex Conference - Cont'd from Page 4)

At the Sunday morning breakfast-meeting in El Morocco Room, Harlingen was chosen as the next meeting place of Southwest Texas Conference. The date is August 8, 9 and 10, 1953.

Saturday afternoon the four Texas delegates to the New York Service Conference made their report, which was very informative.

Make your plans now for next year's convention in San Antonio in June and in Harlingen in August.

-- AA --

DIRECTORY OF AA ACTIVITIES

Call F-2523 for information of any AA activity in S.A. and Southwest Texas.

MONDAY

S.A. Suburban, State Hospital, Club 12 and Industrial Groups, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

City-wide meeting in West Wing of Municipal Auditorium, 8 p.m., under sponsorship of San Antonio Central Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous. Open to the Public. Women's Group, 6:30 p.m., 614 Avenue E.

WEDNESDAY

Alamo Heights & Highland Park Groups

THURSDAY

Collins Gardens, Earl, Industrial and Fulton Center Groups.

FRIDAY

Downtown Group, 8 p.m., in Sahara Club Rooms. Family Group same time and place. Club 12, 8 p.m. in Club 12 Club Rooms. Family Group same time and place.

SATURDAY

Industrial Group, 8 p.m., 614 Avenue E. Open to the public

SUNDAY - Industrial Group, open to public. * * * * * 8 p.m.

- CORPUS CHRISTI -

Downtown Group meets at Civic Center. Tuesday open meeting; Friday closed mtg; Family Group. Club 10 meets at 146 Tompkins St. Monday closed meeting; Family Group. Friday open meeting. Alamo Group, meets at 607 Kinney St. Monday, closed meeting; Family Group. Friday open meeting.

- AUSTIN -

Austin Group meets at 608 N. Seventh St. Tuesday open meeting; Thursday State Hospital; Friday closed meeting; Family Group.

- HONDO -

Seco Club meets at DeMontel Hall Thursday at 8 p.m. Mail P O Box 338. Phone Day 25, Night 353-J.

--AA--

The Industrial Group received a check from The Health Education Dept., Kelly AFB, which is a donation in lieu of flowers in memory of JOHN S. HUBBARD, who died in Glendale, Calif., in May. Mr. Hubbard was a brother-in-law of Mrs. Jean Westerman, who is an employee at Kelly A. F. B.

LET HIM CONTROL YOUR TEMPTATIONS
(Cont'd from Page 1)

All of us have them. The point at which your sense of guilt should get the best of you is when you succumb to the temptation and actually commit the sin. Even Jesus was tempted as we are. He had the strength to overcome the temptor and turn him away.

He can give you that strength if you will let Him control your life. Let us see how Jesus met temptation, that we may know how to meet it when it comes into our lives.

When the temptor came to Jesus with a physical temptation, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of God." In other words, He was saying that in order to resist temptation, we must feed our souls with spiritual food. He mentions specifically the word of God. He practiced that admonition Himself. Oh, beloved, if our Lord needed to feed His soul with the word of God, we must do it also if we are to handle our temptations.

When we read the account of Christ's temptation, we find another formula that He used which we need. When He was tempted to sell His soul for personal gain, He answered the Satanic force, "Get thee hence, Satan; for it is written that thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." Here Jesus says we resist temptations as we worship. The highest and most holy mood of life is worship. Who can hear the voice of temptation when he is in the mood of worship. It is then that we hear the voice of God. So, beloved, when temptation becomes too strong to bear, go to your church and worship. You will gain the strength you need.

But there is one other thing that Jesus said we must do to resist temptation. Listen, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." It is through service that we keep the temptor at bay. The idle mind is the devil's workshop. Keep busy serving God, and you will find help to control

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Year: G. W. Cliff M., Ray A. S.,
Jeane S.
2 Years: Cliff H., Robert K.C.,
John B.
3 Years: Gabe I., Cy Strayer.
4 Years: Joe C., Joe G., William O.,
Katherine O.
5 Years: Charlie U.
6 Years: Art B., Claude R.
12 Years: Capt Joe A.

-- AA --

Southwest Texas Conference of A.A. and Texas State AA convened in joint session in the Robert Driscoll Hotel at Corpus Christi Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 13, 14 and 15, 1952.

San Antonio members opened and closed the speaking, George McK being the first speaker Friday and Dorothy H being the last Sunday morning.

It would be hard to select any highlights from the convention, as every minute was near-ecstatic, what with each speaker having something to contribute to the pot and the between-sessions renewal of old acquaintances and meeting new ones.

There were 416 delegates and visitors in attendance at the banquet Saturday at 7 p.m. And after the banquet, which was a real supper, there was dancing until midnight.

At the State delegate breakfast Saturday at 7 a.m., San Antonio was chosen as the 1953 convention city and Dr. Joe M was named convention chairman for '53. The 1953 convention will be held at the Plaza Hotel Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 19, 20 and 21.

(Concluded on Page 3)

your temptations. Find a place of need; a place that needs the help of your efforts to strengthen some kingdoms enterprise and you will not have as many temptations come your way. But if they do come then, "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." Let God control your life, and you will have the strength to resist.

-- REV. W. EARL WALDROP

LASKER AWARD TO A A

The American Medical Association voted Alcoholics Anonymous the 1951 Lasker Award.

The Award is given each year for distinguished service in the field of public health.

The Lasker Award is a statuette . . . replica of the classical Winged Victory of Samothrace, symbolizing victory over death and disease. It now occupies a pedestal in the New York General Service Offices of Alcoholics Anonymous.

No AA fellow anywhere can be unmindful of the tremendous significance to himself and to the "millions who do not yet know" of this, the greatest public honor to come to AA thus far. We are also grateful to the Lasker Committee for the manner of its presentation. Bernard L. Smith, non-alcoholic chairman of the AA foundation, accepted and Bill (introduced anonymously as "an early member") responded. Thus AA had been accorded national recognition. . . and our Eleventh Tradition had not only been preserved but had been underlined with the quiet dignity of AA selflessness.

The Award was presented October 30, 1951 in San Francisco, during a convention of the American Medical Association.

- Grapevine

-- AA --

THE NIGHTCAP has received a copy of the Austin Dri-Gest, a brand new monthly AA publication by the Austin (Texas) group. These publications are always very interesting to us and this new Austin Dri-Gest is among the best. Thanks for the copy, DRI-GEST, and keep 'em coming.

-- AA --

Other publications for which we are grateful are: THE SAHARA from Waco; THE KEY from Lexington; CHIT CHAT from Rochelle, Ill.; HERE'S HOW from Chicago; THE BRIGHTER SIDE from Waterloo, Iowa; THE FAMILY FORUM from San Francisco, THE LIFELINE from Vancouver; THE PORTAL from St. Louis; RECOVERY from Jackson, Mich.; and others which we hope will keep sending.

-- AA --

The patient was late for dinner and was hurrying down the hall. A member of the psychiatric staff was walking in the opposite direction. "Good morning, doctor," greeted the patient. The doctor returned the greeting but, as he continued down the hall, he mused to himself, "I wonder what he meant by THAT?"

--- --

A Texan passed away and, arriving at his destination, remarked: "I never thought heaven would be so much like Texas." The keeper of the Hot Spot replied: "This AIN'T Texas, son!"

-- AA --

TALKING TOO MUCH.

We very often repent talking too much, but we very seldom repent talking too little. The value of words depends upon their weight, not on their number. Cicero said he preferred the wisdom of the uneducated to the folly of the loquacious. It is usually the case that the less people think the more they talk. And it is a proverbial saying that much tongue and much judgment seldom go together -- those who talk too much are commonly accused of neither having the wit to speak well nor the judgment to hold their tongue. Talkativeness is more or less a disease, not easily cured. Swift says that there is no wild beast more to be dreaded than a communicative man with nothing to communicate. Talking much or little is not necessarily in proportion to one's knowledge -- it is pretty largely a matter of judgment, or perhaps of discretion or the lack of it. Even the fool, if he have the good sense to hold his peace, is often accounted wise, while the supposedly wise man who talks too much may show himself a fool.Guard that erring member, the Tongue, and if we must use it, use it to say kind things and not be critical. When it pays better to talk than to listen, then change your company.....

- THE KEY

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...
...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...

...the ... of ...