

The Paper III

Ruth's Prayer

*Thank You, dear God, for another day,
the chance to live in a decent way,
to feel again the joy of living
and happiness that comes from giving.*

*Thank You for friends who can understand
and the peace that flows from Your loving
hand.*

*Help me to wake with the morning sun,
with the prayer today, 'Thy will be done.'*

*For with Your help I will find the way.
Thank You again, dear God, for AA.*

Ruth passed away on April 22, 2012. She was 97 and had just celebrated her 68th A.A. Anniversary on April 14th. She received the gift of sobriety in 1944. (Taken from the April issue of the Silver Dollar newsletter – Fargo, North Dakota.)

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What I've had to Figure Out is That I Can't Figure Anything Out

While still in my late teens, I appeared in court for the third time that year. The judge told me that I had disgraced my mother and my father and that he had no sympathy for the likes of me: "*Ninety days in the Indiana State Penal Farm!*" My heart sank. Happily, my wonderful father spoke with the sheriff who put in a good word for me and I was released on probation and ordered not to drink. Trembling with fear, I resolved to quit drinking forever --I was nineteen. I figured that I had solved my problem. However, not one of the following twenty years passed without me resolving to *quit drinking forever*. My resolve to quit was overshadowed by time spent behind bars and the loss of more jobs. I just couldn't figure out why *quitting drinking forever* just got me drunk.

Another thing I couldn't figure out was why I couldn't leave the bar room until closing time and often went on a non-stop spree for several days. I couldn't figure out why once the boozing started I couldn't stop. But when I finally stopped I couldn't stop starting up again. What a dilemma! But when I came through the doors of AA, I learned that my mind contained a mental obsession.

(They called it a drunken monkey) and that my body was possessed by a physical allergy that demanded I continue drinking once I started. So, I then concluded that I had my alcoholic problem all figured out

After scanning the *Big Book*, I figured that if I would just go to meetings and pray the *Third Step Prayer* every day I would then be home free! But alas, that drunken monkey still chattered incessantly and I feared I was headed for deep chicken fat trouble. So, I figured I needed a sponsor who would teach me the rest of the steps --I did, and he did, and then I figured out that I had solved my problem.

Nope! Even as I began living in the spirit of Steps 10, 11 & 12 the monkey chattering continued. I figured out that I was destined to be a goner. All I knew to do was, *Let go and let God*. Then, all at once, during the summer of 1976, that exasperating obsession left me and has never returned. I have never been able to figure that one out either! But what I **have** figured out is that I can't figure **anything** out. I can't, God can, I think I'll let Him.

Bob S., Richmond, IN

A Selfish Program? Maybe Not!



Step Twelve encourages me to carry our life-saving message to other alcoholics. As altruistic as this endeavor may sound, I hear echoes in the background whispering that my motive should be simply to save myself. After all, is not AA a selfish program for selfish people? I venture to offer an entirely different view. I think the AA program of action is: *A selfless program for selfish drunkards*. I think I will say it again perhaps more explicitly: **AA is a selfless program for selfish drunkards**. If you have doubts, please read study page 62 of our Big Book.

Bob S., Richmond, IN

Ego Deflation

Back in elementary school, I had a classmate named Sharon. When the teacher asked a question and Sharon knew the answer, her hand would shoot in the air hurtling past her classmates who had become accustomed to this bizarre behavior. Sharon's hand would wave back and forth as she jumped wildly in her desk, catapulting it into another dimension. Her voice then would make desperate grunting sounds. Once, another classmate, Kenny, reacted by crying, "Gosh, Sharon, don't SUFFER!"

When I'm in a discussion meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous and think I have something good to share, I remember Sharon and her waving hand. I don't act like her but sometimes I feel like her, knowing I have the *right* answer, which everyone is waiting for. One time when I felt like that, I got an amusing dose of ego deflation!

It was at a meeting I had not attended before. While someone brought up a topic, an idea from the *Big Book* popped into my mind. I was eager to share it - knowing it would be a great insight for everyone. Unfortunately this was a meeting where the discussion went around the room in order of seating. Reluctantly, I would have to wait my turn.

As the meeting was drawing to a close, I began to have a frantic feeling that the people in this room were going to miss the wonderful answer that I was prepared to provide. Then, I'm embarrassed to admit, the thought flashed into my mind of the hundreds of other people in other meetings all across the Central Indiana area who were also going to miss what I had planned to say!

Well, I'm glad to say that just watching that thought go through my mind almost made me laugh out loud! And with some hot air let out of my ego that day, I now have a different thought when I don't get a turn to share at a discussion meeting.

First, I resolve to "keep coming back". (Hey, how else am I going to know if the other members survived the week without hearing what I had to say?!)

Second, if what I had to say still seems interesting by the time I get home, I can write it as an article for *The Paper III*.

If everyone did that, we'd have PLENTY of submissions for the paper, don't you think?*

Marvin R.

*Editor's Note: Good idea, Marvin!

Special Events

May 2, 2013 - Thursday

Central Office Open-House (Grand Opening)

Come down and check-out your new surroundings, 4pm-7pm

Indianapolis Intergroup
1915 West 18th Street, Suite D
Indianapolis, IN 46202

May 11, 2013 - Saturday

Announcing the 34th Annual Central Indiana Mini-Conference

4 Speakers - Buffet Meal
Christian Congregation Church
11015 North 300 East (Bethel Pike)
Alexandria, IN 46001

May 12, 2013 - Sunday

Intergroup Monthly Meeting
UAW Local 933 @ 9:30 AM
2320 S. Tibbs Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46241

May 25, 2013 - Saturday

Look Who's Turning 59!

Johnson Avenue Group Is Turning 59 And Requests Your Presence!

Fellowship @ 6 PM, Dinner @ 7 PM
Speaker @ 8 PM

55 Johnson Avenue, Indianapolis, IN

May 31 - June 2, 2013 - Friday - Sunday

The Ultimate Weekend! (12-Step Retreat)

Speakers, Fellowship, Step Work
Lodging, Meals/Beverages
Registration required

Limited to first 60 people

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

4 Years - Chuck P.

9 Years - Joyce M.

28 Years - Mark C.

4 Years - Raymond E.

9 Years - Vince H.

28 Years - Dave S.

5 Years - Christopher H.

11 Years - Nancy H.

28 Years - Ann Mc.

5 Years - Raymond E.

13 Years - David F. (Doc)

29 Years - Mary R.

6 Years - Joe A.

15 Years - Raymond B.

30 Years - Bradley B.

7 Years - Connie K.

16 Years - Rick J.

31 Years - Joe Mc.

8 Years - Tom C.

24 Years - Janet R.

33 Years - Rick G.

8 Years - Billie S.

24 Years - Susan L.

37 Years - Joe R.

8 Years - Carol T.

24 Years - Janet D.

40 Years - Don M.

April Birthdays

