

# The Messenger



MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

[aamiamidade@bellsouth.net](mailto:aamiamidade@bellsouth.net)

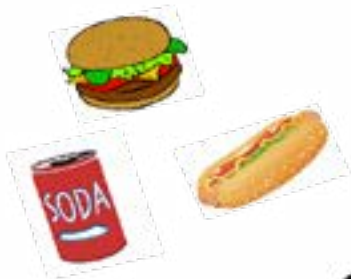
Florida - USA

May 2023

1850 SW 8th St. # 303 - Miami, FL 33135 / 305.461.2425 (24 hrs) / 305.461.2426 (Fax) / [aamiamidade.org](http://aamiamidade.org)

## FOUNDER'S DAY

### PICNIC!



*is coming up.....*

***Save The Date!***

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW - \$15.00**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**From 10:00am till 4:00pm**

**Guest Speaker @ 2:00pm**

***Bring your family, bring your beach chair,  
Let's have a fun day at the beach!***

**FUN!  
FELLOWSHIP!**

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

**RAFFLES!  
PRIZES!**

**BILL BAGGS STATE PARK  
PAVILION A1  
KEY BISCAYNE**



Please contact the Intergroup Office for more information: 305.461.2425

We can accept contributions through **PayPal Giving Fund** or **Zelle** under our e-mail: [aamiamidade@bellsouth.net](mailto:aamiamidade@bellsouth.net)

# "SUNSET GROUP" OLD TIMER'S POTLUCK!



**Saturday  
JUNE 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**5:00pm to 9:00pm**

**Bring your best dish & enjoy great  
Food & Fellowship!**



**Great Old Timer's  
Guest Speakers: 7:30pm**



**INTERGROUP BENEFIT!**

**SUNSET ROOM**

6999 N. Waterway Dr. – Miami – 305.261.3725



## Playing Checkers or Playing Chess How Far Should I Go?

Let me preface this article by saying that I am not being critical of anybody for any reason concerning where a person is along the path of sobriety. My only motive for writing it is to give some perspective concerning the possibilities which lie ahead based on the thoroughness we applied to the understanding of the steps as we put some distance between us and that last drink. I am one of the fortunate ones that showed up at the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) on October 15th, 1969, at the age of 28 and have never wanted a drink since that day.

I was the youngest person in the room for my first couple of years as the drugs using population of the 60s generation had not started showing up until the mid-70s and they seemed to bottom out at a much earlier in life than the common variety alcoholic who seldom came to us until they were in their mid-40s. "midlife crisis" In my first two years, I was like everyone else when it came to the subject of thoroughness in the beginning and I was selective about what I would do with the program and about the things I would dismiss as unnecessary since I had absolutely no desire to drink. I was slow and deliberate when it came to taking the steps. It was almost two years before I attempted to do the 4th step inventory and being in the Navy at the time, I was shipped out to an oil tanker in the Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club where I spent four months in and out of port hauling fuel to the fleet. I had many nights at sea thinking and longing to be back with my home group and contemplating what I had planned to do when I got home. (Cont. on pg 3)



### Ebby's Promise

Ebby Thatcher

My friend promised when these things were done I would enter upon a new relationship with my Creator; that I would have the elements of a way of living which answered all my problems.

Belief in the power of God, plus enough willingness, honesty and humility to establish and maintain the new order of things, were the essential requirements. Simple, but not easy; a price had to be paid. It meant destruction of self-centeredness. I must turn in all things to the Father of Light who presides over us all.

AA p13 "Bill's Story"



Bill Wilson



## ACCEPTANCE IS THE KEY

ACCEPTANCE IS THE ANSWER TO ALL OF MY PROBLEMS TODAY. WHEN I AM DISTURBED, IT IS BECAUSE I FIND SOME PERSON, PLACE, THING OR SITUATION- SOME FACT OF MY LIFE- UNACCEPTABLE TO ME, AND I CAN FIND NO SERENITY UNTIL I ACCEPT THAT PERSON, PLACE, THING, OR SITUATION AS BEING EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE AT THIS MOMENT. NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING, HAPPENS IN GOD'S WORLD BY MISTAKE. UNTIL I COULD ACCEPT MY ALCOHOLISM, I COULD NOT STAY SOBER UNLESS I ACCEPT MY LIFE COMPLETELY ON LIFE'S TERMS. I CANNOT BE HAPPY. I NEED TO CONCENTRATE NOT SO MUCH ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED IN THE WORLD AS ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED IN ME AND IN MY ATTITUDES.

## HOW IT (Really) WORKS What Principles?

When I first heard the term "practice these principles in all our affairs", in Step Twelve, I was waiting for someone to hand me a list of the principles, but it never happened the way I thought it would. I then thought that the Steps were what they were referring to when they spoke of these principles, but that never settled into my satisfaction either. Someone once suggested that the Saint Francis Prayer, being in Step Eleven may be the principles they were pointing out in Step 12; Close, but no cigar. I've never heard a clear, definite answer to this personal dilemma, but it never stopped me from searching for a clear understanding of what "these principles" are. After hearing thousands of members sharing on hundreds of topics in Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) meetings for many years, and reading the Big Book, (Alcoholics Anonymous) and the 12&12, (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions) innumerable times, a slow but sure picture started to come in to focus. I realized that the 12 Steps were just the framework for a miraculous set of values that would set me free from all the doubts, fears, guilt, shame, and all the other negative emotions that cause all that mental chaos of Alcoholism.

*(Cont. on pg. 5)*

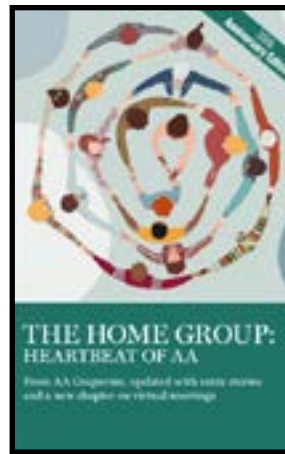
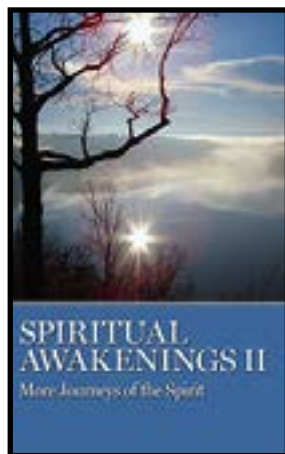
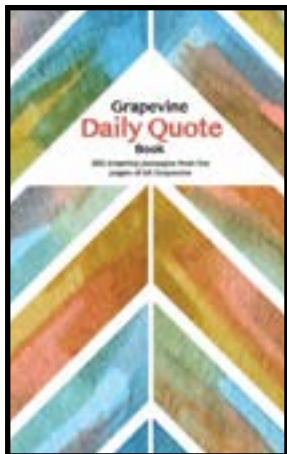
# GRAPEVINE BOOKS! ON SALE NOW!

## AA Grapevine

### Announces A Price Increase On Books

As of January 1, 2023, book and other content related items prices will increase.

To learn more visit [www.aagrapevine.org/news-release](http://www.aagrapevine.org/news-release)



## Playing Checkers *(Cont. from pg. 2)*

When I did return home, I reopened my Fourth Step Inventory with a new attitude about the steps and realize that my original attempt was a very shallow scam and I burned it and started over and got it right the second time around. That, I think was the turning point in my attitude about thoroughness. I address those so-called tormenting ghosts of yesterday, shared them with another trusted member of the program and it just lifted the weight off my shoulders. That I believe, made the rest of the program much easier.

I have attended a weekly step study meeting ever since and it helps me to measure my growth as I cycle through the Steps and Traditions several times a year. There is a term on page 85 in the Big Book and coincidentally on page 85 in the 12&12 that suggest this is no time to rest on our laurels, and I take that very seriously because of the unexpected results I have experienced concerning the quality of life I Live Today. Steps 10, 11, and 12 are referred to as the maintenance steps. With many years of sobriety, I could rest on my laurels and vegetate, but I would have no purpose in life and if I neglected responsibilities my life worth would suffer. Being judgmental about the behavior of others, I would be playing God and we all know that isn't right unless I am perfect myself. Scott Peck defines love as, caring for and nurturing another person, and I can love everyone even if they can't return the gesture.

It just means wishing the best for them. (No Exceptions). These are just a few ideas but there are many ways to continue to have a purpose and if you don't, you may want to revisit the 4th through the 9th steps and get a better perspective on how to become a more useful member of society and be fulfilled or, you may be satisfied just not drinking one day at a time. That's your choice.

I heard a sportscaster describing the different head coaches of professional football teams and he said some are playing Checkers and a few are playing Chess. Life is too good to waste.

By Rick R.



## **Nuevo Libro Grapevine**

**SB-20**

### **EXPERIENCIA, FORTALEZA y ESPERANZA**

Esta antología contiene 56 historias retiradas de las primeras tres ediciones en inglés del Libro Grande, Alcohólicos Anónimos, traducidas al español.

La membresía de Alcohólicos Anónimos continúa creciendo y cambiando, pero estas historias del pasado nunca perderán su vigencia. La historia esencial en A.A. —“cómo éramos, lo que pasó y cómo somos ahora”— es una constante.

Esa fórmula imperecedera para las charlas de AA sigue siendo tan válida en estas historias antiguas como lo es ahora en la reunión de la otra cuadra.

Aprobado por la Conferencia de Servicios Generales

\*Actualmente, el PDF está disponible en español.

Pronto estará disponible una versión en inglés y una versión en francés.\*

#### **EN EL PUNTO DE CAMBIO**

Las medidas parciales no nos sirvieron para nada. Estábamos en el punto de cambio. Entregándonos totalmente, le pedimos a Dios su protección y cuidado.

#### **ALCOHOLICOS ANONIMOS; p. 59**

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Todos los días yo me encuentro en momentos decisivos. Mis pensamientos y mis acciones pueden impulsarme hacia el desarrollo o encaminarme a las viejas costumbres y a la bebida. Algunas veces los momentos decisivos son comienzos, como cuando empiezo a encomiar, en lugar de criticar a alguien.

O cuando empiezo a pedir ayuda en lugar de intentarlo solo. Otras veces los momentos decisivos son finales, tales como cuando veo claramente la necesidad de dejar de alimentar resentimientos o el egoísmo. Muchos defectos me tientan diariamente; por esto yo tengo también oportunidades diarias para darme cuenta de ellos.

De una u otra manera, muchos de mis defectos de carácter aparecen diariamente: la auto-condena, la ira, la evasión, la soberbia, el deseo de desquitarme y la grandiosidad.

Intentar medidas parciales para eliminar estos defectos solamente paralizan mis esfuerzos para cambiar.

Solamente cuando le pido ayuda a Dios, con total entrega, llego a tener la voluntad y la capacidad para cambiar.

**Reflexiones Diarias - Enero 7**

REUNIONES VIRTUALES  
EN  
ESPAÑOL  
**WWW.AAMIAMIDADE.ORG**

GRUPOS:  
**VIVIENDO SOBRIO  
CORAL GABLES  
LA GRAN MANZANA**

Si necesitan postear sus reuniones virtuales en el website de Miami-Dade Intergroup por favor

enviar e-mail a  
**aamiamidade@bellsouth.net**  
o llamar al  
**305.461.2425**  
con su informacion.

¿Sabías qué..?

La Oficina de Servicios Generales (OSG) tiene actualmente una extensa lista de hombres encarcelados que están a la espera de intercambiar correspondencia con un miembro de A.A. de afuera. La gran mayoría de estos hombres son alcohólicos hispanos que desean trabajar el programa de A.A. Tu puedes enviar el mensaje de A.A. manteniendo esta correspondencia y usando La Viña como herramienta de Paso Doce.

Para obtener más información, envía un correo electrónico a: [corrections@aa.org](mailto:corrections@aa.org).

O puedes escribir a:

Correccionales,  
Oficina de Servicios Generales  
Box 459, Grand Central Station  
Nueva York, N.Y. 10163.

*“Admitimos ante Dios, ante nosotros mismos, y ante otro ser humano, la naturaleza exacta de nuestros defectos.”*

## FAITHFUL FIVER MEMBERS

**Yes, I want to participate in the Faithful Fiver Club!**



Contribution information:      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly: \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly: \_\_\_\_\_ Annually: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Note: No A.A. member can contribute more than \$3,000 per year)**

I am a new Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Returning Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like my name to be added in "The Messenger."      \_\_\_\_\_ No, I would like to remain anonymous

**For Credit Card recurring contribution information please call the office at: 305.461.2425**

"Each day that your Group participates in the work of our local A.A. services, whether through those who "Contribute their Time" or Group Contributions, or Sobriety Contributions, something wonderful happens in A.A. When a newcomer calls us and finds your meeting, it is indeed a miracle. Your contributions show that you care about the services we as a fellowship provide and continued hope for the newcomer that reaches out for help. Words cannot fully express the deep gratitude about the energy that your A.A. Group devotes into carrying the message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic."

**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.

**3 Anonymous.**

### HOW IT (REALLY) WORKS..... (Cont. from pg. 3)

Tradition Two in the 12&12, Bill talks about his dilemma when someone suggested he go professional with the A.A. recovery program and the group advised against it. The principle of ethics caused him to go against his natural instincts. The Golden Rule is a principle that could have been incorporated into the steps, and who could have argued with the virtue of that, if it weren't crossing the line that the Oxford Group had mistakenly crossed which may have been their undoing. Today I live by The Golden Rule even though I have never seen it suggested in A.A. literature.

The principles that we adopt in A.A. meetings are sprinkled throughout the Big Book and the 12&12, and there are far more than 12 of them. We assimilate them into our understanding sometimes without even being aware of it. On page 112 in the 12&12 for example, it asks "Can we bring the same spirit of love and tolerance into our sometimes-deranged family lives that we bring to our A.A. group"? This implies that love and tolerance is a principle or a mindset that we should practice in and outside the rooms of A.A. The program is made up of many principles that we learned long before we came into the program. Our problem was largely due to our inability to live by those principles. Our EGOs made the rules. Today, my Conscience outweighs my EGO. My unselfishness outweighs my greed. My compassion outweighs my resentments.... Today most everything I do is opposite to what It was Before A.A. and I have learned to find a principle that applies to every short-coming that had plagued me in the past and I have learned to live by them. It takes all the guess work out of my decision making. The common denominator in all these principles that I value today is that they are all unselfish in nature. They are also common in all meaningful philosophies of life, and not exclusive to A.A. I no longer need to create my own version of these principles they are opposite to all my negative principles of the past. A noted writer once said, "When a person lives by principles, 99 percent of their decisions are already made for them." Today, I live by the dictates of my Conscience. Take that Mr. EGO.

By Rick R.



## SOUTH DADE'S NEW MEETING

(STARTING 5/1/23 - A PARTIR DEL 5/1/23)

**Spanish Meeting / Reunión en Español**

Reunión de discusión abierta en español, pero todos son bienvenidos.

**Mondays / Los Lunes 7:00 - 8:00 PM**

10965 SW 186 ST, Miami FL 33157



**INTERGROUP  
CONTACT LIST**

aamiamidade.org

**Chairman**

Richard A.

**Vice-Chair**

Gloria P.

**Treasurer**

Sal G.

**Secretary**

Albert V.

**Steering Committee**

Jennifer R.

Manuel M.

Ma. Isabel S.

Jonathan M.

Paul R.

**Trustees**

Ian S.

**Founder's Day**

Richard A.

**Intergroup Banquet**

Ma. Isabel S.

**Intergroup Office**

Jennifer R.

**The Messenger**

Office

*Outreach***OPEN POSITION***Public Information***OPEN POSITION****Twelve Step Relay**

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Maria S.

**Big Service Breakfast**

Mary Beth L.

**General Service Liaison**

Andrea L.

**Spanish Intergroup Liaison**

Jennifer R.

**Webmaster**

Office

**GENERAL SERVICE  
CONTACT LIST**  
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**Alternate Chairperson**

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**Current Practice**

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**Intergroup Liaison**

Andrea L.

**Literature**

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**PI/CPC**

David A.

**Accessibilities**

Adi M.

**Treatment**

Paul H.

**Big Service Breakfast**

David A.

**District 17 Liaison****OPEN POSITION****Remote Communities**

Brenda C.

**Communications****OPEN POSITION****"THE MESSENGER"**

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**MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP**

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www.aamiamidade.org

**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 its 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 back cover.

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

Please make checks payable to:  
**MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP**

*"I think we simply fail to recognize miracles for what they are.  
Sobriety -- one-day-at-a-time -- is truly a miracle."*

**APRIL**

**SOBER WAY OUT**

- Ashley 1
- Eric E. 1
- Danny C. 2
- Jayde J. 2
- Lissette Y. 6
- Adolfo L. 7
- Loretta T. 13
- Debbie H. 13
- Ty B. 16
- Amalfi G. 17
- Tamara K. 29
- Shanon A. 32
- Ron T. 37

**PALMETTO BAY**

- Manuela 2
- Charles 10
- Darryl 20

**SUNSET**

- Orlis P. 1
- AJ 1
- Robert F. 1
- Johanna M. 4
- Andrew F. 7
- Robert E. 14
- Josh L. 20
- Charlotte 29

**SABAL PALM**

- Fred D. 1
- Chris T. 1
- Sebastian 1
- Yvette G. 7
- Mel O. 15
- Alvaro R. 19
- Karen L. 19
- Marth G. 23
- Michael M. 25
- Ignacio B. 26
- Leah L. 29
- Eileen McC. 29
- Darlene S. 41

**SOUTH DADE**

- Carlos S. 1
- David JA 1
- Manuela 2
- Charles S. 10
- Phil D. 10
- Lee 12
- John G. 14
- Chuck I. 17
- Darryl W. 20
- Oliver 30
- Xavier 37

**MEETINGS IN RUSSIAN**

Do you know any Russian-speaking friend, who has drinking problems? Please invite them to our new 7pm Sunday Russian-speaking Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.



**12 STEP HOUSE**  
205 SW 23rd St.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315

www.russianaa.com  
russianaa.florida@gmail.com



Higher Power,  
my inventory has shown  
me who I am,  
yet I ask for Your help in admitting  
my wrongs to another  
person and to You.  
Assure me and be with me  
in this Step, for without the  
Step I cannot  
progress in my recovery.  
With your help, I can do this  
and I will do it.

Group Conscience/Business/Service Meetings

- Brickell Group/3rd Thursday @ 1:05pm
- Coral Gables Group/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm
- Good Morning Group/3rd Friday @ 11:00am
- Happy 1060 Group/3rd Sunday @ 11:45am
- Happy Hour Group/ 3rd Thursday @ 6:35pm
- Homestead Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm
- Lincoln Road YP/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm
- Little River Group/2nd Sunday @ 7:00pm
- Miami Young People/3rd Saturday @ 7:00pm
- Mix Nuts Group/1st Monday @ 7:30pm
- Palmetto Bay/3rd Wednesday @ 6:35pm
- Primary Purpose/Last Wednesday @ 6:45pm
- Quinto Paso/1st Monday @ 7:00pm
- Sabal Palm/3rd Thursday @ 7:00pm
- Sober Way Out/3rd Sunday @ 7:00pm
- Something Happens/1st Saturday @ 10:00am
- South Dade Group/3rd Wednesday @ 7:00pm
- South Dixie Group/2nd Sunday @ 12:15pm
- Sunset Group/2nd Friday @ 7:00pm
- West Miami Group/3rd Tuesday @ 7:00pm

Group Anniversaries

- 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
- Happy Hour Group/Last Friday @ 5:30pm
- 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/Last Monday @ 7:30pm
- Miami Young People/Last Saturday @ 8:30pm
- Mixed Nuts Group/Last Monday @ 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
- 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 Saturday @ 7:30pm
- West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm

**MAY**

**SUNSET**

- Mina 1
- Tanner W. 1
- Russ M. 1
- Billy 1
- Marcos M. 2
- Matthew 5
- Paul D. 5
- Berni 15
- Maria Z. 22
- Rick W. 25

**PAYPAL NEWS**

Fees charges have changed with PayPal while sending contributions through their site or app.

Please if you send your contributions through PayPal you need to send it through their

"PayPal Giving Fund"

**LOOKING FOR A.A. MEETINGS?**

Learn more at:  
[www.meetingguide.org](http://www.meetingguide.org)



Here is the icon to look for.....

## Help Support "The Messenger" This Publication Belongs To You!

To make address changes you can notify the Intergroup Office or mail in the form below.  
To subscribe to "The Messenger" please fill out the form below and mail with your \$12.00  
for a yearly contribution.

Please make checks payable to:  
MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP  
c/o The Messenger

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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!!!

## The Messenger

Miami-Dade Intergroup  
1850 SW 8th St. # 303  
Miami, FL 33135  
Phone: 305.461.2425 (24 hrs.)  
Fax: 305.461.2426

