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# THE PAPER III

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*A publication of Indianapolis Intergroup*

## We Are Family

When I attended my first AA meeting this year, I was distraught, unhappy with myself, and hopeless. I knew I needed help with my drinking. Being a black lady, I naturally went to a meeting in an area where I knew black people would be. The meeting was uplifting and upon leaving I felt that life was perhaps doable.

Then a few days later, a lady told me about "a fantastic meeting" on Saturday mornings, so off I went. I was still feeling distraught, unhappy, and a little hopeless. I walked in, sat down, and the very first thing I noticed was that I was the only black person in the meeting--and this was a huge gathering. I immediately felt out of place and desired to flee, but I made it through the entire meeting.

Well, a few months have passed, I'm still sober, and you cannot imagine the warmth, love, and complete understanding I've received from my caucasian alcoholic family. As a matter of fact, my sponsor happens to be white. I like it when it is said, "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." Isn't God good?

Lori  
Indianapolis, Indiana

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October 1997, Vol. 54 No. 5*

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## INSIDE...

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Prayer &  
Meditation

2



Special Events

3



Faithful Fivers  
September Birthdays

4



Myerson

5

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[www.indyaa.org](http://www.indyaa.org) (Intergroup)

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## Origin Of AA Nightly Prayer and Meditation

For some years I have been in a quandary as to why the Step Eleven prayers began with “When we retire at night.” (p. 86, first full paragraph). Why not when we awake in the morning? I came up with several seemingly adequate answers for this, but the real motive of the editors of the Big Book had never occurred to me. First of all, let us look at how Bill Wilson began this paragraph in December of 1938 in the early manuscript. This is what he wrote:

*“When you awake tomorrow morning, look back over the day before. Were you resentful, selfish, dishonest or afraid?” [Original Working Manuscript, p. 43- 4th paragraph]*

Tomorrow morning? Well, what did the editors find wrong about that? I have read that the Oxford Group observed some rather similar morning practice and that some of the editors felt a need to disassociate the Big Book from all particular religious groups. . . . and as a matter of fact, there is – just above Bill’s words – scribbled largely in pencil, the words: OXFORD GROUP. However, the editors did not cross out or even dismiss the morning idea in the *Working Manuscript*, but they did cross out all the words “you” and replaced them with “we.” Obviously the wording was finally changed to the Big Book wording of:

*“When we retire at night, we constructively review our day. Were we resentful, selfish, dishonest or afraid?”*

So, I find it interesting that the *nightly prayers* never originally occurred to Bill Wilson when he wrote the manuscript! These nightly prayers are a very important part of my AA program of action, so I remain exceptionally grateful for the additional alcoholic and non-alcoholic editors who so dramatically changed our basic text. Yes, Bill Wilson wrote our Big Book, but God was definitely in charge.

Bob S.

PS – The above change makes me all the more convinced that there was an additional “Printer’s Copy” of the Manuscript.

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





## 2012 Special Events

**September 15, 11:00 AM**

*Sponsorship Golf Classic*

Sponsored by the Thursday 9am Home Group

Registration and 'Slider' Bag Lunch 11am

Pebble Brook Golf & Country Club

**September 16, Noon - 5:00 PM**

*2nd Annual Singleness of Purpose Day*

Suburban North Club

1811 S. 10th St.

Noblesville, IN

**September 22 - Saturday @ 12:00**

*28th Annual Four for Recovery - Mini Conference*

"Honesty Unselfishness Love Purity"

Sponsored by: Amazing Grace Speakers

Fellowship, Dinner Available

4-H Fairgrounds

Apple Street

Greenfield, IN

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**At Wit's End : Mistakes, I've made a few**

*A computer lets you make mistakes faster than any other invention--with the possible exception of tequila.*

*-Terry B., Albany, NY*

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

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**Indianapolis Intergroup Faithful Fiver Form** Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Please send email reminder to this email address:

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_Months

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number\_\_\_\_\_

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*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.

(3) Randall A.

(3) Bill M.

(3) Gerald W.

(3) Janie K.

(3) Peggy B.

(3) William M.

(5) Juan

(5) Jack M.

(6) Judy C.

(6) Judy S.

(6) Christine V.

(7) Cory W.

(8) Michelle M.

(10) Christopher M.

(10)) Don S.

(12) Judy S.

(14) James H.

(17) Al R.

(17) Diane C.

(18) Steve B.

(19) Diane C.

(23) Larry G.

(23) Leon T.

(24) Brenda G.

(25) Jane M.

(29) Jim B.

(35) Linda S.

(35) Suizanne T.

(35) Sandy K.

***September Birthdays***

## Irwin S. Myerson: A Short Biography

(Irwin Meyerson was the person who prompted Doherty Sheerin to start the first Indianapolis AA meeting. He was sent by Clarence Snyder in response to Doherty's letter of inquiry to Ruth Hock at the Alcoholic Foundation in 1939. The first Indianapolis meeting finally started in October of 1940.)

The following is from the book *How It Worked*, the story of Clarence H. Snyder, by Mitchell K., pg.161 - 162:

"Another of Clarence's "babies," was Irwin "Irv" M. Irwin was a salesperson who had lost several accounts due to his drinking. He lived on Eddington Road in Cleveland Heights; Clarence had "pulled" Irv out of a bar at the request of Irv's wife and had convinced him that he "needed to be fixed." Irv had a difficult time sobering up, but was sold on the idea of A.A. and of helping others. Irwin sold Venetian Blinds and traveled around the country doing so. Wherever he went, he started A.A. meetings. Irwin was a high pressure salesperson in and out of A.A. Irwin was Jewish, weighed 250 pounds, and kept slipping back into active alcoholism. Still he was a driving force in the early days of A.A.

In the book, *"DR. BOB and the Good Oldtimers,"* Bill Wilson is quoted as saying, "The prospect of Irwin as a missionary scared us rather badly." In a letter to Clarence, dated May 22, 1940, from the Hotel Virginia, in Columbus, Ohio, Irwin wrote, "This is the first trip in one year that I was sober. Thank God." This was the first of many letters that Irwin wrote Clarence in which he told of his "slips," of regaining his sobriety, and of carrying the message by starting meetings. Irwin, due to his widespread sales territory received constant lists of inquiries from Ruth Hock at the New York A.A. office. Irwin followed up on them with the same gusto he used in his sales pitches. In a letter to Clarence, dated September 18, 1940, he wrote: "*You know that list that Miss Hock sent me from New York. Well I Stuck my neck out, I contacted two men in Indianapolis and they are starting a group there... I am thankful to providence that I started a few men on the road to health and they are also thankful. That's what makes me feel good.*"

... Personal Sponsorship was another hallmark, which came out of Cleveland. Each member and prospective member was indoctrinated with the idea of having and then becoming a sponsor. The idea of sponsorship, as A.A. knows it today, originated in Cleveland."

Irwin, in his travels, also started groups in Atlanta, Georgia and throughout the South. In a letter, dated March 28, 1942, from Knoxville, Tennessee, Irwin's wife wrote to Clarence that "Irwin started another club in Charleston, W. Va."...

- Bruce C.

- Irwin S. Meyerson Gravesite:

<http://hillside memorial.org/cemetery-options/interactive-cemetery-map/>

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