

THE NIGH CAP

Published Monthly by the Central Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous in San Antonio
Address all Communications to P. O. Box 644, San Antonio 6, Texas

VOLUME THREE

OCTOBER, 1952

NUMBER ONE

AN INTERPRETATION OF THE TWELVE STEPS

Step 10 - Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

This, and Steps 11 and 12 are probably the most interesting of the lot, since they are designed to keep you working on the program of Alcoholics Anonymous for the balance of your life. And we urge you to continue to work at it, for it is our opinion that working at and living the AA way of life will make for great happiness and well-being for you and those associated with you.

In the fourth step we took the big inventory of our selves and found out what all was wrong with us and acted according to the suggestions in the following steps, and we have cleared up most of the wreckage of our past and now we are advised to "continue to take personal inventory." If we do this we will be keeping a pretty close watch on our state of mind, taking care that our thoughts don't fall back into the old drinking days' habit of intolerances, dislikes, jealousies and all the myriad of other "devils" that creep in when the door is unguarded.

Here it says, "Continued to take personal inventory." That means (to us) that we work each day on our own inventory, keeping it up to the minute, and "when we were wrong, promptly admitted it," means when we find an error we correct it, immediately.

In (our) bygone drinking days, for instance, we used to make an assertion that we realized almost immediately was wrong, but if somebody confronted us with the error, we would "back up" what we had asserted to the extent of fighting for it. But now, when we realize we have erred, we promptly admit it and that generally ends it.

How can one keep on nagging at us when we have admitted ourselves to be in error?

In waiting until this tenth step to ask us to admit we were wrong, the creators of this program were very wise, for when

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LET GOD CONTROL YOUR TRAGEDIES

No word known to mankind can be sharpened to a keener cutting edge than the word "why." When tragedy comes, this word is most poignant. We cry out, "Why does life hurt so?" "Why do we have to face so many heartaches?" "Why does God allow life to tumble in about us?"

I went to the cemetery recently with a mother who had lost two children in less than a year. As we walked away from the open grave, she asked, "Why did two have to be taken from me in so short a time?" So the questions come from all walks of life asking, "Why? Why? Why?"

Here is a man, for instance, who has lost his health and with it has no family security. He can see no way clear for the future of his family. What can he do in the face of such stark tragedy?

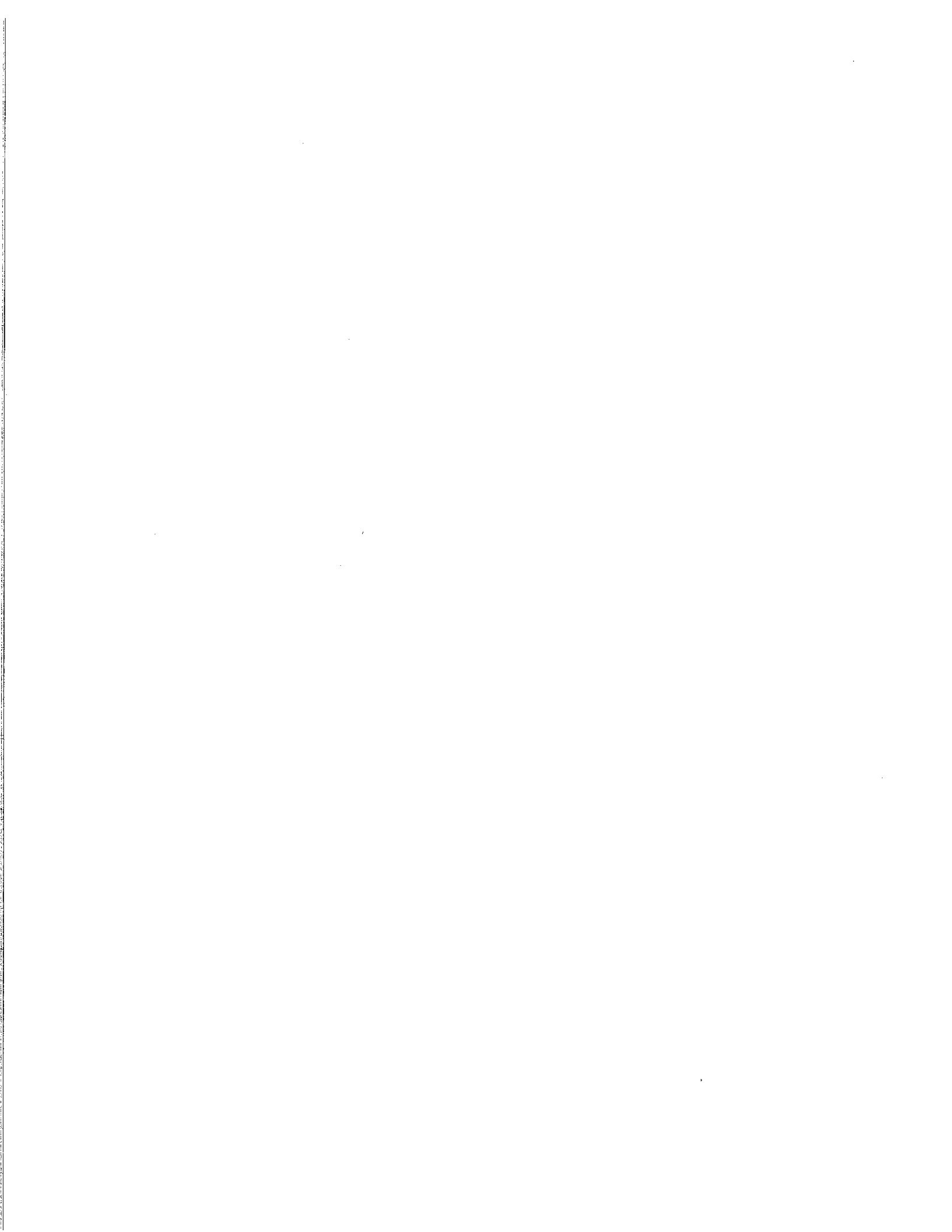
Or, here is a woman suffering from cancer. The doctor can do nothing for her. There is no hope for a cure. The only sure thing is that she will gradually grow worse and worse, weaker and weaker and finally die. That is tragedy at its worst.

Add your own dilemma to these and you will understand what I mean when I say that tragedy is among the inevitables of life to imperfect man.

What brings tragedy into our lives? Is it as so many say, God's will that one comes to such moments? I do not believe it. Sometimes we bring tragedy into our lives through our own stupidity; but the kind of tragedy that I have mentioned comes because of unavoidable circumstances.

The question that concerns us most is, "What can we do when the lamp of life flickers?" Time after time man has come to the end of his tether and cried out, "Now, what can I do?" Man has, through the ages, given many different answers. Many of his answers have worsened his condition. Some of his answers have caused him to sink lower. There is one answer that history has validated for all

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THE STORY OF THE 8 RICH MEN

In 1932, a very important meeting was held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. Attending this meeting were eight of the world's most successful financiers. Those present were:

1. - The president of the largest independent steel company;
2. - The president of the largest utility company;
3. - The president of the largest gas company;
4. - The president of the New York Stock Exchange;
5. - A member of the President's cabinet;
6. - The greatest "bear" in Wall Street;
7. - Head of the world's greatest monopoly;
8. - President of the Bank for International Settlements.

Certainly we must admit that here were gathered a group of the world's most successful men. At least, men who had found the secret of "making money." Twenty five years later let's see where these men are:

1. - The president of the largest independent steel company - Charles Schwab - died a bankrupt and lived on borrowed money for five years before his death.
2. - The president of the greatest utility company - Samuel Insull - died a fugitive from justice and penniless in a foreign land.
3. - The president of the largest gas company - Howard Hopson - is now insane.
4. - The president of the New York Stock Exchange - Richard Whitney - was recently released from Sing Sing Penitentiary.
5. - The member of the President's cabinet - Albert Fall - was pardoned from prison so he could die at home.
6. - The greatest "bear" in Wall Street - Jesse Livermore - died a suicide.
7. - The head of the greatest monopoly - Ivan Krueger - died a suicide.
8. - The president of the Bank for International Settlements - Leon Fraser - died a suicide.

All these men learned well the art of making money, but not one of them had learned how to live.

A mistake is evidence that someone has tried to do something. - AA

Famous last words: "Let's put off AA till tomorrow. - AA

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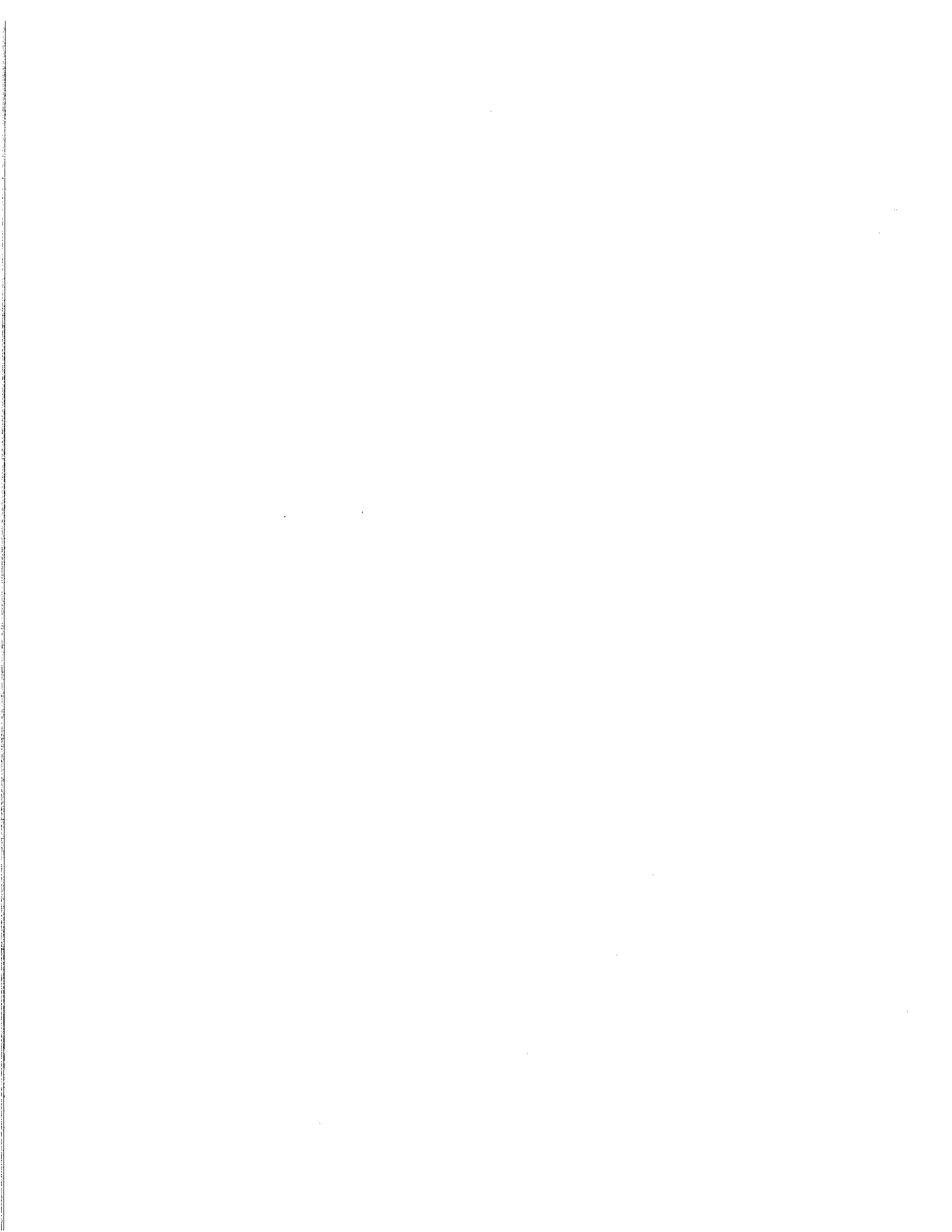
we first came into AA and were fighting merely to go for a few hours without a drink, it would have been unthinkable for us to admit maybe we were wrong about anything.

Here's another appropriate place to interject some of the standby phrases of AA such as Easy Does It. You don't have to make a martyr of yourself just because you're following the AA program and go out of your way to admit you're wrong. If you sincerely believe you're right, assert yourself, but not to the extent of argument. Let the other fellow have his way, keep an open mind, and ease up on the useless conversation. You'll be surprised how much you'll learn that would have passed you by had you kept doing all the talking.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 YEAR: Jimmie B., George C., Paul D.
- 2 YEARS: Vivian B., Arthur E. T.
- 3 YEARS: Archie F., Clyde W.
- 5 YEARS: Allan T.
- 6 YEARS: Alex L., Nedra M.,
- 7 YEARS: Zoe C.

"One must never forget when misfortunes come that it is quite possible they are saving one from something much worse; or that when you make a great mistake, it may very easily serve you better than the best-advised decision. Life is a whole, and luck is a whole, and no part of them can be separated from the rest."



HERE ARE THE STEPS WE TOOK, WHICH ARE SUGGESTED AS A PROGRAM OF RECOVERY . . .

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 practice these principles in all our affairs.

***AA**

A young man filling out an application for a position with a large institution came across the embarrassing question about his father's occupation at the time of his death. The young man wrote: "At the time of his death, my father occupied the chair of applied electricity at a large state institution."

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

Children in our neighborhood have built a clubhouse. On the wall in childish lettering, is a list of club rules. No. 1 reads:

"Nobody act big; nobody act small; everybody act medium."

***AA**

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time. That answer is "Let God control your tragedies." It has been true historically that at the point where the resources of human wit have come to an end, man has found God. So true that the ancient adage has become a household phrase, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity."

This does not mean that God comes into life only when it crashes. It is not only when other helpers fail and comforts flee that man finds God. Men have met Him in unlikely places. But a perfect place of meeting has been at the crossroad of life called tragedy. God comes to us when we are willing to realize that human devices are not enough.

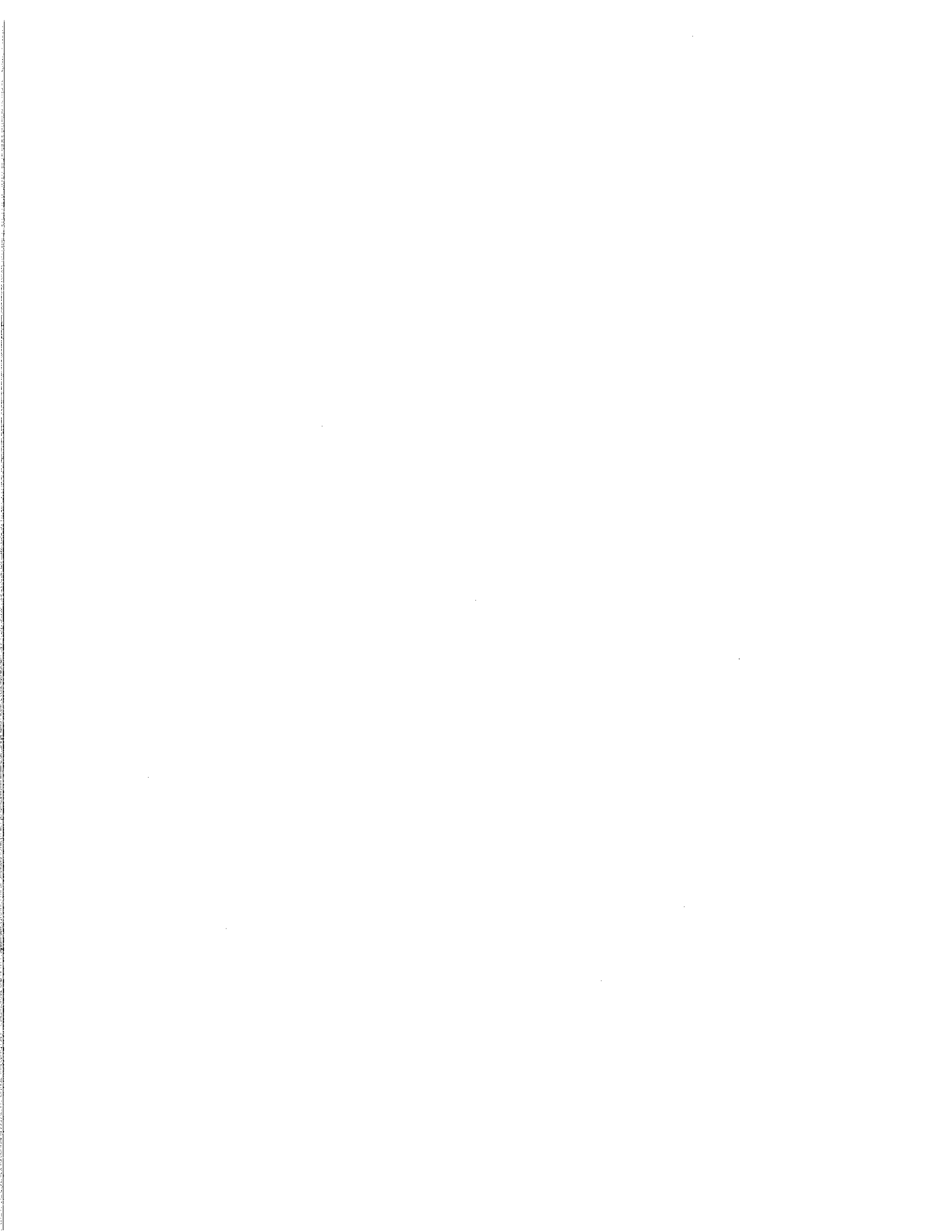
Running like an unbroken chain throughout the Bible are the precious promises that He will not forsake us at that crossroad. Listen: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out," and again He says, "I will not leave you comfortless, I will send my comforter unto you."

Among the greatest lessons that life has to teach us is that man is not sufficient unto himself. We reach into the heart of life's meaning when we come to the conclusion that man minus God equals misery; man minus God equals loneliness; man minus God equals desperation. But, man plus God equals victory, even at the crossroads of tragedy.

When we can face life at its worst and do the best things; when we can constantly abide with God and He with us, no matter what our circumstances -- then we have learned the secret of finding the light of Him who said, "I am the light of the world. Let Him control your tragedies. Let Him throw His everlasting Arms about you and show you the way to peace and poise in the face of tragedy. Let God control.

- Rev. W. Earl Waldrop

A drunk lost his balance and fell six stories to the ground. A crowd had gathered when a policeman arrived and asked the cause of the excitement. "I don't know," the drunk admitted, "I just got here!"



DIRECTORY OF AA ACTIVITIES

Call F-2523 for information of any AA activity in San Antonio and Southwest Texas.

MONDAY

State Hospital and Industrial Groups.

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 Public. Women's group meets at 6:30 P.M. at 614 Avenue E.

WEDNESDAY

Highland Park - Collins Gardens

THURSDAY

Olmos Park, Earl, Industrial and Fulton Center Groups.

FRIDAY

Downtown and Club Twelve Groups. Family Groups meet at same time and places.

SATURDAY

Industrial Group, 614 Avenue E. Open to public.

SUNDAY

Industrial Group. Open. Downtown, 4:30 P.M.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Downtown Group meets at Civic Center Tuesday; Open; Friday closed. Family Group meets Friday. Club 10 meets at 146 Tompkins Street. - Monday closed. Friday open. Family group meets Monday. Alano Group meets at 607 Kinney Street. - Monday closed. Friday open. Family Group meets Monday.

AUSTIN

Austin Group meets at 608 No. Seventh St. Tuesday open; Thursday State Hospital. Friday Closed. Sunday Closed. Family Group meets Friday.

HONDO

Seco Club meets at DeMontel Hall Thursdays at 8 P.M. Mail P. O. Box 338. Phone Day 25; Night 353 - J.

FELLOWSHIP IN A.A.

Where, in all the various clubs, lodges, and even religious organizations, do you find as close a fellowship as can be found in AA? The program seems to automatically draw us together, just as survivors of a shipwreck gather as one on a raft. Having endured common hardships and tragedies we, like victims of a shipwreck, seek each other's company and find comfort there. We become more like the brothers that God must have intended us to be. None of us is greater or lesser than the other, because we are all in the same boat and we have to depend on each other for our very survival. Suddenly, we are conscious of one of life's simple lessons:

Being humble is not being bigger than our fellow man, or smaller than our fellow man -- it is being the same as our fellow man.

In the fellowship of A.A. we learn this lesson, and we are grateful for having done so.

"How did you make out in the fight with your wife the other night?"

"She came crawling to me on her hands and knees."

"What did she say?"

"Come out from under that bed, you worm!"

Humility leads to strength and not to weakness. It is the highest form of self-respect to admit mistakes and to make amends for them.

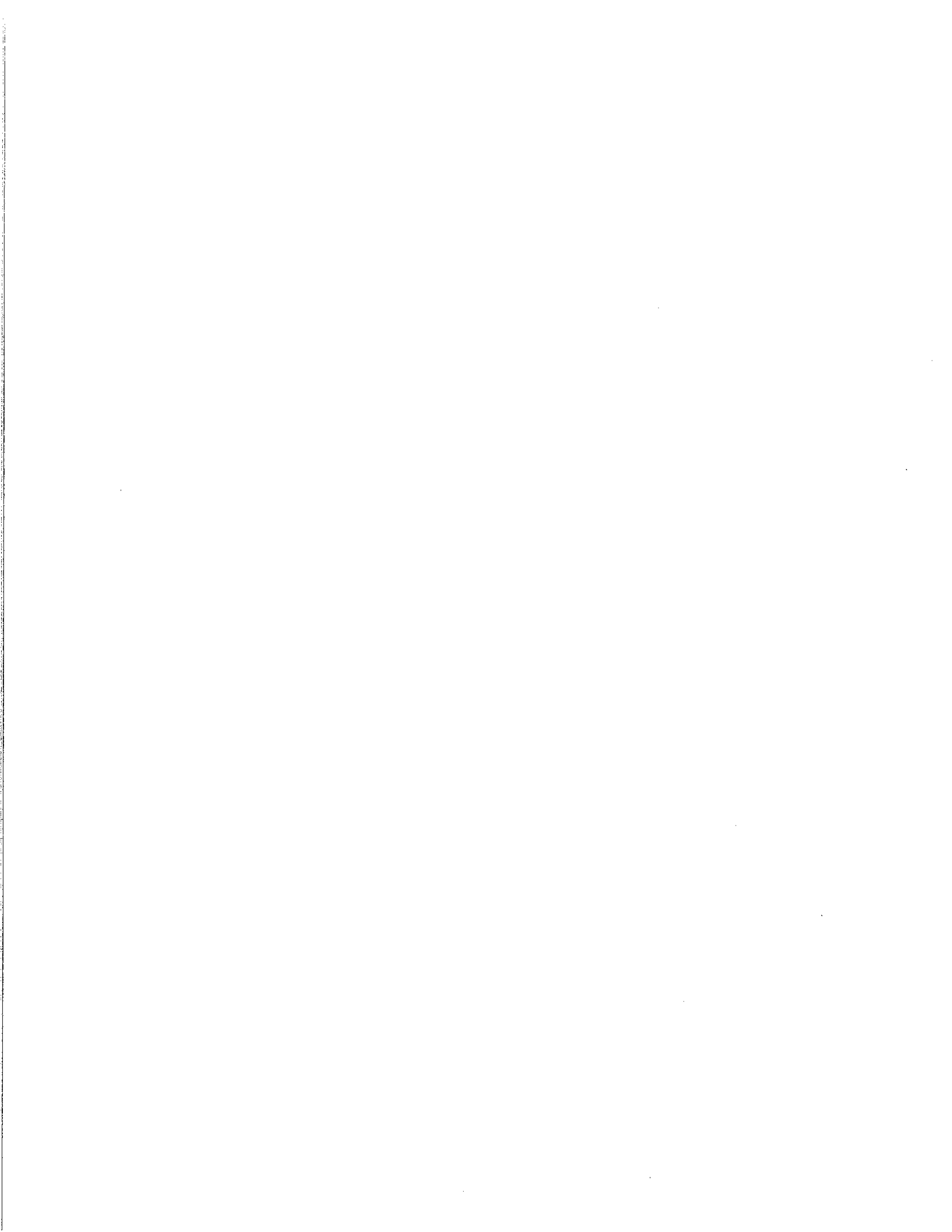
- JOHN J. McCLOY

Two good reasons why some people don't mind their own business is that they don't have any mind or business.

-----**AA**-----

God gave me today as a reward for yesterday's accomplishments and as a period in which to gain the strength to face the trials of tomorrow with courage and a smile.

- L. L. T.



AA I N A C T I O N

Congratulations to Capt. Milt S. and Mary Lee H. who were united in holy matrimony last month.

Earl A. has been at Rochester, Minn., where the Mayos were checking his anatomy. Hope Earl is back home and okay by the time you read this.

Club Twelve has been renovated, repainted and renewed and looks very scrumptious. You are invited to attend a meeting there some Friday night and look it over.

Col. Orlo Q. is us and at 'em again after a slight siege of illness.

Dorothea C. was in Baptist Memorial Hospital, slated to stay a month. Maybe she's still there.

Fred L. H., Raymondville, Texas, visited the Central Office last month.

Ivan "The Terrible" A, has taken over a filling station across Broadway from the Broadway Theater and hopes to see you soon.

Doc, Central Office Secretary, says, "Everything is under control, life is a bed of roses, but I'm road floundered!"

Dan McI. is again in circulation after a brush with the old man with the scythe. We pray for Dan's permanent recovery. Dan spent a couple of months in Brooke General Hospital.

-- A mistake is evidence that someone has tried to do something.

AA

Paul B. was laid up for repairs when this issue went to press, but our prayers have probably got him back at work by now, we hope!

Warren C.'s mother passed away and was interred at Blanco. We offer Warren our heartfelt condolences in his bereavement.

Dorothy H. is back on her feet and walking without aid after her mishap of last month. Goody!

Highland Group is meeting permanently now at 504 Kayton Street, Corner Palmetto. Take Rigsby bus and get off at Palmetto, walk one block south, next door to Aldersgate Methodist Church. Meetings are on Wednesdays at 8 o'clock. Everybody welcome to every meeting.

Industrial Group is still waiting for those blankets and other bedclothing that they prayed for a couple of months ago. Go check N O W, and call B-37853 and tell Bill they're ready. He'll come and get 'em!

This issue of THE NIGHTCAP marks its second birthday, proving that there are enough subscribers to keep it in existence. The editor and the Central Committee thank those subscribers for their support and promise to keep trying to make a better and more informative periodical, aiming to inform and please you.



