

# MARCH 2020



## HEARTLAND INTERGROUP

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[www.heartlandintergroup.org](http://www.heartlandintergroup.org)



Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm, Saturday 9:00am – 12:00pm





## WHAT DID I DO TODAY?

1. What did I do today that I like and respect myself for doing?
2. What did I do today for someone and tell no one about it?
3. What did I see or hear today that has nothing to do with me that I liked and enjoyed?
4. What problems do I have today and what am I going to do about them and do I do it?
5. Who do I need to forgive for real or imagined hurts directed at me?
6. Who do I need to make amends to for my wrongs directed at them?
7. What miracles am I aware of that God did for me today?

**STEP THREE:** *"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."*

**TRADITION THREE:** *"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."*

**TRADITION THREE (long form):** *"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend on money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."*

**CONCEPT THREE:** *"As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional 'Right of Decision.'"*

*3rd Step Prayer: "God, I offer myself to Thee- To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of life. May I do Thy will always! Amen"*

### **We were now at Step Three . . .**

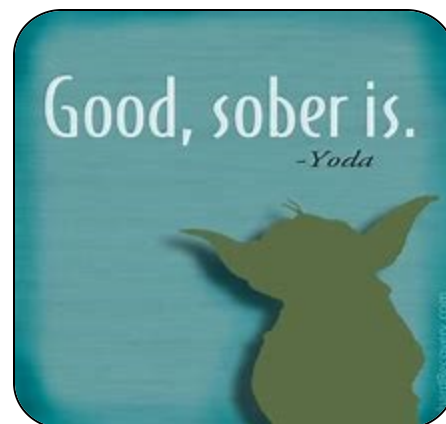
This is the how and why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work. Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal, we are his agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most good ideas are simple, and this concept was the keystone of the new and triumphant arch through which we passed to freedom.

When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed. We had a new Employer. Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs. More and more we became interested in seeing what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of his presence, we began to lose out fear of today, tomorrow or the hereafter. We were reborn.

We were now at Step Three. Many of us said to our Maker, *as we understood him*: "God, I offer myself to Thee – to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love and Thy Way of Life. May I do Thy will always!"  
Alcoholics Anonymous, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, pp. 62-63.

#### **Tradition Three: The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?



## **AA HISTORY IN MARCH:**

**1940 A.A.'s FIRST HEADQUARTERS** Works Publishing moved from Newark N.J. to 30 Vesey St. in lower Manhattan.

**1941 A.A. MARCHES WEST** A.A. goes beyond Ohio, meetings started in Chicago, New Orleans, Houston, Topeka, Fort Worth, Tucson and Honolulu. *The Saturday Evening Post* publishes Jack Anderson's 7,500 word article about A.A. spurring a dramatic increase in Big Book sales.

**1944 WOMAN'S PRISON GROUP MEETS** First women's prison group meets at Clinton Farms in Clinton, N.J.

**1947 FIRST MEETING IN ENGLAND** American Grace O. contacts 5 Londoners and meets at the Dorchester Hotel

**1958 SINGAPORE** Dick D., writes to G.S.O. that the Singapore group has 23 members.

**1966 ECUADOR** Three groups start in Cuenca, Guayaquil and Lima.

**1974 URUGUAY** First meeting in Montevideo.

**1978 MILESTONE FOR AA GRAPEVINE** Circulation of the Fellowship's "meeting in print" reaches 100,000.

**1992 A.A. GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE MOVES** After 20 years on Park Avenue South, G.S.O relocates to 475 Riverside Drive, a 19 story building built by the Rockefeller family.

**1995 FIRST ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING** Attending delegates from: Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Vanuatu.

**2012 50 YEARS OF A.A. IN BARBADOS** Convention attended by more than 166 participants.

**2013 FRENCH BIG BOOK CELEBRATES 50 YEARS.**

**2015 JAPAN CELEBRATES 40TH ANNIVERSARY.**

**2017 CUBA GROWS** The 18th General Service Conference of A.A. in Cuba is held in Santa Clara, Cuba. A.A. continues to grow despite lacking basic necessities such as a phone line.





The Intensive Big Book Workshop invites you to join us in studying the big book using the famous Joe and Charlie tapes.

Hear their legendary insights that will help you better understand the history and program of Alcoholics Anonymous which has helped so many alcoholics **get sober and stay sober!**

Starting Monday, March 9, 2020  
at 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church  
Room A

Park and enter on preschool side

175 Lake Hollingsworth Dr.,  
Lakeland



# LOCATE MEETINGS WITH A CLICK!

"Meeting Guide by Josh R." is an app which can be downloaded to your cell phone to show you daily meetings in the Heartland Intergroup areas of Polk, Hardee and Highlands Counties. Available in your Play Store for Apple and Android phones.

Check it out!

Contributions from the previous month will be included in the following month's mid-month issue.

**(If you notice that your contribution is not reflected, please remember that we publish the contributions from the prior month, so yours may not show up until next month).**

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