he Messenger



MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

Florida - USA

April 2017

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I'M JUST NOT READY YET

Who can, positively, describe the dynamics of alcoholic thinking? No one can, as it is as diverse as the number of alcoholics in the world. So how can anyone have the definite answers to any of the multitude of difficulties that we face? We do find different ideas of how to address, so called, problems that gives us a start towards reducing the effects that those problems have on us, until they are no longer interfering with our mental calmness. If we are diligent about it, we will eventually find a place of acceptance which is hard to describe.

I was in the navy when I entered Alcoholics Anonymous, in the late 1960s, and was desperate enough to seek out AA for myself, with no coercion from the outside world. I've never had a problem with step 1 and the drinking part of the program and honestly, have never wanted a drink from the that very first day, which brings us to the rest of the steps. I hear stories all the time about people with long term sobriety, who have relapses, and that seems to contradict the first sentence in chapter five in the big book that says "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path", and I've heard it said that the cofounders wanted to change the word "Rarely, to Never."

One of the reasons, that I see, that may answer the question about the old timers that just decide to drink again after long term sobriety, may be the half measures approach to steps four and five. This is not to criticize them for being unable to take that risk at the time, for we know how difficult it is to overcome the shame and embarrassment of our past behaviors. These fears are also symptoms of the disease of alcoholism and no one can judge another for not being able to bring them to disclose these things too soon.

My first attempt at step four happened right before my one year anniversary, and I was doing the best I could, at the time, based on my shallow understanding of this process that we are supposed to go through. I then received orders to be shipped out to the Western Pacific, so I folded up my composition book containing my forth step and stowed it away. I spent most of those four months at sea on an oil tanker, absent of any AA meetings and I had a lot of time to think about what I was going to do when I got back.

When I did arrive home I unpacked that composition book and started to read what I had written as a forth step and I became aware of how shallow my thinking had been at the time I was writing it. I destroyed all that dribble, I had written, and started over again and went on to revisit all "those tormenting ghosts of yesterday" in a somewhat fearless and thorough way. I believe that doing it that way is the corner stone of all the rest of my steps. In time I have addresses all of the rest of the steps with as much courage and thoroughness as I can muster, and the results are an unshakable framework for life. If, however, I wasn't strong enough to revisit that step after four months, and had gone ahead with the original forth step prior to my flying out to the far east, I may have convinced myself that I had done it, and went on with a half hearted effort, which would have amounted to a facade that could have lead me to be satisfied with "Just not picking up today"

The only way, that I can see, to bridge the difference between the half measures approach, and the fearless and thorough approach, is to be honest with myself about being in fear concerning the things I'm not willing to disclose in steps 4 and 5. Denying them slams the door on the rest of the program. Admitting that they exist would be leaving the door open to getting back to it when you have a little more AA under your belt. If, on the other hand, you attempt to slip by with the half measures approach, you may not ever want to admit to it later and that would be tragic and could end in a relapse after some serious years of sobriety. Some of these things take time and we should not be made to rush into them at the expense of self honesty. The simple term:" I KNOW I MUST, BUT I'M JUST NOT READY YET". These things will not go away by themselves but, one day you may run across someone that you feel you could trust with your life and be willing to take the risk. This is an approach that no one, who counts, will ever fault you for. It's very important to keep it clean. "THIS ABOVE ALL, TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANS'T NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN" William Shakespeare. Rick R.





inventory of ourselves."

Sex and Alcoholics Anonymous.....

How many of you were told not to have a serious relationship in your first year? HHHMMMM. I know I was! Actually, they told me 18 months – and for good reason! Let's look at why. For one thing, we started drinking at a young age – often 12 or 13. For some of us it was even younger. Our growth and maturity stops when we start to drink, and the drinking clouds our concept of relationships – if you can call a one night stand a relationship! How did you meet the opposite sex? A blind date? At school? At a bar? Through friends or work? What were your motives? I know what mine were! I was looking for sex. Yes "SEX". Afterwards I wondered: what was her name? If I remembered her name and we had three dates then I thought we should get married, get a house, a 401K, and we'll have great kids and grandchildren, and retire at the beach. Did I jump ahead? So, did this change when I came in the fellowship of AA?

NNNOOO! In some cases it got worse. I was sober. I got feelings, and a conscience; I thought I could think for myself. All the reason I drank. Did I listen to others? I thought I did. If SEX or Relationships came up as a topic, I would laugh, or act as if I was having healthy and spiritual relationships. It took a long time to realize that was not the case. Let's look at my first relationship. We meet after an AA meeting in a coffee shop. We laughed, flirted, kissed, and after three weeks we moved in with each other. She cooked the best eggs. She was the perfect woman. Two weeks later we were at each other's throat. Six month later my clothes were out in the street and the rain. I called my sponsor at 3am to tell him what had happened to "ME". He asked if I had drank, I said "NO". He asked if I was going to a meeting, I said "YES." He said good, he was going to sleep, and hung the phone up. This was all in my first 18 months. I didn't drink, but did I learn from the experience? NNOOO, not in the beginning. . WHY? The reason was simple. I didn't do a "searching and fearless moral inventory," nor did I ask God for help in doing my Fourth Step. "Many of us needed a overhauling there". Did I look at "SEX", and what to overhaul? Did I let GOD lead me in the right direction? Did I ask him to show me my sexual defects of character? My sexual motives, behaviors, pride and fears? Again, I thought I did. But what did I really look at? I looked at my past relationships but couldn't see what had really happened. I didn't recognize that all I was looking for was sex. How did we meet? What was I looking for? What were my motives? WHO AM I? WOW! I didn't know who I was, so why should I care who they were? If I didn't like or respect myself, why should I love or have respect for anyone else? As with everything in this God given program, I needed to examine my motives in this area of my life. "We reviewed our own conduct over the years past. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, or inconsiderate?" "Whom had we hurt?" "Did we unjustifiably arouse Jealousy, suspicion or bitterness?" Here is the key that opens the door to peace of mind and happiness. Most of us skip right over this part of the Big Book. At least I did, and for years I couldn't figure out why I couldn't have a healthy, spiritual, and loving relationship. I had to look at my sexual defects, my ego, my desires, material and emotional desires for companionship. "WE got this all down of paper (another key point), and look at it." WOW! "LOOK AT IT." We look at it? Then what? What were we to do with all this? I found out that I thought a relationship was a 50/50 deal - which means I was really starting off on the wrong foot! A healthy relationship must be 100/100 percent! So, that had me at a 50 percent defect. I had a lot of work to do. The Big Book tells us: "We ask God to mold our ideals and help us to live up to them. We remembered always that our sex powers were God-given and therefore good, neither to be used lightly or selfishly, not to be despised and loathed." Again I need to put this down on paper. In my words and not holding any thing back. The Big Book tells us we "all have sex problems" We wouldn't be human if we didn't. So I am not a saint. What's the point then? It's simple. Again the Big Book gives us the answer: "In meditation, we ask God what we should do about each specific matter. The right answer will come, if we want it." ASK GOD, AND LET HIM LEAD. HOW: Honesty,

Openness, Willingness. If we have a good foundation in the first three steps, the rest comes easy – with GOD'S Help. If you are writing your fourth step and you are having trouble with it, try two things. These helped me. Go to page 63 in the Big Book, to step three, and read the third step prayer. Keep the book open. Follow God's instructions that were so freely give to Bill W. Get lots of paper, and a good pen. Yes a pen. Let God be with you and God will write your fourth step for you. It is always easier with God, Hope this helps someone, it did me. I have a heck of a lot more to say, but I'll pass.

By Dennis H.

SWEETWATER GROUP CANCELED MEETING! WEDNESDAYS @ 8:00pm

St. John Vianney Seminary

2900 SW 87th Ave. - Miami - 33165

Sometimes when talking to a new man, we mention a Higher Power or God and we see panic in their eyes. Well, the way I learned to handle it was to tell the story I learned from an old timer. In the story a newcomer said, "I don't understand this God business." "I don't understand this electricity business either," said the old timer, "But I'm not going to sit in the dark until I do." Or as we sometimes say "Fake it until you make it."

Andy E. -Akron, OH



JUST FOR ME

I had my first drink at age eleven and sobered up at age forty three. In between, I was on that hellish rollercoaster that we alcoholics come to know, sooner or later.

I failed college my first year, failed lots of relationships, was fired, lost my house, lost my marriage, and had tried many geographical escapes. The Navy said, "Go to treatment or get out," so I got out. I've had suicidal thoughts, I've been to jail, missions, and treatment centers (three times). I've been homeless, too, but I kept right on drinking, with occasional periods of sobriety in-between.

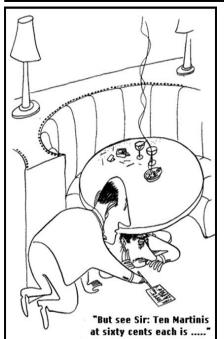
In 2001, my two daughters and son were taken away as a direct result of my alcoholism. The judge said, "What is more important to you, your children or your drinking?" For the fourth time, I went into treatment. This time I did it just for me. During my first year of sobriety, I found my Higher Power and today things are much better for me and my children. I take it one day at a time and have learned about honesty and humility.

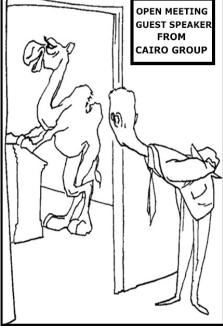
I pray to God daily, make my meetings, take a daily inventory, keep in contact with my sponsor, read the Big Book, work the Twelve Steps, and do not drink. I also never forget where I came from and where I will return to if ever I take that first drink.

Joshua L. Mobridge, SD

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NORTH MIAMI GROUP 40th Anniversary FRIDAY APRIL 21st, 2017



SERVING AT 7:15pm
OPEN MEETING AT 8:30pm

Guest Speaker

A BENEFIT for INTERGROUP and GENERAL SERVICE!

Appetizers & Desserts are welcome!

THE UPPER ROOM 822 NE 125th St. Ste. 111 -North Miami (305) 899-8040

.......

Drunk: "If it wasn't for women, I wouldn't be here."
Judge: "If it weren't for women, none of us would
be here. Thirty days."



"SO HOME IS THE BEST place after all?" snarled the alky's wife at 3 A.M. Alky: "I don't know about that—but it's the only place that's open."



GRUPO DOCE PASOS 1978 - 2017 39 ANIVERSARIO

Del 22 al 28 de Abril 2017. Semana de compartimiento 1183 West 29th St. - Hialeah, FL 33012

Sesion Publica - Domingo 29 de Abril a las 6:00pm Local: Logia Masonica - 601 West 29th St. Hialeah - 33012

AREA 15 SUR DE LA FLORIDA ASAMBLEA DE SERVICIOS GENERALES Abril 7-9, 2017 Auspiciada por el Distrito 6

Boca Raton Marriott at Boca Center 5150 Town Center Circle, Boca Raton, Florida 33486 Inscripción: Vier.4:00pm-8:30pm,Sab.8:00am-8:30 pm,Dom.7:00am-9:00am Reunion de Intergrupos - Sabado a las 2:30pm

1978

2017

"GRUPO CENTRAL" esta celebrando su Aniversario # 39

El 15 De Abril del 2017 De las 6:00pm a 11:pm

Jorge Mas Canosa Youth Center 11400 SW 2nd St. - Miami, FL 33147

Semana de Compartimiento del 10 de Abril al14 de Abril de 8:00pm a 10:00pm

Grupo CENTRAL

Lunes a Domingo

7:00am

12:00pm

5:30pm

8:30pm



Nueva Direccion

9600 SW 8th St. - Suite 49 Miami, FL 33174







CONCEPTO CUATRO

En todos los níveles de responsabilidad, debemos mantener un "Derecho de Participación" tradicional, en forma tal que permita la representación votante en proporción razonable a la responsabilidad que cada nível deba asumír.

FAITHFUL FIVER MEMBERS

Yes, I want to parti Contribution information:			ub!		
Amount:	Monthly:	Quarterly:		Annually:	5
	(Note: No A.A. me	mber can contrib	ute more th	an \$3,000 per y	vear)
I am a new Member: PAYMENT PLAN	Current Me	mber:		Returning Mer	mber:
Check Enclosed:	Credit Card:	Visa	_ MC	Amex	CVS:
Card #:			_ Expiration o	date:/_	
Name on Card:		Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code: _		_ Tel: _()
Yes, I would like	e my name to be added in	n "The Messenger."	!	No, I w	rould like to remain anonymou

FAITHFUL FIVER FRIENDS are fellow A.A. members who contribute \$5.00 a month to the Intergroup Office as an act of gratitude. Their generosity help us to carry the message of A.A. to the still sick and suffering alcoholics throughout the year! THANK YOU TO OUR FAITHFUL FIVER'S....Your contributions are very much appreciated.

Gary C. & Friends; Stanley J., Doni B; Maria Z., Lee A. South Dade, Penny South Dade, Michael S., Anonymous South Miami Men's, Inessa South Dade, Charles South Dade; Isabel South Dade, Anonymous South Dade, Anonymous West Miami, Biker's in Recovery Anonymous, Manuel N., Brickell Circle, John G. South Dade, Mandy South Dade, Becka Palmetto Bay, Raz Brickell Circle.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

GS DISTRICT 10
Monthly Business Meeting
1st Tuesday of the month
at 7:30pm at the
CG Congregational Ch.
3010 De Soto Blvd., CG

GS DISTRICT 10
GRAPEVINE Committe
Meetings at the
Coral Room
1st Sunday of the month
@ 2:00pm

GS DISTRICT 10 TREATMENT Committe For more information go to www. district10miami.org

GS DISTRICT 10
Corrections committee
4th Thursday of the month
@ 8:00pm at
Sabal Palm Group
10102 SW 107th Ave.
305.274.74.34
corrections@district10miami.org

Miami Bid for FCYPAA 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30pm at the

So. Miami Treatment Center 6900 SW 80th St Miami, FL 33143

CONCEPTIV

Throughout our
Conference structure, we
ought to maintain at all
responsible levels a
traditional "Right of
Participation," taking care
that each classification or
group of our world
servants shall be allowed
a voting representation in
reasonable proportion to the
responsibility that each
must discharge.



with us on: www.fcypaa36.com

INTERGROUP CONTACT LIST

aamiamidade.org

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Manuel N.

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Raz S.

Lee A.

Jennifer R.

Alv P.

Trustees

Maria Z.

Doni B.

Askia K.

Founder's Day

Barry G.

Intergroup Banquet

Raz S.

Intergroup Office

Jennifer R.

Shari T.

The Messenger

Office (305) 461-2425

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Public Information

Sam H.

Twelve Step Relay

Laura N.

Big Service Breakfast

OPEN POSITION

General Service Liaison

Keith D.

Spanish Intergroup

OPEN POSITION

Webmaster

Jennifer R.

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PI/CPC

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Treatment

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Big Service Breakfast

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Remote Communities

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NOTICES

Notices published in "The Messenger" are taken from information submitted to the Miami-Dade Intergroup Office Information is based on what is current at the time of printing.

If your group discontinues a meeting or changes it's schedule time, please notify Intergroup as soon as possible at (305) 461-2425

Articles and opinions expressed herein not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole.

Further endorsements, opposing views and rebuttals to articles published are also welcomed. Also, please tell us how we can improve.

Contributions to

"THE MESSENGER"

will be gratefully accepted.

A sign up form is on the

E-mail the Editor at: aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

back cover.

Please make checks payable to: MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP



TRADITION FOUR

"EACH GROUP SHOULD BE AUTONOMOUS EXCEPT IN MATTERS AFFECTING OTHER GROUPS OR A.A. AS A WHOLE."

MARCH

PALMETTO BAY

Art B. 1 John M. 1 Ben S. 26 Dan U. 27

SUNSET

Barbara M. 1 Luisana N. 1 Jonathan P. 1 Bryan R. 1 Elizabeth V. 1 Ramiro R. 2 Willie M. 3 Gaby 3 Marta F. 4 Ted S. 7 Alan B. 7 Craig R. 11 Lina S. 19 Carlos V. 20 Scott G. 23 Becky S. 25 Carlos B. 28

GOOD **MORNING**

Claudio M. 8 Bonnie J. 9 Fred T. 26 Eddie Z. 29 Roy P. 32

HOMESTEAD

Nancy C.1 Eugene S. 2 Debbie O. 4 Maria Q. 4 Mike M. 28 Elisa 31 Mary C. 39

CORAL GABLES

Luisana R. 1 Jonathan E. 1 Jeff R. 2 Scott P. 3 Adriana DA 3 Jack H. 3 Oscar R. 5 Cathleen C. 5 Ron K. 6 Cece S. 6 Sharyn M. 8 Anthony V. 9 Olga M. 10 Paddy K. 11 Karen A. 11 Mike B. 11 Justin B. 12 Sue K. 16 Roberto L. 22 Richard M. 28 Doriann M. 28 Sharon S. 33 Johnny C. 34 Phil W. 37

SOUTH DADE John M. 1

Luis 2 Bill F. 3 Shane 6 Blanca G. 7 Big Al 8 Byron 9 Margo F. 15 Cecile C. 16 Dawn F. 17 Laura N. 17 Ben S. 26 Frank B. 27 Mary C. 39 Judy K. 40

SOBER WAY OUT

Jen D. 1 Carlos H. 1 Marta P. 1 Ellen 5 Jessica S. 8 Carlos 10 Marta P. 12 John H. 13 Jerzy L. 16 Annie P. 18 Robert J. 19 Raymond E. 20 Felix F. 24 Fred T. 26

Martha R. 1 Jeanie S. 1 Maria DC 1 Ramona 2 Steven E. 2 Chris L. 2 Kendall S. 2 Rvan D. 3 Trish S. 7 Chris F. 8 James Z. 12 Albert M. 14 Raina L. 14 Leslie 15 Gaila L. 18 Harriet C. 20 Rosemary 23 Albert 31 Patricia W. 33 SandorK. 39

SOUTH DIXIE

Jeannie S. 1 Art B. 1 Shayne 6 Valerie L. 6 Rob W. 7 Vincent P. 10 Marco F. 15 Ellen W. 26 Judy K. 40

10 m # 6

SABAL PALM

Jeanette R. 1

Young, Sober &Free/Last Sunday @ 8:05pm **Group Anniversaries**

Group Conscience/Business/Service Meetings

Coral Gables Group/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm

Good Morning Group/3rd Friday @11:00am

Happy 1060 Group/3rd Sunday @ 11:45am

Homestead Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm

Little River Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm

Night Owl Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm

Palmetto Bay/3rd Wednesday @ 6:35pm

Quinto Paso/1st Monday @ 7:00pm

Sabal Palm/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm

Sunset Group/2nd Friday @ 7:00pm

Sober Way Out/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm

Primary Purpose/Last Wednesday @ 6:45pm

Something Happens/1st Saturday @ 10:00am

South Dade Group/3rd Wednesday @ 7:00pm

South Dixie Group/2nd Sunday @ 12:15pm

West Miami Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm

We Stopped in Time/1st Monday @ 9:35pm

Miami Young People/3rd Saturday @ 7:00pm

New Beginner's # 2/2nd Thursday @ 7:30pm

North Miami Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:15pm

Lincoln Road YP/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm

Brickell Group/3rd Thursday @ 1:05pm

Almeria Group/Last Tuesday @ 7:30pm Coral Gables Group/Last Monday @ 8:00pm Grupo Central/Last Sunday @ 1:00pm Good Morning Group/Last Friday @ 10:00am Happy 1060 Group/Last Sunday @ 10:45am Homestead Group/Last Thursday @ 8:30pm Key Biscayne Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Killian Pines Group/Last Friday @ 8:00pm Lincoln Road YP/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm Little River Group/Last Wednesday @ 8:30pm Miami Springs Group/Last Monday @ 7:30pm Miami Young People/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm North Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Palmetto Bay Group/Last Saturday @ 5:30pm Plymouth Group/Last Wednesday @ 7:00pm Primary Purpose/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm Sabal Palm Group/Last Sunday @ 7:00pm Shamrock Group/Last Tuesday @ 8:30pm Sober Way Out/Last Friday @ 8:30pm Something Happens/Last Saturday @ 9:00am South Dade Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm South Dixie Group/Last Saturday @ 7:30pm Sunset Group/Last Friday @ 7:30pm West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm We Stopped in Time/Last Monday Young, Sober and Free/Last Sunday

GRATITUDE & GRUDGES

GRATITUDE: I'm sober.

GRUDGE: Only a few people really seem to do service work.

GRATITUDE: For our fore fathers who came up with the 12 steps.

GRUDGE: I have to practice the 12 Steps so I

don't get drunk again.

GRATITUDE: I can have my own opinions.

GRUDGE: I have to accept opinions of others as

being valid as mine.

Heard at a meeting

"I'd like to tell you what I did . . .

I stopped calling my sponsor. I stopped going to meetings. I stopped returning phone calls.

I stopped talking with the women I sponsor.

I had 20 years sober, and today I'm back with three days."

"As A.A. grows, it is impossible to know everyone, but if I try to relate myself with just one other person, something will happen, something unremarkable."

AA Grapevine



Marvin L. 2 Shana M. 2 Lillian P. 6 Yolanda H. 6 Loretta TW 7 Jacqueline S. 25



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Name:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	

Please note: When you mail in this form, feel free to add something you would like to share with the fellowship (a thought, a story, a joke or something you heard at a meeting.)

HELP US CARRY THE MESSAGE!!!

