

More Than Not Drinking



When I came into AA I had an obvious problem – my drinking and using other substances – and a not so obvious problem – money. At least it was not obvious to me.

For most of my life I spent more money than I had. Some of the things I told myself were necessary – like a car, food, clothes, etc. The truth was I spent money to make me feel better because I did not like the person I was.

When I did not have money, I just charged things, wrote checks when there was no money to cover them,

and took from Peter to pay Paul.

I was so indebted when I came into AA, and to be honest, had no desire to change. After all, I could not do drugs or alcohol anymore and spending what I did not have would not kill me as they would.

I was over 10 years in sobriety when I found myself traveling with a woman for several hours. We started talking and it came out that I was in recovery and so was she. She was a long time member of Debtors Anonymous and shared with me what it was like, what happened and what it was like now.

There was something in her I wanted so I asked her to be my sponsor. I started going to some meetings and working the steps around money.

As a result of the work I did with that woman, I was able to make all my financial amends which including paying off every debt I had – dollar for dollar. It was something no one knew except me, my husband, and my sponsor. It was a life-changing act.

Getting my finances in order is one of the best things I have done in my life. I have found a new freedom and a new happiness that brought the AA promises to life especially the one regarding freedom from fear of financial insecurity.

For me, true sobriety goes much deeper than not drinking. As long as I am continuing old behavior around any addictions I cannot have the emotional sobriety I wanted so much when I came into AA.

Anonymous

The Greatest Of Virtues

Lucky, Lucky, Lucky Us

Lucky you, Lucky me, Lucky us! Imagine walking into a room full of strangers and searching in vain to find some commonality.

You learn that they're not related, have various educational and vocational backgrounds, represent different age groups, races and creeds, and hale from different parts of the country.

Then you discover something odd. Everyone in the room is a lottery winner. Would that not be an astonishing coincidence?

Of course it would. Yet you and everyone you know have already beaten longer odds than any *Powerball* winner. You just may not realize it, ...*Yet*.

For example, when you consider your good fortune, you probably tell yourself something like, "I have decent health, a loving family, good friends, a nice home and plenty of stuff."

Yet that hardly scratches the surface. Yes, you've had your share of setbacks, too. We all must deal from time to time with marital discord, family issues, money problems, sickness, heartache, and the death

of friends and family members.

Still, the very fact that you're here at all would defy the odds-makers. In



Continued on page 2

Intergroup Purpose

Our Intergroup serves as the servant of the member groups to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in ways that are not practical for the groups to do.

Service Meetings

Intergroup	7:00pm	1st Tuesday
Corrections	7:00pm	2nd Tuesday
Treatment	6:30pm	3rd Thursday
Grapevine	7:15pm	last Tuesday
PI/CPC	6:30pm	3rd Wednesday
Newsletter	1:30pm	1st Saturday
District	7:00pm	last Tuesday



Sunrise Solutions Group

Steven M.	06/02/2010	1 yr
Teddy S.	06/02/2010	1 yr
Thomas A.	06/18/2010	1 yr
Michael H.	06/11/2009	2 yrs
Oscar	06/15/2009	2 yrs
Angel H.	06/25/2008	3 yrs
Dixie B.	06/10/2000	11 yrs
Arlene M.	06/04/1990	21 yrs

Broad Highway Group

Dana J.	06/27/2010	1 yr
Cat H.	06/13/2008	3 yrs
Monty M.	06/27/2006	5 yrs
Chris M.	06/17/1991	20 yrs
Jeane L.	06/29/1991	20 yrs

'Faithful Fivers' are A.A. members who, in gratitude, contribute each month (\$5.00) toward support of the Savannah Intergroup Office.

The 'Faithful Fivers' idea came about by remembering how many of us wasted many times that dollar amount in far less time during our drinking careers. Enrollment is always open!!

Please make your check payable to: Savannah Intergroup Association
And mail it to: 6205 Abercorn St., Suite 110 Savannah, GA 31405

Name _____

Address _____

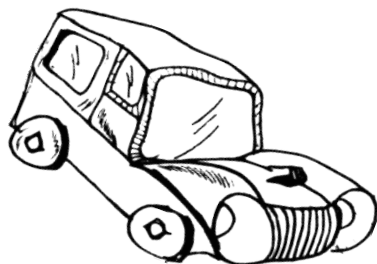
City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

I would like to donate:

Monthly: \$ _____ Quarterly: \$ _____
Semi-Annually: \$ _____ Annually: \$ _____

Did You Know?



A recent joint study conducted by the Department of Health and the Department of Motor Vehicles indicates that 23% of traffic accidents are alcohol related.

This means that the remaining 77% are caused by people who just drink teas, coffees, soft drinks, juices, and stuff like that.

Therefore, be aware of those who do not drink alcohol. They cause three times as many accidents.

Be safe!

Lucky, Lucky, Lucky

Continued from page 1

"Unweaving the Rainbow," Oxford biologist Richard Dawkins puts things in perspective:

"We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones. Most people are never going to die because they are never going to be born. The potential people who could have been here in my place but who will in fact never see the light of day outnumber the sand grains of the Sahara. Certainly those unborn ghosts include greater poets than Keats, and scientists greater than Newton. We know this because the set of possible people allowed by our DNA massively outnumbers the set of actual people. In the teeth of these stupefying odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here."

Consider how little chance you had of ever arriving at this party. Every one of your forebears was attractive enough to find a mate, healthy enough to reproduce, and sufficiently blessed by fate and circumstances to live long enough to do so. Each was able to deliver a tiny charge of genetic material to the right partner at the right moment in order to perpetuate the only possible sequence of hereditary combinations that would result in you.

Consider, too, the other ways you won the birth lottery. Most of human history, for example, was pre-agricultural. For tens of thousands of years, people lived lives that were - in Thomas Hobbes' famous phrase - "nasty, brutish and short," battling the elements, hunting and scavenging to survive.

Even 200 years ago, the vast majority of the world's population experienced the present standard of living of Bangladesh. And, of course, people enjoyed none of the political freedoms we take for granted in the West today: freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, freedom from conscription, freedom to choose your leaders, or to pursue your economic self-interest.

Billions still lack these freedoms today, of course. But if you're reading this, you're almost certainly not one of them.

I'm not suggesting that modern life is a bowl of cherries. We're in a tough economic environment, for example. Millions are out of work. Yet most

Americans still enjoy a level of comfort, security and material prosperity undreamed of by 99.9% of those who ever lived.

Your ancestors four generations removed would marvel at contemporary life: unlimited food at affordable prices... plagues that killed millions - polio, smallpox, measles, rickets - all but eradicated... the end of backbreaking physical toil for most wage earners... the advent of instantaneous global communication and same-day travel to distant cities... mass home ownership with central heat and air and limitless modern conveniences... senior citizens cared for financially and medically, ending the fear of impoverished old age.

And thanks largely to advances in science and technology, we have enjoyed the greatest human accomplishment of all time - the near doubling of the average lifespan over the last hundred years. (At the beginning of the twentieth century, the average American lived just 42 years.)

So let's do a bit of summing up. The chances of your ever being born are almost incalculably slim. The odds of arriving in the modern era are also staggering. And billions alive today were born into wrenching poverty in China, India, sub-Saharan Africa, or some miserable failed state.

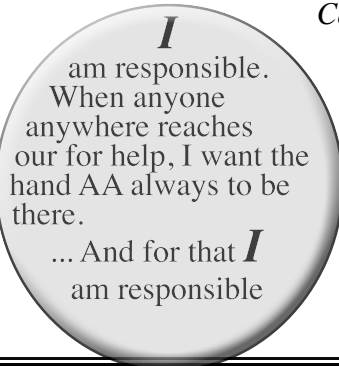
You could easily be living in a society without modern infrastructure, communications, or even a reliable power supply. You might have no free-market system with incentives for you, no police force to protect you, no court system to enforce contracts, or protect your rights.

Recognize that, whatever your personal circumstances, you have been astoundingly fortunate. Why is this important to know? One reason is that it puts your life in perspective. Another is that psychologists say it's almost impossible to feel grateful and unhappy at the same time.

We should all feel immense appreciation for the life that we were given - and make a conscious effort to practice looking at what's right in our lives rather than what's missing.

As Cicero noted a couple thousand years ago, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others."

*Carpe Diem,
Alex*



The Ten Year Anniversary; *A Moment in History*

The occasion was the Founders' Day Dinner, held at the Hotel Mayflower, and the group of speakers included those who helped to light the beacon. Bill W. and Dr. Bob, hurrying over from the Cleveland meeting, spoke, as did Bill D., of Akron, who was a part of that A.A. nucleus. Other speakers were Jake H., one of the organizers of the Pittsburgh group; and Earl T., of Chicago. Joe P., of Akron, was toastmaster and Wally G., also of Akron, was chairman of the dinner committee.

Attendance at the dinner reached approximately 80 percent of the membership of Akron's eight sizable and highly active groups.

Drawing on the fact that the name "Akron" is derived from a Greek word meaning "summit," Bill said at one point in his talk: "It was here that the miracle really happened. This is the hill where the A.A. beacon was lit 10 years ago. From here the light spread outward to guide others and is now casting its glow over a widening area."



"Because of drinking, my friend Henry had lost a high-salaried job. There remained a fine house — with a budget three times his reduced earnings.

"He could have rented the house for enough to carry it. But no! Henry said he knew that God wanted him to live there, and He would see that the costs were paid. So Henry went on running up bills and glowing with faith. Not surprisingly, his creditors finally took over the place.

"Henry can laugh about it now, having learned that God more often helps those who are willing to help themselves."

Letter, 1966

Self-Support

In the pamphlet "Self-Support: When Money and Spirituality Mix" our General Conference suggests that, after your group pays for its expenses, the money left over should be divided as follows in districts where an Intergroup exists:

- Intergroup 50%
- General Service Office 30%
- District 10%
- Area 10%

In our district/area consideration is also given to the New Year's Eve gathering and the Georgia Prepaid Convention.



June 10-12

76th Anniversary & Founders Day
Akron, Ohio
foundersdayregistrationakronaa.org

June 11

Registration 8:00 AM
East Central Cluster Forum
'The Fork'
411 Northside Dr. E.
Statesboro, GA 30458

June 17-19

30th Azalea Jamboree
Box 9005, Mobile, Alabama 36691

June 25 – July 2

Sober Safari To Africa
www.sobercelebrations.com

July 30

Registration 8:00am
Northeast Cluster Forum
First Baptist Church of Monroe
(Fellowship Hall)
202 McDaniel Street
Monroe, GA 30655



I can take it, or leave it alone.

Financial Insecurity

At five years sober I was experiencing the thrill of realizing most of the promises in the Big Book. That is, except for one, the fear of economic insecurity.

The only thing I could figure out was that I wasn't trusting God enough to take care of me. I still thought it was up to me to have a job and make money and pay my bills.

Suddenly it occurred to me that I hadn't really done a good job back on Step three. Clearly it said that God would take care of me. And he had, but I failed to trust Him with all my personal finances. So I made another decision. A decision that was, once again, to alter my life.

If having money and stuff wasn't the answer to solving my financial insecurity perhaps I needed to see that maybe there was another paradox – like surrendering to win was. It sure worked when I surrendered and the obsession and compulsion to drink was removed.

So, I surrendered. I surrendered all of my worldly possessions – I gave away my car, clothes, money and job but kept my bicycle and the clothes I was wearing. I was determined to let God take care of me like Step Three indicates. I completely gave up my old life and dropped my drivers license into a waste basket as I set out to travel 1,500 on my bicycle

without the support of anything but the gift of faith. I left my old life behind me.

The next ten days turned out to be the best days of my life. I was given everything I needed every day and discovered God was not only listening to my prayers but I was listening to His replies! And my wits were really sharpened. Sometimes what I thought I needed came to me in other ways – I just had to be open to seeing that the other way worked, too. What I learned was that I never had to worry about my finances again because God would supply all of my needs. I had heard that before, but until I actually realized it by experiencing it, they were only words and didn't take root into the depth of my being. Through experience, I found that all doubt has been removed.

I gave up all credit cards and to this day will only purchase what I have money for and if I don't have the money I don't buy it.

My life has become very simple since that trip and I only own bare essentials.

Today I am very wealthy because I live in the abundance of freedom with few attachments. Joyfulness and happiness follow most of my days because I now have the time and resources to spend a great deal of my time in service.

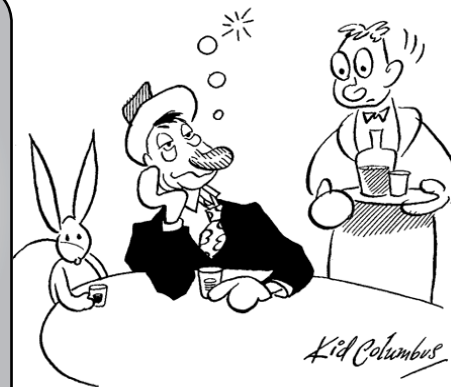
Anonymous

Beware !

Self-centeredness is an unconscious process that deludes us into thinking the world revolves around us, and what we want and need.

It's quite common, really.

And amazingly unproductive!



"I dont like to drink alone."

Kid Columbus

The Day No One Was There

It was one of those dark, rainy, dismal days where nothing was going right and I felt less than depressed...I felt miserable. The only thing that kept me going that morning was the thought of getting to the noon meeting.

It wasn't so much that I felt like drinking, it was that I craved some companionship, someone to talk with, someone to listen to all that I needed to share. I just needed some relief from the emotional duress I had been feeling all morning.

I took a shower and it helped a little. I got dressed and allowed myself enough time to get to the meeting on time but then another devastating phone call and I broke down and cried. I finally got myself together enough to get to the meeting place but now I was about 15 minutes late.

I arrived at the church but the AA sign that was usually there was missing. A woman from the church opened the door and said that someone came to open the room but after a while he left because no one else came and he said to tell anyone else who came that there would be no meeting today.

Thriving or Dying

I belong to a group that was thriving when I first arrived there. Everyone greeted me with open arms. I felt warm welcomed, and like I belonged, I was the same as everyone of us. We were all sick people trying to get better, we always have newcomers. We are close to a military installation, the turn around ratio is pretty high, and we have military retirees among locals that have been there for many, many years. We share experience strength and hope and clicks are quickly formed.

So therein lies the issue. Newcomers start hanging with

My heart sank. Where were my people? I was devastated. Someone was at the meeting but left? I couldn't wrap my brain around that one. I thought if someone was at a meeting they stayed there until it was over. I heard that's the way it used to be. I remembered reading a Grapevine article about a man once who came to a meeting every day. He was the only one until someone finally showed up a year later and then more came and the group became vibrant and successful. Where was that kind of spirit when I needed it? I felt so helpless, so alone, and so lonely. It was like I was being engulfed in a black mist and I couldn't breathe. I became scared. No, terrified. Even as I walked back home in the rain I lost all concept of reality. I felt so hopeless. I arrived back in my apartment...and killed myself.

Anonymous

Note: *Most of this article was true... except for the last line. However, it could happen. Do you do your part in making sure your meeting is available if it's listed in our meeting schedule?*

newcomers, they start posting things on Facebook and other places. They do so not knowing that this is a program of attraction rather than promotion.

Then I have also noticed the dictator, yes that one person that knows it all, is in charge and really doesn't have a clue. The person that turns an open meeting into a speaker meeting and holds everyone hostage for forty five minutes. Now this group is losing members left and right. I have been traveling the east coast for a few months now and when I return to my home group I see and feel the changes. The regulars are being replaced by new faces. I

Last Call, Y'all

Yep, this is the last call for the 76th Anniversary and Sponsorship Barbeque to be held on **Saturday, June 11** at 11:00 at 520 Washington Ave. where Broad Highway meets. Tickets go off sale on Wednesday, June 8, so please see your Intergroup Representative soon if you have not already received your ticket.

When Sponsorship Started

“In the earliest days of AA, the term ‘sponsor’ was not in the AA jargon. Then a few hospitals in Akron, Ohio, and New York began to accept alcoholics (under that diagnosis) as patients--if a sober AA member would agree to ‘sponsor’ the sick man or woman. The sponsor took the patient to the hospital, visited him or her regularly, was present when the patient was discharged, and took the patient home and then to an AA meeting. At the meeting, the sponsor introduced the newcomer to other happily nondrinking alcoholics. All through the early months of recovery, the sponsor stood by, ready to answer questions or to listen whenever needed.”

Living Sober, page 26

understand that the new person is the most important person in the rooms, however strong sponsorship, fellowship, and spirituality keeps them sober.

Signed Anonymous

2 New Meetings!

Hats Off added 2 New Meetings
Tue. & Thurs. 5:30 pm
 Big Book & Step study meetings
 Stop by after work!

Intergroup News

Your Intergroup Office has established a policy to accept all AA related correspondence for individuals, groups, and committees. If you are corresponding with another AA and don't want your home address used, the Intergroup's address can be used:

Your Name
 C/O Savannah Intergroup
 Association
 6205 Abercorn Suite 110
 Savannah, Ga. 31405

All correspondence shall be considered as confidential and will remain unopened. If you are expecting mail please let us know ahead of time so we will have your email address and/or phone number to contact you when your mail arrives.

12 Steps in 12 Weeks!

The Candlelight Group Began on Thursday, May 26 a presentation of the Twelve Steps by Sandra W., at the *All in One Group* that meets at 7:30pm on Thursday evenings at *Unity of Savannah* in the fellowship room at 2320 Sunset Blvd. in Savannah. Format is one step each week over a period of 12 weeks. Sandra will share her experience for 20 minutes then open it up so that everyone who wants to can share on the step that is being presented that week.

Intergroup Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00-6:00

Need A Delivery?

Are you in need of literature but cannot get to our office? Why not give us a call during office hours **9-6, M-F**, and we'll see what we can arrange.

Our Principles

Step Six: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition Six: An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept Six: : The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Financial Snapshot

April, 2011

Group Contributions:	\$1,489.09
Literature Sales:	<u>1,096.54</u>
Gross Income:	\$2,585.63

Office Expense	\$1,101.65
Literature:	<u>1,367.17</u>
Total Expenses	\$2,468.82

Net Income: \$116.81

(Editor's note: Because of the way our deadlines fall we will always be reporting this snapshot two months behind.)

Making amends - being sorry and saying it - is a way of vacuuming our souls. The result is that we feel clean afterward.

Contributions

Attention Group Treasurers: Please help us with our bookkeeping and Intergroup records. When making contributions to Intergroup please include your group's name, meeting day, time, and location. Also please provide us with your group's contact person's phone number. This will help to insure that our meeting schedules and web sites are up to date.

Thank you!!!



SIG Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to submit an article for publication in our newsletter please send it to signewsletter@gmail.com by the first day of every month, for inclusion in the following month's issue. Articles submitted cannot be returned. Please make a copy before submitting

Word count between 400-500 words.

Upcoming themes are:

July: Institutions
August: AA in The Workplace

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