

The Paper III

Barley !!! Corn !!!

An old-timer says some of the new members coming in these days are so young compared to the age level in the early days of A.A. that instead of alcoholics they should be called alcoholettes.

Anonymous

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Note: *Special Events* are no longer listed in *The Paper III*. You may find them on the *Event* tab on Intergroup's Home page. www.indyaa.org

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The Spirit in the Room

At a most opportune time, while suffering from a terrible hangover, hearing 'voices,' and mumbling to myself, a sober AA member, Dennis T., just '*happened*' by to invite me to a nearby AA meeting in Santa Monica, CA. I accepted, thank God, although my brain was pretty well fried and I was barely aware of what was going on around me. I later learned that a famous movie star was in the room that night, but whatever the setting, I can still vividly recall my sincerely honest surrender that evening when we closed with the Lord's Prayer. I somehow '*knew*' – at that moment – that the AA program was going to work for me, although twenty years of "quitting forever" often landed me in my usual treatment center: a drunk tank. That same mysterious Spirit has prevented me from ever returning to drink. Indeed, a year later, 1976, I experienced what I like to call a 'release' from all serious thoughts of drinking and that deadly obsession to drink has never returned.

I believe it was that same AA Spirit that prompted Dennis drive me to my second meeting in a borrowed Rolls Royce, just to make a splash (Dennis was a shoe salesman). At six months sobriety and still

an emotional wreck, I took a job at an antique store nearby a recovery club at 26th and Broadway. Some days I found relief from my rollercoaster emotions by visiting this club during lunch hour (forget eating!). That same healing Spirit never failed to calm me down so I could return to work refreshed and *seemingly* normal.

Since, I have lived in several places and been to many AA meetings, and I am here to report that that same Spirit has been present in every AA room I have visited. But I believe in order for me to be aware of it, I must remain in some sort of fit spiritual condition (p. 85).

If you are new and have difficulty believing that a power greater than yourself can solve your drinking problem (Step 2), just look around the tables and note how many members have found this mysterious life-saving power (Spirit) through living the AA way of life. The conclusion is evidential, not theoretical. The evidence is before you. Dive right in! This amazing Spirit will appear if you sincerely search for it. Dr. Bob stated: "Your Heavenly Father will never let you down" (p. 181).

Bob S., Richmond, IN

Correction: The June edition of the Paper III ran a notice about the *Grapevine* collecting up to seven-minute stories from the Fellowship. Unfortunately, the link for instructions did not work. Here is the web address:

aagrapevine.org/audio-portal

Thanks to Barbara G.

After 2 Years in A. A.

Two years in A.A. finds me increasingly happy and, I hope, a more useful citizen. It seems now that results come almost in direct ratio to my application of what A.A. offers for the taking. After more than thirty years of egotistical, selfish, and too often asocial behavior, I have slowly and laboriously acquired, through A.A. text and precept, a usable quota of humility.

This has proved to be the key to undeserved cooperation from many of my fellowmen and, of even more importance to me, to a reawakened faith in God. The spiritual and emotional lift received from the members who welcomed me at my first meeting in Forest Hills has increased steadily. Along with this have come new friends and a better understanding of how to use their experience.

The 24-hour plan made sense to me and proved to be the crutch I needed. That I have had no serious urge to drink since grasping its significance, seems to many, myself included, a minor miracle. Losing several good jobs, going to jail, being estranged from family and friends; finding myself flat broke and homeless after seeking medical and psychiatric help; making blind, desperate (but proud) appeals to the church--none of these had helped me to even face, let alone solve, my problem. Many helping hands were offered but I could not take them.

The answer was found in A.A.'s way of living: first by acknowledging my inability to work out my own problems, then humbly seeking the help of God to learn His will; avoiding resentments and intolerance; trying each day to grow in understanding and work; staying away from drink and, to me equally important, staying away from the kind of thinking that precedes drinking; being willing to share my imperfect understanding with someone it might help; and gradually through these efforts acquiring the serene knowledge that good comes when selfishness, arrogance, and intolerance are cleared away.

Problems are not automatically eliminated; rather I find it pleasant to work them out, confident that right (not necessarily my own brand) will follow. A.A. has taught me how to live with myself without seeking relief from the mess by drinking. How did it happen? I was licked, scared, hopeless. All my defenses had been breached. A.A. made sense. Being an extremist, I took it in large doses: many meetings, all the luncheons I could make, hours of discussion with patient, sympathetic A.A.s. God bless them all.

Mel A.C.

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Become a Faithful Fiver

Remember wasting more than \$5 drinking? Why not contribute \$5 to carry the message?

Faithful Fivers are A. A. members who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Indianapolis Intergroup.

Become a Faithful Fiver. Your contribution will help carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Indianapolis Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form Date _____

YES, I want to help continue to carry our life-saving message of hope.

I will contribute: __Annually (\$60) __Quarterly (\$15) __Monthly (\$5)

Please send email reminder to this email address:

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____ for _____ Months

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone number _____

Please make check payable to: Indianapolis Intergroup
 1915 West 18th Street, Suite D
 Indianapolis, IN 46202

1 year - Shannon M.

4 year - Chad M.

4 year - Crystal C.

5 year - William S.

5 year - Julie I.

5 year - Darren W.

6 year - Stephen U.

6 year - Tasha B.

7 year - Mary W.

7 year - Chris W.

7 year - Tom W.

8 year - Ted M.

8 year - Jo Ellen H.

9 year - Karen M.

11 year - Amber L.

14 year - Lenny K.

14 year - Nan G.

14 year - Martha N.

18 year - Dale K.

24 year - Lisa J.

24 year - Karen M.

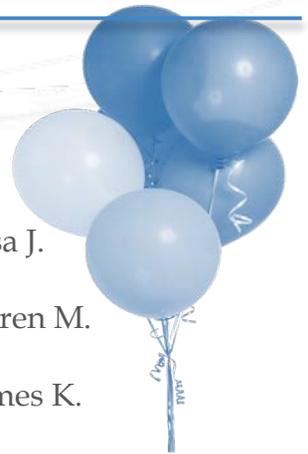
25 year - James K.

27 year - Jim G.

37 year - Ken H.

37 year - Pat I.

39 year - Kay B.



July Birthdays