



THE MESSENGER

MIAMI-DADE INTERGROUP

AAMIAMIDADE@BELLSOUTH.NET

JANUARY 2026

1850 SW 8th St. # 303 - Miami, FL 33135

305.461.2425 (24 hrs)

aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

aamiamidade.org



Step 1

“WE ADMITTED
WE WERE
POWERLESS
OVER
ALCOHOL, THAT
OUR LIVES
HAD BECOME
UNMANAGE-
ABLE.”

71st Annual Banquet Miami-Dade Intergroup

**"We found the Great Reality
deep down within us"**

B.B. pg55

Saturday - April 18, 2026

GUEST SPEAKER
From Dallas TX

SAVE THE DATE!

Tickets per person: \$50.00
Table for 10 People: \$500.00

Renaissance Ballrooms | 5910 SW 8th St | 33144



THURSDAY 01.29.2026

**ALL ARE WELCOME! MEN & WOMEN! ALL EAT FREE! 50/50 RAFFLE!
SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS | TOSSED SALAD | ITALIAN BREAD | DESSERTS**



**ellowship 5:30-6:00 | Dinner 6:00-7:30 | Speakers 8:00
rist the King Lutheran Church 11295 SW 57th Ave, Pinecrest FL 33156**

Choosing Happiness

A letter to a sponsee reveals a blueprint for sobriety

was recently asked to tell my story at a speaker meeting, in my 7th year of sobriety. I agreed to do it, and in closing read the following, which I wrote after I got my first sponsee.

As we work this program, it kind of works us, in stages. The first stage is learning to not drink or use, learning how to accept and maneuver life on life's terms, feeling our feelings instead of numbing them. Only then, can we move into the second stage, where we use the skills we have learned and the advice of our sponsors to create and enjoy a purposeful and happy life. It may sound contradictory, but working this program for me has simultaneously both required, and created, faith.

I had been miserable and hopeless for so long that not having those feelings as constant companions took some getting used to. AA taught me that misery was not an unchangeable fact of my life. Instead, two things had created my misery: my choices and my focus up to that point in my life. My focus had been on self-destruction—though I would not have called it that then—and there was an alternative open to me in this program that was not open to me before. The questions I asked myself began to change:

(Cont. on page 3)

Family Can Wait

A dry, unhappy newcomer faces spending the holidays with family in a cabin far away. What could possibly go wrong?

In December of 2019 my life was spinning out of control. I had been wrung-out dry for about three years, but I hadn't worked a single Step and had only dabbled in going to AA meetings for the past six months. Mostly I went to meetings because my girlfriend (now wife) said I was a nicer person after "those" meetings. So yes, I went to get the proverbial monkey off my back. I wasn't drinking, but I sure was miserable.

While my family of origin started planning the holiday festivities, I was also facing my second major surgery since May of that year. If I were to spend time with this part of my family I knew I would have to drive to meet them just days before my surgery, while in fairly intense physical pain. For some unknown reason (that I still can't discern) my family decided that we would meet about halfway from each of our homes at a cabin in the middle of nowhere.

My family was the opposite of woodsy. We had never gone to state parks or other kinds of places to hike, and I had only ever camped out with friends in high school. While I don't think it was ever an intentional choice, my family when I was a child only went where you could legally have alcohol, such as public lakes and public beaches, and of course, restaurants and homes.

So here I was. I had a decision to make. Would I go to a cabin in the woods two days before a major surgery with no plans other than to sit around and play cards while staring at liquor? Or would I tell my family I couldn't make it this year knowing that I would likely upset them?

In one of my first acts of surrender, I went to what I now know was an AA beginners' meeting. I had never spoken at a meeting before. But I got the courage and posed my question to the group anyway.

All I can say about what happened next was that a power greater than me told this man at the AA meeting to break all the AA rituals at once because he could see right through my question. "I know this is crosstalk, and I'm sorry," the man said, "but I think you need to hear this. If I hadn't worked a single Step, didn't have a sponsor and decided to go to that cabin in the woods for that holiday, I'd be lying to myself if I didn't say it was for the sole purpose of losing the little recovery I'd racked up thus far."

(Cont. on page 5)

Choosing Happiness (Cont. from pg 2)

Why treat my body, mind, and soul with disrespect and allow others to do the same when I could instead learn to see myself as worthy of better?

Why would I cling to cynicism when I could choose optimism?

Why would I stay in financial instability when I could make choices that brought about solvency?

Why isolate when I could surround myself with reliable, honest, compassionate friends?

Why tread water in a purposeless existence when I could be of service to others?

Why accept my combative outlook when I could choose serenity?

Beginning to get sober takes courage, willingness and open-mindedness to believe good things are both possible and available to us. In this program I have watched others make that transition and have made it myself, a shift for which I am profoundly grateful and that I credit to the fact that I pray for guidance daily, take time to listen and watch for its arrival and ask to be given the willingness to follow it. Every day I choose to take the constructive, self-respecting actions I have learned in this program, every day I choose to focus on what is good in my life—good that is invariably there if I will just look for it—I build for myself a little more faith in God, a little more faith in this program, and a little more faith in humanity, none of which I had before.

Jane D., Nashville, TN

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**REDLANDS GROUP OF A.A.
“4th Anniversary”**



**Tuesday
January 13th, 2026
Campfire Open Meeting @ 7pm
Followed by Coffee and Pastries!**



**REDLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH
14601 SW 248th Street, Homestead, FL 33032**

LET GO

&

LET GOD

**Lets Ask Bill W.
Question & Answer # 5**

When you first sobered up how did you approach alcoholics and did you change that approach?

Answer

I took off to cure alcoholics wholesale. It was twinjet propulsion; difficulties meant nothing. The vast conceit of my project never occurred to me. I pressed my assault for six months; my home was filled with alcoholics. Harangues with scores produced not the slightest result. None of them got it. Disappointingly, my friend of the kitchen table, who was sicker than I realized, took little interest in other alcoholics. This fact may have caused his endless backslides later on. For I had found that working with alcoholics had a huge bearing on my own sobriety. But why wouldn't any of my new prospects sober up?

(Cont. on page 5)

¿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.
O puedes escribir a Correccionales,

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

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.

"36 ANIVERSARIO"
grupo
NUEVO DESPERTAR
1990-2025
2335 nw 27av
miami fl 33142
semana de unidad
18 al 25 de enero

maratonica
informacion al publico

sabado 24 local del grupo 10 pm
domingo 25 10 am
2980 nw south river drive miami fl 33125



MARCO C. 786 354 5841 COORDINADOR
MAURICIO 786 633 8585 SECRETARIO
ADOLFO O. 305 316 6067 TESORERO



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 \$7,500 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.

Family Can Wait (Cont. from page 2)

As he spoke, he looked me square in the eyes. I felt seen. I knew he was right. The holidays are hard, and families can make holidays even harder. I had a choice. Endanger the precarious recovery I had found so far—or set a boundary. I made a decision. For the first time, I chose sobriety. I chose sanity. I chose a different path.

It's a few years later now, and I would love to say that my decision to skip the cabin was well-received and that I've reconnected with my family. Unfortunately, I cannot claim that truth. What I can gratefully attest to is that I got busy in service, worked the Steps with a sponsor and sought outside help to manage my outside issues.

Some lovely material things have happened as a result. I now have a stable income and my wife and I are buying our first home. However, the greater gifts by far are the fact that through a lot of hard work and the willingness to take suggestions, I have maintained sobriety, stability and oftentimes sanity.

Do I miss my family immensely? Yes, I do. However, making the choice to set a boundary rather than folding into the comfortable holiday guilt and shame quite possibly was one of the most important gifts I've ever given myself.

I couldn't have done it on my own, however. The man across the room who was willing to offend me with his honest appraisal of my situation—that man might have saved my sobriety and quite possibly my life.

Elizabeth J., Columbus, OH
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Lets Ask Bill W. (Cont. from page 3)

Slowly the bugs came to light. Like a religious crank, I was obsessed with the idea that everybody must have a "spiritual experience" just like mine. I'd forgotten that there were many varieties. So my brother alcoholics just stared incredulously or kidded me about my "hot flash." This had spoiled the potent identification so easy to get with them. I had turned evangelist. Clearly the deal had to be streamlined. What came to me in six minutes might require six months in others. It was to be learned that words are things, that one must be prudent. It was also certain that something dailed the deflationary technique. It definitely lacked wallop. Reasoning that the alcoholic's "hex" or compulsion must issue from some deep level, it followed that ego deflation must also go deep or else there couldn't be any fundamental release. Apparently religious practice would not touch the alcoholic until his underlying situation was made ready. Fortunately, all the tools were right at hand. You doctors supplied them.

The emphasis was shifted from "sin" to "sickness"—the "fatal malady," alcoholism. We quoted doctors that alcoholism was more lethal than cancer; that it consisted of an obsession of the mind coupled to increasing body sensitivity. These were our twin ogres of madness and death. We leaned heavily on Dr. Jung's statement of how hopeless the condition could be and then poured that devastating dose into every drunk within range. To modern man science is omnipotent; it is a god. Hence if science could pass a death sentence on a drunk, and we placed that verdict on our alcoholic transmission, it might shatter him completely. Perhaps he would then turn to the God of the theologian, there being no place else to go. Whatever the truth in this device, it certainly had practical merit. Immediately our whole atmosphere changed. Things began to look up.

**INTERGROUP
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aamiamidade.org

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Vice-Chair

Paul R.

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www.district10miami.org

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"THE MESSENGER"

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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 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

TRADITION ONE

"OUR COMMON WELFARE SHOULD COME FIRST; PERSONAL RECOVERY DEPENDS UPON A.A. UNITY."

JANUARY

CORAL GABLES

- Luis A 1
- Zack G. 2
- Anne B. 2
- Gloria B 3
- Ken T. 17
- Dan W. 18
- Nitza P. 29
- Jennifer S. 35

SOUTH DADE

- Roxanne A. 3
- Rebeca C. 3
- Jay 4
- Kelly 8
- Karen 16
- Luisa R. 16
- Nellie 16
- Peter 28
- Robert C. 39
- Mike M. 42



Miami-Dade Intergroup
@MiamiDadeIntergroup



venmo

Scan this code to pay

How to contribute to your Intergroup Office

Via ZELLE through your bank at:
aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

PAYPAL NEWS

Please if you send your contributions through PayPal, send it through their "PayPal Giving Fund"

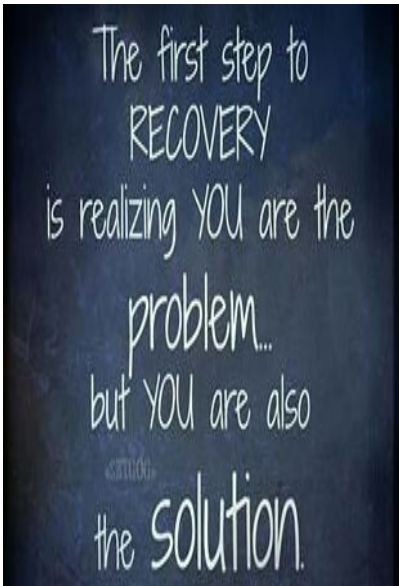
so the Intergroup Office does not incur any extra charges.

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
- The Triangle AA Group/3rd Wednesday @ 6:35pm
- 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 Sunday @ 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 @ 7:30pm
- South Dixie Group/Last Saturday @ 7:30pm
- Sunset Group/Last Saturday @ 7:30pm
- The Triangle AA Group/Last Saturday @ 5:30pm
- West Miami Group/Last Friday @ 8:30pm



MEETING GUIDE APP



Do you want to know..... How can you help? How can you do service? Come to our next monthly meeting of Miami-Dade Intergroup which will be held on Thursday - February 12, 2026 @ 8:00pm Via Zoom. This is a great opportunity to do service!
For more info call: (305) 461-2425 For comments / suggestions e-mail us - Editor: jamc13@bellsouth.net or aamiamidade@bellsouth.net

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for a yearly contribution.

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Name: _____
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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

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