

THE PAPER III

A publication of Indianapolis Intergroup

The Resentment With No Name

When I finally gave up and begged God for help, I had been dry and going to AA meetings for seven years. I wasn't happy, joyous, or free; angry, scared, and losing hope was more like it. I also had a big resentment.

I'd tried the geographical cure--I moved from the Seattle area, where a judge had correctly diagnosed my alcoholism and directed me to AA--to south Texas, and then to Alaska. I kept thinking that adventure and excitement would be my answer. But in Alaska, my credit card, which I used to escape from the pain of my actions, expired. Because I had traveled so much, the new one hadn't caught up with me. I couldn't run. So I had to feel my life, and it felt scary. I remembered what I'd heard in a meeting, "What do you have to lose?" It was obvious, even to me, that my way wasn't working. So, one day out at the Soldotna Airport, I fell on my knees and said, "God, help me." And I really meant it.

I was willing to go to any lengths. Within a few days, I got a sponsor and started working the Steps. John M. patiently worked with me. When I got to Step Four, he told me to write down the "people, institutions, or principles" that made me angry. One of the first people I put down was the commanding officer in my U.S. Navy aviation detachment. I couldn't remember his name.

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www.indyaa.org (Intergroup)

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My thinking went like this: I was over in Vietnam risking my life for my country (actually, I was getting three squares a day, a shower, and my own bed every night, with little risk of attack on my aircraft carrier). When my brother died, this "lifer" (a derogatory term) refused to give me emergency leave to go home and comfort my family. So, I certainly felt wronged. Wasn't I a victim? Didn't life suck? Why wasn't life more fair?

John told me that even if I couldn't find the people I needed to make amends to, I should change my attitude so that I would be willing to make the amend if God ever presented the opportunity. Throughout the years, I persevered in cleaning up the wreckage of my past. I traveled to my father's grave and made peace with him. With the help of AA's principles, I no longer run, and I don't owe anyone any money. As I learned to work the principles of the program, other parts of my life began to improve. One day in 1992, in Anchorage, Alaska, I was asked to split a pitch with another member at a Sunday morning meeting. I met Stu, the other speaker. After the meeting, we decided to go out for breakfast.

As Stu and I talked, we shared about our drinking: "I did a lot of my drinking in the Navy," Stu said. "Oh, yeah? Me, too," I replied. "I was on a carrier at Yankee Station in 1968." "Really? Me, too." "I was an enlisted man in an aviation squadron on the F.D.R." "Oh yeah? Which one?" I named the squadron. Stu piped up and said, "I was your commanding officer!" Afterward, I was able to tell him my story, and how working the Steps over four years had helped relieve me of my resentment against him.

The resentment-causing encounter between Stu and I occurred in 1968. I went on to drink another sixteen years and, when I was really feeling down, I would dredge up my resentment against a man whose name I couldn't remember. But in 1992, God brought us together in an AA meeting halfway around the world. My resentment was gone and we were both sober. What happened that morning proved to me that there is a God, that he loves me, and that his schedule is better than anything I can think up.

When I follow the "blueprint for living" in the Big Book, I get a life that is happy, joyous, and free. When I first came to Alcoholics Anonymous, I couldn't see how the Steps would help me with my problems. But today, I no longer fight or question this program. Ever since I honestly did Step Three, the evidence of a loving God is everywhere, and each day I try to work the discipline outlined in Step Eleven into my life. I'm one of the fortunate ones.

Steve E.
Paso Robles, CA

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Special Events

June 9, 2012 - Saturday @ 5:30 PM

Founder's Day Celebration! Presented by the How It Works Group

Fellowship Starts at 5:30 Pitch in Dinner from 6 to 6:30 Program following dinner

June 13th - Wednesday 6:30

Open Hand Group *25th Anniversary Dinner*

Fellowship at 6:30 Pitch-in dinner at 7:00 Speaker at 8:00

June 16th - Saturday 5:30pm

Founder's Day Celebration (1935 - 2012) Fellowship 5:30 - Dinner 6:30 - Speaker 8:30

Trinity Lutheran Church 8540 E. 16th St Indianapolis, In 46219

For Tickets or information call Central Office at 317-632-7864

June 16th - Saturday 10:00 - 4:00

Relationships in Recovery!

A 1/2 Day Workshop Will Be Held at: The Greenfield Way Out Club

226 Cherry St. Greenfield, IN 46140

June 23, 2012 - Saturday @ 10:00 am

Area 22 and 23 Present

Your G.S.O. and Indiana Archives

FREE METHODIST CHURCH 2302 West Morris Street, Indianapolis, IN 46221

(In Basement at Rear of Church)

June 23-Saturday 2:00 pm

Third Annual Big Book Bash

Activities Kick off @ 2pm Pitch In Dinner @ 6pm Speaker @ 7pm

At Lieber State Recreation Area

June 30, 2012 - Saturday @ 1:00pm

Soberfest! A Safe place to Rock and Roll!

Doors open at 1:00 Live Music Starts at 5:30 Campfire Meeting at 9:00 pm.

2031 Silver Lane Drive (north of the corner of Raymond and Southeastern Ave) Indianapolis, In

For more information on these and other events, see the Intergroup Web site at
www.indyaa.org/events/october.htm

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
136 E. Market Street, # 1030
Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317) 632-7864**

When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessing and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.
Language of the Heart---Bill W.



- (2) Snowden H. (4) Liz H. (4) Beth I.
- (4) Christina H. (4) Curt W. (5) Paul F.
- (5) Mike F. (6) Debbie B. (6) Sabrina H.
- (9) Bob A. (11) Rick M. (14) Thomas F.
- (23) Brian H. (24) Denny A. (26) Marcia L.
- (27) Tim S. (27) Mark C. (28) Paul F.
- (31) Chuck M. (33) Marilyn S. (36) Joe R.

A Belated Happy May Birthday to Denny B. (21)



Service is the Secret

The Ultimate Annual Eating Meeting! The Intergroup Banquet for 2013 is already in the planning stages. The Special Events Committee is looking for a few good AAs to help plan and execute next years banquet. To be a part of the fun, contact Mitch V. at inter-groupmail@indyaa.org.

Look! The Treatment Committee for Indianapolis Intergroup is in need of committee members to visit District Meetings each month. The committee is working to get more participation carrying the message into local facilities. You can contact the chairperson Shawn B. by sending an e-mail to intergroup-mail@indyaa.org or by calling the central office

Immediate Openings... Don't Wait these Jobs are going fast! Telephone Answering Service has five permanent position openings. The next five people who sign up will receive: (a) a big hug from Dale K., (b) a warm fuzzy feeling for service work, and (c) a good chance to continue to stay sober because they have given back!

Our Fifth Tradition States: Our Primary Purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Our Indianapolis Intergroup has a Fifth Traditions Schedule of meetings in correctional facilities, treatment centers and other institutions to do just that. Groups can sign up at the monthly Intergroup meeting or by contacting the central office.

Your Dream Job Awaits!!!

The Indianapolis Inter-group 12th Step List Committee needs a co-chair. This position offers the chance to talk to AA's all over Indianapolis from the comfort and convenience of your own home. Serious Inquiries please contact Erik D. by calling or e-mailing central office.

Call 632-7864

"Thank you for calling Alcoholics Anonymous how can we help you". If you can say that, have a year sobriety (suggested) and want to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety you can volunteer at Central Office!

When Anyone, Anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there... for that, I am responsible.



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