



SHEETS OF SOBRIETY Indianapolis, IN

August 2016

Help us carry the Message!

Article Contributions Requested at [**Sosindynewspaper@gmail.com**](mailto:Sosindynewspaper@gmail.com)

... But for the Grace of God ...



An Indianapolis Intergroup Publication Carrying the message one paper at a time:

The opinions and viewpoints expressed in these Sheets of Sobriety are not necessarily those of AA as a whole, or Indianapolis Intergroup. They are the expression of the individuals sharing their experience, strength and hope, for publication to our fellowship.

Step, Tradition and Concept of the Month 3 Parts of the Triangle

STEP 8

Made a list of all persons we have harmed and became willing to make amends to them.

When the topic is step 8 in meetings the sharing seems to go straight to step 9, where we made direct amends and how those amends were received. Step 8, is but a footnote in these conversations; but without our list, how do we know who we should really be making amends to?

My list of people that I have harmed was directly from my step 4 inventory. Every year I do an inventory and I have some of the same people on it but, depending on "life" this list can vary. The second part of this step: "became willing to make amends to them" requires prayer. I'm an unwilling person, driven by fear. Prayer shows me God's grace and allows me to walk through the fear towards willingness. Once I have willingness,

then and only then, can I take action toward direct amends.

Tradition 8

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers. –Remember, even if we work in recovery or for the fellowship, our 12th Step work is separate.

8th CONCEPT OF SERVICE:

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

I get people today that ask about a home group. What is that? I say meet me on Saturday night at 7:30 and I will show you.

“At Home” in my Home Group



It's August. Time for the state fair, kids are going back to school and as usual, there lots going on in our wonderful fellowship. I have never been bored since I was divinely brought to AA. If I am bored it's because I choose to be. My home group is planning an anniversary dinner this year. It's not till December but we thought we would plan it early this year. We actually have home group members, more than the 2 we had just a few short months ago. Our home group is so lively and I am not just saying that because it is my home group, we have good fellowship before the meeting, where we are all talking over each other and making plans to go to this service job or that, figuring out whose gonna drive. Women at one table and men gather at another. No one on cell phones, everybody talking to each other, drinking coffee and eating donuts and the laughter, wow what healing power that is. There's a hush that starts to come over the tables when the chairman opens the meeting. About the time How It Works is half way through there is calm in the meeting. The reason we are here comes over us. Some are grateful, some are not and some just sit and stare. But one thing for sure no one is drinking. No one is shaking or wanting a drink. Men clean shaven and the women are so pretty and wearing gorgeous smiles most have just come from dinner or a gathering of some sort. If we do have a new person, there is always someone there to sit and talk to them, give them phone numbers and ask them to come back. Our speaker tells us their story, tears, laughter, lightheartedness, seriousness and gratitude all seem to be present. When the speaker ends, we pray and all clean up. We start out side and have another meeting outside, it's almost like we don't want to leave each. We hug and kiss and say goodbye. I drive home thinking, I am so blessed and feel so good. I just had my dose of medicine for the day.

AA Did you know? This Month in History.

Calvary Mission and AA: Without the Calvary Mission (1926-1936) AA might never have started. First of all, alcoholic Pre-AA founder (who never joined AA), Rowland Hazard, had been an Oxford Group member since returning to NY from his first treatment with Dr. Jung (Zurich, Switzerland) in 1926—the Oxford Group had their meetings in the Calvary Parrish House adjacent to the Calvary Church and the mission was only a few blocks away.

Although Rowland was never a resident of the mission (He remained only on-and-off sober), he carried the Oxford Group message to Ebby Thacher in 1934 and convinced Ebby to become part of the mission staff as a member of the ***Brotherhood of Twelve***, helping residents to pray their way into sobriety via a special Oxford Group style of surrender. Ebby, reportedly, was a very good listener and had a likeable personality, doubtless beneficial to resident alcoholics.

Through visits to his long-standing friends on Wall Street (He had once worked in an Albany brokerage office) he learned of his old schoolmate, Bill Wilson's, desperate drinking problem. Part of the Calvary Mission program was to carry the Oxford Group message to other alcoholics, so, on a bleak November day of 1934 he made a b-line to Bill's home in Brooklyn Hts. A description of their "kitchen table" conversation can be found on



page nine of the Big Book. Though Bill stated that at the time he thought his gin would outlast Ebby's preaching—it did not! Because a few days later, Bill visited the mission, albeit in a drunken state, just to see what was what. Shortly thereafter, Bill Wilson finished his final bottle of beer at the entrance of Towns Hospital: December 11, 1934. Bill's gin did NOT outlast Ebby's preaching!

Upon leaving the hospital on December 18, a week before Christmas, Bill started attending Oxford Group meetings and bringing ex-sots from the mission to his beautiful home offering food and prayer in effort to "fix" their alcoholic problem. The first few got drunk—as a matter of fact they **all** got drunk for the next five months! But Bill, forgetting his Wall Street

dreams, charged ahead like an unstoppable steam roller. Although they all got drunk, as his faithful wife reminded him: He stayed sober. . . .And this lasted till he met Dr. Bob—and then continued for a lifetime!

So, the Calvary Mission brought Ebby Thacher to assist Bill Wilson find sobriety, but only after Rowland Hazard brought Ebby to the mission. It is easily recognizable the important, **yea essential**, role Calvary Mission played toward the existence of Alcoholics Anonymous. ~~ Bob S.

On a lighter note:

An alcoholic walked into a bar and read a sign that read "All you can drink for \$1.00.
The alcoholic said "I'll have \$2.00 worth please"

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