



July 2019

The Serenity Times

The monthly newsletter of the Darwin District



Forgiveness

We are the mirror as well as the face in it - Rumi, 13th Century Persian poet and mystic

My experience is that forgiveness has come as a by-product of humility. I had a resentment against my mother, who had brutally bashed me until I was 16 years old. I would inventory the resentment with my AA sponsor and the resentment would subside for a time only to spring up again like a Whac-A-Mole. This went on for years.

I found someone in AA who had had a spiritual awakening and I asked her to show me how to have one. She showed me a way of working the Twelve Steps that was more thorough than I was used to and at last I experienced enough humility to have a spiritual awakening.

In connection with the resentment against my mother, I was asked three questions: how had I treated her, had I ever done to anyone something similar to that done to me by my mother, and what did I do to keep the resentment alive? I recalled that when I was young, I once hit my younger brother and also a boy at school. I also realised that I owed my mother some money she had lent me. Now I had amends to make to my mother, my younger brother and a former classmate.

Humbled to my core, my self-righteous judgment of my mother simply fell away, to be replaced by the sort of peace that humility brings.



Humility

But as he calmed down, he began to listen while I tried to show him that humility was the main key to sobriety - Tradition Five, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p 153

It is a step in the development of that kind of humility that makes it possible for us to receive God's help - Step Eleven, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p 98

It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels - Saint Augustine, 4th century Christian theologian and philosopher

Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues - Confucius, 6th century philosopher

The only wisdom we can hope to acquire is the wisdom of humility - TS Eliot, poet

Humility is the proper estimate of oneself - Charles Spurgeon, 19th century preacher

It is humility which precipitates a spiritual awakening and recovery from alcoholism and it is humility which allows us to connect to God and receive God's help. Why? Because we can't play God and connect to God at the same time. How to gain humility? By practising AA's 12-Step program on a daily basis.

Incredible events come to pass for those who live their lives in a state of humility. God will open doors we never dreamed would open.



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ME WE

DARWIN UNITY WEEKEND

2-4 August 2019

Program

Friday 8:00pm: Casuarina Group, cnr Frances and Waters Streets, Rapid Creek

Saturday 12:00pm: Big Book Recovery Group - Step 1 meeting, Nightcliff Community Centre verandah, 18 Bauhinia Street, Nightcliff

Saturday 6:00pm: barbeque followed by 8:00pm meeting, then a fun auction followed by dancing. Venue: Terry B's place, 19 Mary Street, Stuart Park, cnr Charles Street. Please bring a chair. Nightcliff Group Saturday night meeting closed this weekend

Sunday 7:30: barbeque breakfast (bacon, eggs and orange juice) at East Point near Lake Alexander followed by 9:00am meeting

Sunday 2:00pm: As Bill Sees It Group meeting at Living Water Uniting Church, 15 Challoner Circuit, Humpty Doo

Sunday 7:00pm: Living Sober Group, Cathedral room, Christ Church Cathedral, 2 Smith Street, Darwin



Concept One

The ultimate responsibility for AA world services belongs to the AA Groups - Concept One

The authors of the Big Book tell us that humility is the main key to sobriety; humility is also the guiding principle in AA service.

Because it is the Groups who run AA, all service bodies in AA (Districts, Areas, Central Service Offices, the General Service Office, the General Service Conference and the General Service Board) are the servants of the Groups.

As servants of the Groups, AA service bodies are obliged to conduct themselves with great humility in relation to the Groups and to ask only one thing of them: that the Groups indicate how they can best be served. Service bodies in AA ought never dictate to the Groups, talk down to the Groups, admonish the Groups or tell the Groups to do anything at all.

AA has learned through experience that AA service bodies which are run in a spirit of humility with respect to the Groups tend to thrive almost without effort and AA service bodies which conduct themselves in less than humble ways toward the Groups fail to thrive no matter how much energy and effort they expend.

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