

February 2012

THE MESSENGER

Middle Tennessee Central Intergroup

The Messenger

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SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME

I came into my first AA meeting on Sept 13, 1980. I was an 89-pound woman and had just turned 17 years old. I have been sober since that day. Recently, a group of old-timers in my area have formally met to discuss safety issues for young people in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Coming into my first AA meeting, I looked and acted as if I was considerably older than my chronological age. I felt dark and old inside as well. If I had been asked at that time, I would have sworn on my life that I could protect myself in any given situation. My sharp sixth sense had always served me well. Yet, instead, what happened was very predictable. I gravitated towards the older men I met in meetings. Yes, nice sober women

approached me too ... but who needs them? I was young, attractive, and without my alcohol. I wanted to have fun and feel excitement again. (See page 88 of the Big Book—excitement is lumped in with fear, anger, worry, self-pity and foolish decisions!).

Looking back, it is clear to me now that I thought I knew the ways of the world. I was tough, angry, and fearless, relying on my edgy nature to keep me alive. As a young practicing alcoholic, and avid hitchhiker, I frequently placed myself in dangerous situations. More than once I experienced the startling fact of my bad choices—the cold reality that I was in over my head with just-barely, narrow escapes. Like most

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PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING TO

AANASHVILLE.ORG:

ARTICLES

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AND

DON'T FORGET OUR NEED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR:

THE MESSENGER

(IN PRINT & ON-LINE)

**THE NEW MEETING DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE.
PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR INFORMATION.**

Central Office—176 Thompson Lane, Suite G-1, Nashville, TN 37211, Mon-Fri, 9am-9pm, Sat, 9am-4:30pm, Hot Line (615) 831-1050, (800) 559-2252 (outside local calling area), Business—(615) 832-1136, Fax—(615) 834-5982, email—mtcoaa@aol.com, Website—www.aanashville.org

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young people who land in an AA meeting, I was estranged from my family for a variety of reasons. I was cast to the wind and had to find my way alone.

The saving grace to my insane thinking was my constancy at meetings and my numerous meeting commitments. I became secretary of a meeting, treasurer of another, and anything else I could grab. I heard enough times that meeting commitments and being of service, would make the difference between sobriety and death. I believed it.

Upon getting sober, I was hospitalized with alcohol-related symptoms for 7 weeks. In my first year of sobriety, I moved 13 times and kept all of my belongings in my car. Thankfully, I received government financial aid to move to a half-way house for alcoholics. I left after a few months but was unable to make it on my own and returned, eventually able to find a job and get on my feet. At that time, three decades ago, minors and adults were able to co-mingle in both treatment and residential facilities.

I was residing with men in their 70s trying to get sober, just like me. Today, as the protective laws for minors have improved, in treatment settings and society as a whole, we intelligently delineate between minors and adults.

When I was a few months sober, I started dating an AA member 15 years older than me. One evening he became physically aggressive towards me outside of a large speaker meeting when I refused to lend him money. Others saw the interaction and no one ever spoke of it.

Newcomers are mentally and emotionally confused, especially those under the age of 21. They often confuse popular or well-known to mean someone is safe, responsible and spiritually fit. Still young and newly sober, I hadn't learned my lesson yet. I moved into another brief relationship with a 40-year old circuit speaker. He was "big in AA" and had recently published a book. He had just spoken at a large convention and told me how he felt suicidal and wanted to jump out of a tall high-rise. I experienced a distinctly sad recognition that AA was not the safe harbor I had hoped it would be.

I don't share this personal information easily here today. I am ashamed of my "sober" behavior that first year or two of sobriety. As a minor child, again, looking back, I'm surprised that none of the elders sat me down (or him!) to address our large age discrepancy. In my sober years, I have done just that. When I have seen an old-timer 13th stepping a young female, I have intervened to the best of my ability. One stark example in recent years was a 50-year old man pursuing a 23-year old young woman I sponsored.

She was married with a young son and had 5 DUIs. Nothing in my power could get this creep to leave her alone. Eventually, she left AA. I still see him at meetings. Another time, I sponsored a beautiful young married woman. Her husband would dutifully drop her off at our Friday night speaker meeting, where men would surround her. Once encouraging, her husband became disgusted with what he saw every week and she stopped coming to the meeting. I had another experience with a young gal who was being pursued by a famous athlete who had recently been indicted on horrific charges. They met in

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FINDING LOVE AGAIN



I was six months short of 40 when I took my last drink. My two children were in junior high and high school, driving me crazy, and I had a marriage that was in the final stages of destruction. I learned in my sobriety that my drinking was the primary cause of the misery in my life although I didn't think so. I was very angry to learn from the winners that I was not to make any major changes in relationships the first year of my sobriety because I wanted a divorce, and that would solve most of my problems. But I wanted what you had and I listened and followed the advice. My attitude changed and by my first

AA birthday I sincerely wanted to save my marriage and make it work. It was not to be, there was way too much baggage of the past that kept being blown back to my side of the street, and I didn't have a willing partner that would work on her side. I moved out, and a few weeks later, the divorce papers were served. A marriage of almost 23 years was over, due to my drinking.

I was finished with women—they were a source of misery. I decided to stay a bachelor for the rest of my life. I wanted nothing to do with any other women, I would now be able to hunt, fish and

do what I wanted, when I wanted, without anyone's permission. As usual, my intentions were no prediction of my future. I continued with my program and went to a lot of meetings. I joined in with others for coffee or ice cream and occasionally lunch or dinner. I learned how to interact with others without having an agenda. I also started listening closer to people, especially those who shared regularly about their Higher Power. I was attracted to the women who shared their Higher Power. I started thinking that spiritual women were the most beautiful people on earth. After a

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What would an alcoholic do?

Imagine sitting in your first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and in the middle of the meeting someone who is not a member of A.A. addressed the group with a speech on religion and how to properly achieve salvation. If this had happened at my first meeting I am not sure I would have returned. I may have missed out entirely on the message that A.A. carries to the suffering alcoholic.

About six months ago one of the longtime members of my home group was asked to meet with one of the elders of the church where our meetings are held. The elder of the church spoke about the church's strong conviction of a method of salvation and the sectarian religion they practice. He also made clear the church's belief that any groups meeting at their church needed to hear their message of religion. The elder of the church stated that they would like to come to our meeting several times a year and address the group with their religious message of salvation.

I am grateful that the member of my home group brought another member with him and that both members knew enough about A.A.'s Traditions to immediately inform the elder of the church that we would have to find another place to hold our meetings. I hope this is what any member of Alcoholics Anonymous would have done.

As a member of the steering committee of my home group I volunteered to join the search committee assigned with finding a new place for us to meet. Looking for a new home for our group was a large task and quite an amount of change to encounter. We had met in the same location for as long as I was a member of the group; apparently, we had met there for more than seven years and never faced an issue such as this.

With less than five years of recovery, I feel fortunate that I too have studied the Twelve Traditions. As sloth is a character defect I suffer from, and the task of searching for a new home continued for several weeks, thoughts of staying at the current location entered my mind. After all, what would be so bad about having a preacher come in and preach once in a while? I never spoke to anyone about those thoughts, especially my sponsor. I knew my own laziness and worry about finding a new home were filling my head.

If my home group had decided to allow the church to carry its message into our meetings, what Traditions may have been violated? After all, the Fourth Tradition states, "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups

or A.A. as a whole." Couldn't we as a group decide that we would allow this church where we hold our meetings to deliver its message?

My group and I came to the quick conclusion that no, we could not! Doing such a thing has the potential of adversely affecting other groups and ultimately A.A. as a whole. As the opening paragraph of this article suggests, allowing a non-member to carry some other message to a group of alcoholics has the potential to keep an alcoholic from receiving the gift of recovery and ultimately sentence him to death.

Although Alcoholics Anonymous had its roots deep in a form of sectarian religion, the founders quickly became aware that to limit one's choice of a Higher Power would leave many of us dying on skid row. We use Christian prayers in many of our meetings and the Twelve Steps are believed to have Jesuit beginnings; however, to affiliate with the brand of the church's religion where we hold our meetings may also be a violation of Tradition Six. The Long Form of Tradition Six states in part, "While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go as far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied." The thought that I have been in meetings at places rented from social clubs (Lions Club, Rotary Club, Community Centers) and have not yet witnessed any of those entities spreading their message during the meeting helped to confirm the need to continue our search for a new home.

The Fifth Tradition, "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." suggests that the allowance of any outside entity carrying rhetoric into meetings of A.A. should not occur. The message of Alcoholics Anonymous is the one message that should be carried. The message we carry is to help alcoholics achieve sobriety, not to explain the theory of relativity or how to achieve salvation. I am thankful for the meetings I attend and the message of recovery carried at those meetings.

The contemplation of these Traditions helped to ease the sometimes burdensome task of searching for a new meeting place. We prayerfully continued our search for a new home and found a wonderful place to hold our meeting.

I hope we won't have to encounter similar circumstances in the future but I am confident that the Traditions will keep our groups and A.A. as a whole united in recovery and service.

*Michael A.
Brentwood, TN*

From the desk of Charles C.

First of all, the contributions for December and 2011 in this issue are about the same as they were in 2010. We met all the basic needs of our office with contributions and literature sales, and on behalf of The Middle Tennessee Central Office, thanks to all of you. The great news in 2012 is we are having a great month to start off The New Year with \$6,100 in group sharing and \$5,600 in individual contributions as of January 23, 2012.

I hope the good news deters no one from helping us carry the message in 2012, as we have some make-up for some down years since 2008. We have eliminated many expenses the last three years, and some having to do with the work of The Intergroup Committees. There are health fairs, wellness events and some school sponsored events, where we wish to share AA information, pamphlets and personnel. These events are referred to The Intergroup CPC/PI committee. This is the committee that cooperates with the professional community (CPC) and shares information with the public (PI). With sufficient resources, we can be pro-active and contact professionals and organizations, not just wait until a group or individual think of AA.

If your group has a CPC or PI representative, they can help our Intergroup CPC/PI committee chair by being available. Creation of these valuable teams are possible by contact and information sharing with your Intergroup Office. If your group has a person

designated to do CPC/PI work, we can share the opportunities and save families, lives, communities and the future of many.

As always The Traditions direct us in these areas:

Tradition One- "*Common welfare comes first. How best to live and work together as groups.*" (page 9, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions contents)

Tradition Five- "*Passing on this gift to others is our primary aim.*" (page 11, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions contents)

In my opinion, looking at these two traditions together convicts us to work together, sharing with as many as possible the valuable solution we have found.

Let us all together, united with one mission, do together what no one group can do alone.

Finally, in looking at the Twelve and Twelve contents(I call them The Cliff Notes) look at Tradition Seven where it reads, "*Placing the responsibility of supporting A.A. headquarters directly upon A.A. members.*"

We are all in this together, have a wonderfully simple mission, and a serious obligation to remember, "The group must survive or the individual will not." That's in the "Cliff Notes" too.

Call us to get involved; we need one another.

'Someone'

In those days I had no one to whom I might take my troubles.

Today I have.

Today I have Someone who will always hear me;

I have a warm fellowship among men who understand my problems;

I have tasks to do and am glad to do them,

to see others who are alcoholics

and to help them in any way I can to become sober men.

I took my last drink in 1937.

~ Jim S., Akron, Ohio, early member~

- Experience, Strength and Hope, pp. 276-77

February 2012

MEETING CHANGES / MEETING ADDITIONS

37160 Keep It Simple Fairlane Church Mon & Tues 7:30pm OD	37046 Limitless Lode College Grove United Methodist Church 8568 Horton Hwy Tues—7pm	38562 Gainesboro, Tn Old Time AA First UMC 302 S Main St Fri—8pm OD	37129 Serenity Group 435 S. Molloy Land Murfreesboro, TN Sat—2:30p OD/GAY	37221 Keep It Simple Monday—8p 12x12 CD Holy Trinity Lutheran Ch Sneed Rd Nashville
37040 Happy Destiny Clarksville Fri-Noon 1st Christian Church	37203 WANGL OutCentral Cultural Comm Center 1709 Church St Fri- 6:30 pm	37388 Drop the Rock 106 N Anderson St Tullahoma Sat—8:30a Men/ Lit	Brentwood BB Study Sun—7p Now 60 minutes	37013 Wednesday Only Lighthouse Fellowship Church Wed 6p CD 5100 Blue Hole Antioch, TN
37040 The Hut Sango Pizza Hut Clarksville, TN Tues-7a Thurs-7a	37067 Cool Springs New- comers Bradford Health Services 1897 General George Patton Dr Franklin, TN Wed-7p CD/Beg	37076 Hermitage Women's Group Hermitage United Methodist Church 205 Belinda Dr Mon—Noon OD	37080 Joelton Meeting Thur—7p OD	37217 Love & Laughter Thurs—8:15
37138 805 Group Old Hickory United Meth- odist 1216 Hadley Thurs—8p Speaker OD	37209 Made a Decision Holy Trinity 6727 Charlotte Pike Tues—OD/Gay	37115 Women's Serenity Recovery Now meets Mon—5:30p OD	Portland Unity Fri-6:30p	37212 Natchez Trace Wed—11am
			Ladies Nite Out Tues—6p Cedar & Church Goodlettsville, TN	

CANCELLED MEETINGS

37212 Ex-Offenders	38501 Cookeville Weekend Recovery Thurs—6pm
38501 Cookeville Weekend Recov- ery	42223 The Power of Now
38570 Livingston Tues or Fri	37015 OISVAL Valley View Ashland City Fri—8pm
38556 Jamestown Tues—7pm	37027 Turning Point Group Brentwood United Methodist Annex Al-Anon Tues-7pm
38501 Cookeville Ladies First	

MOVED

37034
New Life
103 S Horton Pky

37064
Garden Variety
St Andrew Lu-
theran
908 Murfreesboro
Rd
Tues / Thurs 7:15

Brentwood Full
Moon
Otter Creek Church
409 Franklin Rd

37034
Chapel Hill New
Life
Community Baptist
Church
5216 Nashville

SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME

(Continued from page 2)

one of their first AA meetings and he quickly gave her a new car! I confronted him about the age difference and their vulnerable new sobriety but he didn't back down one iota, in fact, he subtly threatened me. I never saw her again. AA campus is fine but this gal was 19 and he was in his mid-30's with multiple pending felony convictions that ultimately led to his lengthy incarceration.

We don't all begin at the same starting line ... some of us are sicker than others. You may say, "Well, you made it didn't you?" I was lucky. I never felt anyone owed me anything, but boy, it sure would have been nice to have an advocate in my corner. Today, as an old-timer, I aspire to be that advocate for others. Some of our youngsters need fearless mentors

to steer them towards reasonable people who are attending AA meetings for sobriety and a design for living. I love the men and women of Alcoholics Anonymous. I am healed at every meeting I attend and I revel in God's grace of sobriety each and every day.

I can hear my favorite song playing, "Someone To Watch Over Me."

Christina N., Carlsbad, Calif

Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine

Surrender was her ticket to peace.

I began drinking in my twenties, and in my twenties, it was fun; in my thirties, my blackouts started; and by my forties, it was terrible. I never once thought I was an alcoholic. In Pasadena, California, I was picked up many times for walking dangerously. I had the same judge every time except the last one, and he asked me if I had been locked up before this. Since I knew nothing of a "rap sheet," I said, "Maybe once or twice." He said, "Wrong, and I think you have a drinking problem." I wanted to tell him that if my lover wouldn't beat me and my kids would behave and my job were less stressful--but as I said these things, I knew he just didn't understand, and he scared me when he hit the gavel.

My lover, Johnnie, and I went to meetings. Before we went, we'd have a couple of shots of vodka, which we knew they couldn't smell. Johnnie would tell me it was a show that AAs put on to scare people out of drinking. I thought they were going to teach me how to drink.

Anyway, Ohio wanted my lover more than I did at the time, so they came out and got him. One morning, I was so hung over I would have had to get better to die. My son, Daniel, said, "Mom, why don't you go back to those meetings? They might help you." I said, "If I get drunk again, I will." Well, needless to say, I got drunk and went back to "those meetings." I stayed for seven months.

On February 13, 1984, I thought, "Oh, sure . . . here comes Valentine's Day, Johnnie's in jail, I hate my job, and I've got a jerk for a boss." I had met this lady who told me to get phone numbers from the ladies, and if I felt like drinking to call them. Well, I called, and no one was home. It never dawned on me that they were at an Alcoholics

Anonymous meeting. I said the short Serenity Prayer, "Forget it," turned into a gay bar (for men) because I knew I'd be safe, and after ordering two beers, I went into a thirteen-and-a-half-hour blackout. After I came to, I got my son off to college and took my daughter to her bus stop. As I was climbing the stairs to my apartment, I had this terrible, nasty feeling all over my body and I thought, "What's this feeling?" Like a microphone in the back of my head, it said, "Pitiful, incomprehensible demoralization." I opened my door, went in, closed the door, and dropped to my knees. Now, I knew there was a God, but I thought he was mad at me because anything I asked for didn't happen.

So I said, "God, I know you're there, and I don't know what I did to make you mad at me. However, whatever it was, I am so very, very sorry. But I need help, because I don't want to feel this way again. Will you please help me to get sober? I can't stand this anymore." Tears were streaming down my eyes and after a few seconds, I felt something lifted off my shoulders. I today know what was lifted from me--it was the desire to drink.

I called a woman named Ora and asked if she'd be my sponsor when I was done drinking. (I didn't know what a sponsor was, and for a while I waited for her to give me some money). Instead, she asked, "How badly do you want to get sober?" I said, "If you told me to go to Lake and Colorado, take off my clothes, and stand on my hands and whistle Dixie, I'd do it."

She told me she'd meet me at the "202" club before the meeting, and I finally surrendered and began my life as a sober woman of Alcoholics Anonymous. At two-and-a-half years of sobriety, my son, Daniel, who got sober six months after me, told me he had AIDS (I knew he'd drunk some and

smoked marijuana some, but I never knew he shot up until thirteen days before he died). My sponsor was the first to be at my house, and all of the "202" was there to help me walk through it.

My lover, Johnnie, came back from prison and got sober for thirty-three months. Then he went in and out many times but couldn't stay sober. I buried him in January 2000, a direct result of alcoholism. My sister, Betty, died at age forty-five as a direct result of drug addiction, and my brother blew his head off at age thirty-one as a direct result of alcohol and drugs. So yes, it is a family disease. I have two sisters who won't have anything to do with me, as they're afraid of what I've got--sobriety. But I love them and pray for them all the time.

I have a beautiful granddaughter, Jan, who loves her "honey" (that's me) and has never seen her honey drunk.

I only know that whatever comes down the tube, I don't have to drink. I know God loves me; he hasn't brought me this far to drop me. I must practice acceptance in every area of my life. I don't have to like things that happen, but I do have to accept what happens and practice the principles in all of my affairs.

I don't have the man, the house, the money, or any other material things I think I want, but I am serene most of the time, and no one can take that away from me.

Ada S.—Las Vegas, NV

August 2005

Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine

500 Valentine Cards Sent by Desperate Man

Mike walked into a post office just before Valentine's day, he couldn't help noticing a middle-aged, balding man standing in a corner sticking "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. Then the man got out a bottle of Channel perfume from his pocket and started spraying scent over the envelopes.

By now Mike's curiosity had got the better of him, and so I asked the man why he was sending all those cards.

The man replied, "I'm sending out 500 Valentine cards signed, 'Guess who?'"

"But why?" asked Mike.

"I'm a divorce lawyer," the man replied.

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

D 32 Meeting

When: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Where: Central Office
Conference Room
176 Thompson Lane

D 35 Meeting

When: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Where: 5925 O'Brien Ave

SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

Intergroup Meeting CO

When: 5:45pm – 6:45pm

Where: Central Office
Conference Room
176 Thompson Lane

Committee Chair Info:

Corr - Nancy C-530-218-8176
CPC/PI-AI C-615-587-1616

Treat-
Spec Needs-
Archives-

For information or questions
Please contact the Central Office at
615.832.1136

THE GROUP STANDING COMMITTEES

How they carry the message
to the suffering alcoholic.

February 4th 10a—4p

The Basement Bunch 315 East
Main St. Murfreesboro, TN

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Lunch provided—

please RSVP by Jan 31st

if possible

615.300.8880

Linda

VALENTINE'S DAY



BECAUSE LOVE ISN'T QUITE
COMPLICATED ENOUGH AS IT IS.

(Continued from page 2)

time, the group after the meeting was getting smaller when we would go out. Then one night it got down to just two of us. The other person was this lady who was very open and honest about her God. The fact that she was pretty and had a nice figure was a plus. I think we just went for coffee after that meeting.

Not long after that night I was in my new apartment doing laundry when the phone rang and it was her. She had an extra ticket for a play and invited me to go with her. I valued her friendship so I accepted. At this point in my life I needed a good laugh and we laughed all through the play and afterward when we went to eat. That was the start of being running buddies that developed into friendship.

I had learned and been told that unless I could determine my part in past relationships, I would be condemned to repeat my mistakes. I learned that drunks have a picker that is broken and when it comes to the opposite sex, we will pick someone who fits our old ideas of what the ideal partner should be. And as we know—the results are not until we let go absolutely.

The first paragraph in Step Eight in the *Twelve and Twelve* tells us we are to examine our relationships. The first full paragraph on page 80 speaks volumes about what we are to do. We are to find those flaws which are basic and responsible for the whole pattern of our lives. This is an expanded version of the inventory we took in Step Four. I added this to another Fifth Step and in the Sixth and Seventh Steps asked God to remove the character defects which I used to sabotage and destroy every relationship I had in the past. As I became willing to change my behavior and God removed my defects of character that pertained to relationships, I was able to maintain a healthy relationship and make it grow. I was the beneficiary of the promise at the end of the paragraph: "Thoroughness, we have found, will pay—and pay

handsomely."

I say all of this because in the course of becoming a running buddy and a friend, I was starting to fall in love again. I didn't want it, I didn't think it was possible and I knew I was no good in the field of love. Without knowing it, I had surrendered once more. I was learning how to love others unconditionally just as my Higher Power loved me. I was learning how to be a friend, I was keeping promises, I was a sympathetic listener, and I was considering others before I was thinking of myself. I was changing and learning how to be a man and a partner.

Many months went by as we spent more and more time together. I met her family and could see she was from good stock. My family came to visit, and during the course of the visit, we shared a big meal at her folk's home. I was sitting next to my aunt and I asked her a question, "Does this setting remind you of anything?" Her answer was, "Reminds me of our family back home." I felt the same thing. It was something I had been missing for a long time. My ex-wife and I had lived so far apart from our families; we missed a lot of holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. I felt very at home in my new lady friend's family. I was accepted and I felt loved.

No discussion of dating in sobriety would be complete unless it included intimacy. Being intimate is not about sex. I learned that intimacy is sharing from the heart without being judged. It is based on trust. For many years I confused intimacy with sex. Sex is biology and hormones with a lot of emotional baggage. My new lady friend and I had progressed over a period of months from shaking hands and a hug at the end of the evening to a kiss on the cheek. Finally one night we shared a real kiss and it was both electric and frightening. My first thought was, "My God, what have I done? I have ruined everything now." Over the next few weeks we both did something different—we talked about our feelings concerning the first kiss and the hormones we had brought back to life. We knew the logical

conclusion but were afraid sex would ruin a good friendship. We decided to pray about it and ask our Higher Power to guide us in this new and unfamiliar territory. We followed his path and we haven't looked back.

What I learned about my part in old relationships I decided to do differently in my new life in recovery. I let God choose and it has worked out extremely well. I also learned and adopted a new set of beliefs.

1. If I can't love myself, I am incapable of loving another. The program of recovery has allowed me to get to know me and to love myself.
2. Love God and follow his plan for me. I am not always certain of the next right thing to do, but I always know the wrong thing to do so I do not practice my old behavior.
3. Love others as I would love myself.

The result has been 14 years in a happy marriage and more than 20 years of sobriety. We respect and cherish each other, we have learned how to resolve conflicts, and by working our programs, we continue to take inventory and make amends as needed. We have been through times of unemployment, health issues, burying both of our fathers and life situations in general. We let God be in charge and things work out.

We went into this relationship knowing that when boy meets girl on AA turf, the results are not always good. After all, we are people who normally would not mix. We also have to remember that as recovering alcoholics, we bring a lot of baggage into a relationship, and a lot of us are not a real catch. We have issues! But experience has taught us that if we put God in charge and practice these principles in all our affairs, all things are possible. Thanks be to God.

Robert M., Carrollton, Tx
Reprinted with permission: AAGrapevine

Group	Amt	YTD Amt	Group	Amt	YTD Amt	Group	Amt	YTD Amt	Group	Amt	YTD Amt
21ST AVEUNE	16	234	EVERY NIGHT@ 6	22	381	LIFE SAVERS		200	SEEKING SANITY		852
24 HOUR		200	FAIRFIELD GLADE	20	160	LINDEN		50	SERENITY (D12)	505	1055
ANONYMOUS		406	FAIRVIEW	85	85	LIVING BY THE PRINT		350	SEVEN DIPS		20
ANY LENGTHS		85	FAYETTE-VILLE		80	LIVING IN THE NOW		100	SHADE TREE	730	4,384
BACK ROOM		4,904	FELLOWSHIP		38	LIVING THE PRINCIPLES		104	SMITH COUNTY		50
BACK TO BASICS		25	FIRST THINGS FIRST		500	MANCHES-TER MONDAY NIGHT		151	SMYRNA GRATITUDE	100	1000
BAR NONE		100	FIVE & FIVE	273	775	McMINNVILLE		200	SPENCER MOUNTAIN	50	50
BELLEVUE		166	FRANKLIN	246	1,496	MID-DAY BREAK		1124	TEMPLE HILLS		100
BELLEVUE—WINNERS & BEG.	25	190	FRANKLIN RD MENS		200	MT JULIET FELLOWSHIP		225	THE BASEMENT BUNCH		425
BIKERS IN RECOVERY	28	96	FRANKLIN RD WOMEN'S		30	MUSIC CITY		150	THE STRAGGLERS	70	345
BRENTWOOD FULL MOON		800	FREE TO BE		548	MUSIC ROW		50	THE WAY OUT		140
BY THE BOOK LEBANON		22	FRI NIGHT PRIME TIME		225	MUSTARD SEED	50	550	THERE IS A SOLUTION		35
BY THE BOOK DICKSON		53	G.O.D. (OF DRUNKS)		268	NEEDED MEETING - CL		370	TRUDGING THE ROAD		160
CAME TO BELIEVE		75	GLADEVILLE GRATITUDE		100	NEW LIFE H-VILLE		20	TURNING POINT	295	1419
CELEBRATE SERENITY	100	300	GRATEFUL ALIVE		278	NIPPER'S CORNER		59	TURNING POINT GALLATIN	200	200
CENTENNIAL		60	GRATITUDE (D11)		60	NORTHBORO		50	VALLEY VIEW		548
CHICKEN PLUCKER'S MEN'S		200	HAPPY HOUR	5	216	NORTHSIDE , CLARKSVILLE		220	WAVERLY		120
CLUB 62	31	36	HARDING ROAD		550	ONE DAY AT A TIME		250	WAVERLY-BELMONT	200	300
COLUMBIA	20	220	HENDERSON-VILLE BB	10	10	ONE STEP CLOSER		264	WEEKENDERS		200
COMBINED DISTRICTS		30	HERMITAGE	150	150	OUT TO BREAKFAST	250	500	WEST MEADE		200
COMFORT ZONE		300	HIGH NOON	400	1030	P.O.P.		200	WEST NASHVILLE		317
COMMUNICATIONS		550	HIGHER POWERED		100	PAY DAY		150	WESTMINSTER	226	967
DAILY REPRIEVE		146	HILLSBORO RD	200	200	PORTLAND UNITY		35	WHITE HOUSE		320
DAVIDSON RD	450	4,700	HUT	25	25	PRIMARY PURPOSE		380	WINNERS & BEGINNERS	128	717
DICKSON (DAAG)		467	IBI-UBU	125	195	PULASKI	10	25	WOMEN IN THE SOLUTION		32
DISTRICT 36 - SPANISH		540	JOELTON		52	RARELY FAIL	143	349	WOMENS FREEDOM	459	459
DISTRICT 9		90	KEEP IT SIMPLE -BV	54	427	REBOS (SOBER)		1006	WOMEN'S SPEAKER		160
DONELSON YET		150	KEY TO SOBRIETY		361	RIDGETOP BASICS		117	WOODBINE		20
DOWNTOWN LUNCH		94	KICKOFF'S NOT TILL NOON	140	313	ROBERT E LEE WOMENS		100	WOODBURY		300
DOWNTOWN Y		81	LAFAYETTE NEW HOPE		100	RUTS		50	YOU ARE NOT ALONE (YANA)		20
DROP THE ROCK		65	LAMBDA		132	SAFE HARBOR		100	YOUNG TIMERS AA		310
DRUNKS IN THE PARK		376	LAST CALL		25	SANGO SOLUTIONS		50	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	6,396	53,547
EAST SIDE		593	LATE LUNCH BUNCH		3,217	SAT NIGHT ALIVE (D11)	30	355	THANKS TO ALL THE GROUPS WHO CONTRIBUTED		
E.SIDE SAT	525	525	LAWRENCE-BURG		80	SEARCH FOR SERENITY		320	THE MONTHLY GOAL TO KEEP US SELF SUPPORTING IS \$ 5,200 A MONTH OR \$ 62,400 A YEAR - THIS GOAL WAS FAR FROM BEING MET - WHERE DID THE MONEY YOU PUT IN		
EASY DOES IT		484	LET IT HAPPEN		50	SEARCHERS		281			

DECEMBER PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

THE MESSENGER

	DECEMBER ACTUALS	CURRENT MONTH BUDGET	ACTUALS BUDGET -TO - VARIANCE	DECEMBER Y-T-D ACTUALS	CURRENT Y-T-D BUDGET	ACTUALS BUDGET -TO - VARIANCE
INCOME						
LITERATURE SALES	10,990	11,968	(978)	124,420	59,839	(8,530)
COST OF GOODS SOLD						
LITERATURE	6,779	8,801	(2,022)	89,330	105,612	(16,283)
FREIGHT	6	-	6	334	-	334
DIRECTORY	-	438	(438)	-	5,254	(5,254)
TOTAL COST OF GOODS SOLD	6,785	9,239	(2,454)	89,666	110,866	(21,201)
GROSS PROFIT - LITERATURE	4,204	2,729	1,475	34,754	32,749	2,006
OTHER INCOME						
COFFEE	-	-	-	15	-	15
GROUP	6,949	5,250	1,699	55,221	-	(7,779)
INDIVIDUAL	1,769	250	1,519	6,127	3,000	3,127
MESSENGER	154	600	(446)	2,276	7,200	(4,924)
SPECIAL EVENTS	-	250	(250)	4,057	3,000	1,057
INTEREST	6	-	6	423	-	423
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	8,878	6,350	2,528	68,120	76,200	(8,080)
TOTAL INCOME	13,082	9,079	4,003	102,874	108,949	(6,075)
EXPENSES						
CASUAL LABOR	-	150	(150)	1,800	1,800	-
PAYROLL	3,643	3,947	(304)	46,361	47,361	(1,001)
BAD DEBTS	-	-	-	11	-	11
LEGAL & PROFESSIONAL	145	216	(71)	1,775	2,597	(823)
SALES TAX EXPENSE	6	-	6	4	-	4
RENT	2,165	2,091	74	26,169	25,097	1,071
PRINTING	280	567	(287)	3,005	6,800	(3,795)
PAYROLL TAXES	279	302	(23)	3,547	3,623	(77)
MAINTENANCE	75	-	75	874	-	874
TELEPHONE & FAX	478	550	(72)	5,586	6,600	(1,013)
ANSWERING SERVICE	163	172	(9)	1,962	2,064	(102)
POSTAGE	331	130	201	1,865	1,560	305
OFFICE SUPPLIES	105	250	(145)	2,417	3,000	(583)
COMPUTER PROJECT	179	117	62	807	1,401	(594)
INTERGROUP EXPENSE	-	83	(83)	157	998	(842)
INSURANCE	-	175	(175)	1,666	2,100	(434)
SPECIAL EVENTS / FUNC-	-	208	(208)	1,978	2,498	(520)
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	260	113	147	260	1,351	(1,092)
TRAVEL	692	167	525	2,214	2,000	212
DEPRECIATION	-	-	-	365	-	365
OVER/UNDER	(2)	-	(2)	123	-	123
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,798	9,238	(440)	102,948	110,856	(7,907)
NET INCOME	4,284	(159)	4,443	(73)	(1,907)	1,833

BACK TO BASICS		MID-DAY BREAK		SEARCH FOR SERENITY		SEVEN DIPS		SMYRNA GRATITUDE			
Burl G	02.05.79	Alf F	02.11.07	Amy D	02.02.09	Matt B	02.15.05	Chris S	02.11.09		
BACK ROOM		Alisha J	02.13.10	Beth S	02.26.11	SHADE TREE		Chrissy H	02.14.07		
Amanda D	02.02.08	Amy M	02.02.09	Candi W	02.08.11	Amy H	02.21.06	David S	02.02.09		
Daniel W	02.13.78	Debra S	02.14.11	Chuck S	02.13.08	Angela L	02.23.07	Franklin B	02.16.10		
Heather C	02.17.98	Emma B	02.14.92	Courtney K	02.15.11	Ann C	02.04.98	Jeff J	02.17.08		
Julian F	02.27.10	Jenny B	02.19.11	Darryl W	02.14.07	Arthur C	02.28.??	Lisa B	02.09.10		
Katie S	02.21.09	Kathleen J	02.22.00	Eric B	02.15.11	Bob O	02.25.09	Paul C	02.09.09		
Mikey A	02.12.90	Kenny K	02.14.09	Eric D	02.16.11	Bryan F	02.13.03	Sandra K	02.07.11		
Shirley F	02.17.02	Kim H	02.27.09	Ganena A	02.24.77	Carie K	02.05.04	WOMEN'S SPEAKER			
Toni S	02.18.95	Shanua D	02.24.09	Holly H	02.11.02	Carol C	02.01.09	Endean D	02.13.05		
EVERYNIGHT @ 6		Tim D	02.17.04	John A	02.17.10	Chip C	02.20.06	Jane Z	02.07.09		
Kelly M	02.10.80	MT. JULIET FELLOWSHIP		Karl G	02.19.09	Chris L	02.07.05	WOODBURY			
Lisa S	02.10.08	Jimmy S	02.10.97	Ken T	02.24.10	Cindy C	02.14.09	Bill P	02.06.01		
Nikki S	02.06.09	REBOS		Kerry H	02.09.10	Drew C	02.28.11	Bret A	02.08.11		
FELLOWSHIP		Kenny W	02.06.06	Lauren E	02.19.10	Endean D	02.13.05	Sidney M	02.06.93		
Cody M	02.14.05	Randy C	02.20.10	Mario O	02.06.09	James E	02.08.95	Wayne S	02.02.89		
Mitch R	02.24.89	Roger H	02.14.93	Michael F	02.12.10	Jeff L	02.22.01	<div></div>			
Rusty B	02.09.94	P.O.P.		Robert B	02.09.10	Jennifer B	02.05.09				
FIRST THINGS FIRST		Cynthia B	02.09.07	Shane W	02.19.10	Joe C	02.03.05				
Gayla Z	02.27.01	Josh T	02.27.11	Sherrie G	02.20.09	John G	02.13.11				
Harold D	02.09.93	Stephen B	02.20.05	Terri M	02.01.05	Joyce D	02.17.08				
Melinda S	02.17.08	Steve F	02.18.00	Thomas W	02.14.09	Kathy W	02.??.09				
Sandy B	02.14.09	PORTLAND UNITY		SEEKING SANITY		Kathy W	02.21.08				
IBIUBU		Deborah	02.??.10	Brandon C	02.18.05	Kimberly C	02.09.06				
Chad H	02.14.10	Dove	02.??.10	Bubba W	02.02.09	Liz E	02.08.09				
Cindi H	02.28.11	Randall H	02.??.11	Carmen F	02.25.10	Lynn H	02.17.09				
Greg B	02.14.09	RIDGETOP BASICS		Dave O	02.17.09	Martin B	02.18.08				
KEEP IT SIMPLE		Mitch B	02.10.08	David F	02.10.08	Melissa L	02.09.06				
Allen F	02.02.02	Rebecca C	02.25.84	James C	02.17.07	Patsy T	02.01.08				
Beth B	02.28.11	Rusty R	02.06.94	John C	02.01.10	Ramona M	02.09.08				
D.R. R	02.14.07			Lacy H	02.13.09	Scott S	02.16.07				
Dave Z	02.12.93			Leland G	02.08.08	Scott W	02.16.10				
Doug B	02.10.03			Lisa C	02.20.85	Shawn R	02.14.08				
Jim N	02.16.04			Nancy R	02.28.11	Woodrow S	02.02.09				
Mark P	02.24.96			Peggy H	02.28.11						
LOVE & LAUGHTER				Renita D	02.24.09						
Juli S	02.01.02			Russ K	02.24.04						
Russell C	02.14.91					Traci A	02.25.11				

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