

God, Grant me the
Serenity to accept the
things I Cannot change,
the Courage to change
the things I can, and
the Wisdom to
know the
difference.

Pipeline



A Publication of NH Area 43 Assembly

January 2009

1st Step – Here are Two Trains of Thought

Copyright © The AA Grapevine, Inc. (May 1973). Reprinted with permission.

It's been about seven or eight months now since I accepted membership in AA, and I finally came to understand the First Step just this afternoon, although I have heard it daily and have repeated it many times to myself.

The AA way and my way had been miles apart all my life. I did manage to maintain a five-year period of being *dry*, until I came to think that, because of my five years of being dry; I was cured of my drunken drinking and could again enter the word of social drinkers.

Little did I know what was ahead of me once I renewed my friendship with alcohol, it was straight downhill. Maybe it didn't seem like that on the first day or the first drink, but in a few short months, I lost the respect of my friends, the family, the business, the car, all the things it had taken five years to build up. True to the AA saying, I didn't pick up a drink as a person does who hadn't got this disease – I picked up a drunk.

If it had ended there, it would have been bad enough. But it didn't. I had to go through the drunken-driver-charge bit, the jail bit, the totaling-the-car bit, the...you name it. All the experiences of a previous ten-year-drunk were rolled into those few short months. Is alcoholism a progressive illness? You won't get any argument from me on that score.

Now back to the First Step and my acceptance of it as I understand it today. For the past seven months, I've been accepting it at face value, on blind faith, simply because I needed a weapon in my private war on alcohol.

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable." Right?

Wrong. If that is the First Step, then there is no need for the rest of the Steps, for the program itself. Today, with the use of Antabuse and a desire to stop drinking, anybody can stay dry.

The First Step does not go as I have been reading it. Unwittingly, I have been inserting the conjunction "and."

It reads: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol...that our lives had become unmanageable."

Notice the space between the words "alcohol" and "that." A printing error? Hardly. To me, it denotes two trains of thought: one – the obvious – that I'm powerless over alcohol; the other, that my life had become unmanageable.

If I continue to accept my first interpretation of the Step, I no longer need the program in its entirety. I can use the AA advice of staying away from one drink one day at a time, and start taking Antabuse as my insurance.

If I accept the second interpretation, I must recognize that I have a twofold problem, and the second train of thought then becomes an automatic introduction to the Second Step if I so choose.

Anyone interested in joining me in tackling that Second Step? It looks like a real mind-blower.

Gil, Queens, NY

Memo

To: You
Date: Today
From: God
Subject: Yourself
Reference: Life

This is God. Today I will be handling all of your problems for you. I do not need your help. So, have a nice day. I love you.

P.S. And, remember...if life happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it yourself! Kindly put it in the SFGTD (something for God to do) box. I will get to it in My Time. All situations will be resolved, but in My time, not yours. Once the matter is place into the box, do not hold onto it by worrying about it. Instead, focus on all the wonderful things that are present in your life now.

Now go ahead and have a wonderful day.

Pipeline

A publication of the
NH Area 43 Assembly of
Alcoholics Anonymous

Email the Pipeline at
pipeline@nhaa.net

Statement of Purpose

The New Hampshire Area Pipeline will be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to New Hampshire A. A. Area 43 as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Pipeline will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Like the A.A. movement it mirrors, the primary purpose of the New Hampshire Pipeline will be to try to carry the A.A. message to alcoholics and practice the A.A. principles in all its affairs.

NH Area Hotline
1-800-593-3300



NH Area Assembly
Service Office
1330 Hooksett Road
Hooksett, NH 03106

Phone (603)622-6967
Fax #: (603)624-9507

E-Mail:
office@nhaa.mv.com

Office Hours:
Mon. - Fri. - 10AM to 4PM
Saturdays - 10AM to 2PM
Website: www.nhaa.net



Group Information

District			New Groups			
7	Greenville	Thursday	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	685771	B
	Greenville Big Book, Community Christian Church, 5 Pleasant St.					
12	Manchester	Wednesday	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	685491	SD
	Ladies Noontime Voices Group, Grace Episcopal Church, 106 Lowell/Pine Streets					
15	Dover	Wednesday	7:00 PM	8:30 PM	647670	BX
	Dover Big Book Step Study, Unity Church Second Street, Group restarted.					

District			Meeting Changes			
9	Brentwood	Wednesday	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	145509	HDCX
	Kingston 12 & 12, United Pilgrim Church, 197 Middle Rd, Rte 111A					
	Group name changed from Kingston/Brentwood !2& 12					
11	Meredith	Friday	7:00 PM	8:30 PM	685150	HS
	Fight For Your Life Friday Night, Trinity Episcopal Church, 93 Route 25E					
	Time changed from 8-9:15					
11	Laconia	Wednesday	7:30 PM	9:00 PM	663145	HBX
	Laconia BB Step Study, Congregational Church of Laconia, 18 Veterans Square, 2nd fl					
	Location change from Good Shepherd Church in Laconia.					
12	Manchester	Saturday	3:00 PM	4:00PM	684978	D
	Willow Womens Group, Family Willows Recovery Center, 161 So. Beech St.					
	Time changed from 6-7PM					
14	Portsmouth	Sunday	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	1 34725	HS
	Sunday Morning Daybreak, Frank Jones Center 400 US Hwy 1 Bypass					
	Location change from Shoals Bldg, Portsmouth Hospital					

Let Go of the Past

Let go... of guilt; it's okay to make the same mistakes again.

Let go... of obsessions; they seldom turn out the way you planned.

Let go... of hate; it's a waste of love.

Let go... of blaming others; you are responsible for your own destiny.

Let go... of fantasies; so reality can come true.

Let go... of self-pity; someone else may need you.

Let go... of wanting; cherish what you have.

Let go... of fear; it's a waste of faith.

Let go... of despair; change comes from acceptance and forgiveness.

Let go... of the past; the future is here – right now.

Call for Articles!

The Pipeline needs your help. Do you have an AA event you wish to report on? An idea about AA? Want to relate a recovery story? Submit your ideas, stories and events to the Pipeline. Almost anything about recovery in AA will be accepted.

Email your articles to:

pipeline@nhaa.net

or

Mail them to:

**NH Area Assembly Service Office
1330 Hooksett Road
Hooksett, NH 03106**

We need your help!

We need at least one hundred group subscriptions to make our minimum for bulk mailing, and we've been short. If just one more group in each district ordered, we'd be all set! Already subscribe? How about donating a subscription to a treatment center, halfway house, or correctional facility in your community? Your support is greatly appreciated!

Group Number: _____

Group Name: _____

Send to: _____

If for group, please use your GSR for the addressee

Address: _____

Town/State/Zip: _____

Send \$6 for each group subscription (10 copies/mo annually) or \$3.50 for each individual subscription (2 copies) to NHAA, 1330 Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, NH 03106. Thank you for your support!

November Donations Thank You!

A NEW DAY GROUP	NASHUA	SAFE HARBOR WOMEN'S BEG	SALEM
AS BILL SEES IT	EXETER	SALEM NOONTIME GROUP	SALEM
ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT	LACONIA	SATURDAY MORNING BIG BK	TILTON
BEGINNERS AWARENESS	LACONIA	SATURDAY NIGHT ORIGINAL	PLYMOUTH
BYOC	CONCORD	SATURDAY NITE ALIVE	LACONIA
COURAGE TO CHANGE	RAYMOND	SATURDAY NITE LIVE	PETER- BOROUGH
COVERED BRIDGE GROUP	ASHLAND		NASHUA
DERRY ORIGINAL GROUP	DERRY	SOBER AND FREE	ROCHESTER
DERRY WOMEN'S GROUP	DERRY	STEP INTO THE WEEKEND	SUNCOOK
DOVER ORIGINAL	DOVER	SUNCOOK COMMON GROUND	ATKINSON
EARLY BIRD GROUP	NASHUA	SUNDAY 12 & 12	MANCHESTER
EXETER BIG BOOK	EXETER	SUNDAY SERENITY	KEENE
EXETER SERENITY	EXETER	T.O.A.D. GROUP	HAMPTON
EYEOPENER GROUP	PORTSMOUTH	THE LUNCH BUNCH	MANCHESTER
FIRST LIGHT OF DAY	MANCHESTER	THERE IS A SOLUTION	NASHUA
FIRST THINGS FIRST	WEARE	TSDD MEN'S PEACE OF MIND	NEW LONDON
FREE AT LAST	MANCHESTER	TUES NITE BEGINNERS	CONCORD
GOOD MORN. PORTSMOUTH	PORTSMOUTH		ROCHESTER
GOOD ORDERLY DISCUSSION	CHICHESTER	TUESDAY MEN'S GROUP	NASHUA
GRAPEFULLY SOBER	EXETER	WOMEN IN NEED OF SOBRIETY	MANCHESTER
HAMPSTEAD ANGELS	HAMPSTEAD	WOMEN STEPPING UP	EXETER
HAMPTON BEG. GROUP	HAMPTON	WOMENS NEW BEGINNINGS	HAMPTON
HAMPTON BIG BOOK DISC	HAMPTON	WOMEN'S SUNDAY SERENITY	
HAPPY HOUR GRP	PORTSMOUTH	WORKING THE STEPS	
HEART OF THE HEIGHTS	CONCORD		
HIGH NOONERS	PORTSMOUTH		
KEEP IT SIMPLE	MANCHESTER		
MEN'S STEP MEETING	JAFFREY		
MILFORD BEGINNERS	MILFORD		
MILFORD ORIGINAL GROUP	MILFORD		
MILTON 12 & 12	MILTON		
MILTON AA GROUP	MILTON		
NASHUA ORIGINAL	NASHUA		
NEW LONDON GROUP	NEW LONDON		
NEW SUNLIGHT GROUP	NORTH CONWAY		
NO NAME GROUP	MANCHESTER		
NORTH END GROUP	MANCHESTER		
NOTTINGHAM ORIGINAL	NOTTINGHAM		
ON AWAKENING	KEENE		
OUR GREAT HOPE	NASHUA		
OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH	NASHUA		
PASS IT ON GROUP	BEDFORD		
QUEEN CITY GROUP	MANCHESTER		
REBORN GROUP	PORTSMOUTH		
REMEMBER WHEN GROUP	NASHUA		
RINDGE ORIGINAL STEP MTG	RINDGE		
ROUND ROBIN GRP.	MANCHESTER		
RYE RECOVERY	RYE		

Rule 62

Definitions of alcoholics:

- People who start out by trying to drown their sorrows and wind up preserving them.
- People who know enough to say when, but not when to say enough.
- A self-adoring egomaniac who despises the object of his affection.

The trouble with alcoholism, someone has said, is the high cost of low living.

Heard at a meeting:

I don't know if I was a social drinker or a problem drinker, but I sure know I was a social problem!

A crusty old-timer listened wearily to several detailed recitations by people who apparently started drinking at the age of four. When he got up to give his talk, he began, "My mother had four martinis the night I arrived, and I don't remember much about being born - blackout you know. Anyway, I was told later that I screeched at the doctor, made a pass at the nurse, and asked for a dime to call AA."

Greetings from your Service Office

Beginning January 1, 2009, the Grapevine has changed the prices of several of the books we sell. As a consequence, we have to respond and change our prices accordingly. Please throw away any old Price Lists. You'll know you have a new price list if it's bright green in color. We've included a new green Price List with your Pipelines this month and you'll find one packed in with every order. Pass it on to the person who buys literature for your group. Don't forget the website, www.nhaa.net.

What is your District Public Information Committee up to? Chances are they're distributing meeting lists all over town. Many districts have seen their Public Information Committees become more active, increasing awareness about Alcoholics Anonymous. We've been able to publish new meeting books more frequently because Public Information Committees are distributing more of them.

Meeting lists are provided to various professionals, agencies and businesses that come in contact with alcoholics who may want help. Obviously, Public Information Committees are in touch with treatment facilities, courts, probation/parole departments, and counseling agencies. This is only the beginning! Meeting lists are also provided to schools, police departments, hotels, halfway houses, hospitals, doctors, and airports. If you want to be active in carrying the message by helping with distribution of meeting lists, contact your DCM or the Service Office.

And speaking of meeting lists – we have many group changes to go into the next Statewide Meeting List that will print sometime in February. We can only publish changes that we're aware of, so if your group is new, has changed its time or location, or even stopped meeting, make sure you let us know.

Thanks to Geri for her help in the office.

In grateful service,

Ingrid and Mary Anne

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said "My son, the battle is between two 'wolves' inside us all.

"One is Evil. It is angry, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority and ego.

"The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Which Place

I dreamed one night I passed away and left this word behind. I started down that lonesome trail, some friends of mine to find.

I came to a sign board on the trail; directions it did tell. Keep right to go to Heaven, turn left to go to hell.

I hadn't been too good on earth, just a hopeless boozing rake. And knew there at the crossroads the path I'd have to take.

I started down the rocky path that leads to Satan's place – and shook within not knowing, just what I'd have to face.

Old Satan met me at the gate, and asked, "What's your name my friend?" I said "I'm just old sober Sam who's come to a sad end.

He glanced through some file – "You've made a mistake I fear; you're listed as an alcoholic, we don't want you here."

I said, "I'm looking for my friend," and a smile stole over his face. "If your friends are alcoholics, they're in the other place."

So I went back the other way till the crossroads I did see, and then turned right to go to Heaven as happy as could be.

St. Peter smiled and said "Come in, for you I have a berth. You're an alcoholic; you've been through hell on earth."

When I saw old Dub and Peter too, and a gal whose name was Bell, I certainly was tickled, cause I thought they'd gone to hell.

So brothers all take warning, learn something from this trip. You've got a place in Heaven if you try hard not to slip.

If someone tempts you with a drink when you're not feeling well, just tell 'em you're going to heaven and he can go to hell.

– Anonymous.

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take 12 fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate; cleanse them completely from every clinging spike; pick off all specks of pettiness and smallness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past.

Have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into 30 or 31 equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way), but prepare on day at a time.