

Step 12: *“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.”*

I go so I don't get drunk... I got a call from Joe, and, right off the bat, he wanted me to take him to Detox. I came to find out that he had been in and out of Detox many times over the last ten years. I ended up taking him to Detox three times myself. He was a real mess. House full of beer cans. I don't think he ever threw up in my truck, but he'd pee beside my truck. Later, I heard that the nurse at Detox, who knew him *well*, asked him, “Joe, do you know how many times you've been here? Twenty-six times!” But, that's not the end of the story...

I ended up working the steps with Joe. He was doing 9th step work. He had two sons that he did not raise. And, his ex-wife had taken those boys all the way to the west coast Oregon. He'd had almost no contact since then, and he felt really bad about that. They were grown men at this point. Joe wanted to make amends to them. So, I told him to write them a letter. He said, “I don't know where to send it.” So, I said, ‘Just think about it.’ He ended up sending the letter to his ex-wife. Shortly after, Joe got a call from his daughter, from another marriage, that his oldest son wanted to talk to him. He thought it was due to the letter he had written. Joe and his son got together. The letter came back; it was returned, undeliverable. What happened? He put the effort out there and a miracle came back. Joe is sober - 14 years. I still see him. He has good relations with his oldest son and daughter. His son is sober, too.

I think it's important to just go and talk to the alcoholic. That's what people did for me. They talked to me and tried to help me. They didn't give up on me. I've been on dozens of 12 step calls. I want everybody to have a happy ending like I have had. And, I think a lot of them do because “MIRACLES” happen. When you carry the message to someone who is still out there; it creates miracles. It's action. It's taking action and it's an act of love. A seed has been planted. The miracle is starting to happen. Alcoholics Anonymous creates miracles. Absolutely! Doug B.

“I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that : I am responsible.”
(Article written for the 1965 AA International Convention)

We were on a twelve step call... and it was January 18, 2016, the coldest night of the year in Tallahassee, shortly after 8 pm . Mark's father, from Orlando and desperate to know how his son was, had called the Intergroup5 “Hotline” that afternoon. His son had been Baker-acted and taken to detox by the police.

We rang the buzzer to the TMH Detox Center. Rang it again...and again. Finally, a night tech answered , “Whaddaya want?” Not to be deterred, my AA companions and I pushed on. “We're from AA and we're here to see Mark.” “Hold on”. Several minutes passed. “He don't wanna see nobody from AA.” The woman in our group spoke up, “Please tell Mark his father sent us. We really just want to see how he's doing.” A few minutes more and the access button buzzed us in. We found Mark, despondent, sitting in a conference room, his head low.

We did not judge Mark, nor try to “sell” him on AA. We talked with Mark about “what it was like, what happened, and what it was like now for us. We were hoping to encourage him to talk about his “story”. We simply shared our experience strength and hope. The woman in our group, Evelyn G., recounted how her own son and daughter, similar in age to Mark, had both been treated at the Detox Center. We also talked with him about the fellowship of AA and suggested that he attend the Young People's Group meeting. Before we left that evening, Mark asked us to visit him again. The next evening, when Evelyn G. returned to see Mark, she was told, “He done checked out.” He had left via cab, destination unknown.

Paul D.

“When you discover a prospect for Alcoholics Anonymous, find out all you can about him. If he does not want to stop drinking, don't waste time trying to persuade him. You may spoil a later opportunity. This advice is given for his family also. They should be patient, realizing they are dealing with a sick person.”

(Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition (2001), p. 90)

Mustard Seed Group

One day, in 2001, I was thumbing through the bulletin at Advent Episcopal Church and turned to the announcements in the back. There was a little blurb that said, "An Alcoholics Anonymous meeting is forming and will meet in the parish hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30." I had gotten sober in AA years before but had stopped going when I went to work full time. I thought, "OK, God! I won't go to AA meetings so you've brought the meeting to me!"

I went to the fledging meeting on the very next Tuesday. There were about eight people there, including the founders of the meeting, Diz T. and Mark F. After the "first" meeting, we got to the business of picking out a name. Several were suggested, including Mustard Seed. There was quite a bit of discussion with one or two not liking Mustard Seed because of its religious connotation. "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed..." (you can do great things). Luke 17:6. The suggested names were discussed and voted on and ...Mustard Seed won!

We outgrew our small room at Advent and moved to Timberlane Church of Christ. Our little Mustard Seed group grew and grew at that lovely location. We had lots of joy and some heartbreaks, including the death of our wonderful founder, Diz T. Many of our members participated in his funeral. It was a spectacular event at Killlearn United Methodist Church! The service was led by Matt B., and several of our AA friends spoke about how much Diz meant to us. The music was presented by Frank R. and me, a lowly flute tooter! Frank even sang "Take Me Home, Country Roads" since Diz was raised in West Virginia.

Our next location was at Meridian Woods Church of Christ. We stayed there until Dale W., the founder of Living Harvest, asked us to move to one of their locations in Four Oaks Center off Kerry Forest Parkway. I think we've found our permanent home! We have an open meeting every week day at 12:30 with a book study on Mondays. On Monday nights at 6:15, we have a closed step study meeting. We count more than 150 years of sobriety at any given meeting. We try very hard to be extra friendly and welcoming so come and visit us. We'd love to have you!

Annette K.

- ◇ For an up-to-date "Calendar of Events: go to: InterGroup5.org - **Spring Picnic- April 21, 2:30-5:00, Tom Brown Park, Pavilion 13. \$5.00 donation**
- ◇ We will be highlighting a group in every issue of this newsletter. Please submit an article on YOUR HOME GROUP!
- ◇ Comments/Suggestions: message@intergroup5.org

Group Contributions

The mission of InterGroup5 is to assist the AA groups in District 5 in carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Group contributions are vital in support of this mission. Without group contributions InterGroup5 would not exist.

Tradition 7: "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions" AND Tradition 9: "AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve" guide our work in the spirit of service.

Group Contributions for 2017

Apalachicola Bay Serenity	\$ 100.00
Bradfordville	450.00
Came to Believe	374.21
Capital City	200.00
Central	4,100.00
Grateful	500.00
Lanark	20.00
Living Sober	210.00
Lloyd	300.00
Men's Faith	300.00
Mustard Seed	120.00
Serenity Sisters	729.31
Singleness of Purpose	115.16
Southside	200.00
YPG	<u>145.00</u>
TOTAL	\$7,863.68

Literature Store Report

A TOTAL of 2,408 pamphlets were provided to groups and correctional facilities free of charge during 2017.

What were the most popular (TOP TEN) pamphlets according to requests received by the InterGroup5 Literature Store?

- "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell" 230
- "Frequently Asked Questions About AA" 222
- "Problems Other Than Alcohol" 209
- "Is AA for You?" 157
- "Do You Think You're Different?" 149
- "AA For the Woman" 135
- "Twelve Illustrated" 134
- "Is AA for Me?" 132
- "The AA Member-Medications & Other Drugs" 107
- "This is AA" 100