



June 2019

The Serenity Times

The monthly newsletter of the Darwin District

Just don't drink



#FAIL

He has lost control - There is A Solution, p 23

Telling alcoholics "Just don't drink under any circumstances" kills alcoholics. Why? Because it leads them to believe that they have a choice whether or not they drink.

To be alcoholic means that we have lost the power of choice in drink. A mental obsession and a physical allergy add up to powerlessness for us and without God's help, we will drink again - simple as that.

What solution are we offering to alcoholics who come to AA desperate to stop drinking? Are we telling them about AA's solution for alcoholism?

The authors of the Big Book tell us that alcoholism is a hopeless, fatal spiritual malady but that we can recover if we become connected to God through AA's 12-Step program, which is set out in the first 164 pages of the Big Book.



Gratitude

Twelfth Step work is carrying AA's 12-Step program of recovery to alcoholics; AA service is our gratitude to AA in action.

Twelfth Step work we do for our own recovery as part of our own 12-Step program (AA's First Legacy); AA service (AA's Third Legacy) we do for AA. We express our gratitude to AA not by feeling grateful, but by giving back to AA through AA service. We don't recover from alcoholism through AA service; recovery from alcoholism will require the 12-Step program set out in the first 164 pages of the Big Book.

We can start doing AA service any time, but Twelfth Step work we should do only after we have recovered from alcoholism through a spiritual awakening. Why? Because until we recover from alcoholism, the only thing we will pass onto other alcoholics is spiritual ill-health.

When you serve AA as greeter, kitchen officer, Treasurer or Secretary at your Home Group, work for an AA Committee or as the administrator of a 12th Step roster, do you do it grudgingly, or with gratitude to AA for saving your life?

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Did you know that it's the Groups that run AA? That the District is the servant of the Groups?

The Darwin District wants to hear from the Groups it serves as to how they want their District run. The District also wants to hear about the Groups' ideas, goals, perspectives, suggestions, proposals, insights, innovations, ambitions, hopes, dreams and vision for Alcoholics Anonymous in the Darwin District.

Please send your Group's General Service Representative to the next quarterly meeting of the Darwin District at **7:00pm on Wednesday 5 June 2019** at the Darwin District Office.

We look forward to seeing you there. Why not bring a newcomer to show them how AA works?

It's your District!



Tradition 5

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers - Tradition Five (long form)

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience - Tradition Two (long form)

Because an AA Group is a spiritual entity and the Group conscience is God speaking through the Group, it is a good idea to invite God in before a Group conscience meeting commences.

What is the purpose of a Group conscience meeting? To rotate the Group's service positions? No. To make decisions about the Group's surplus funds? No. To decide what AA literature to purchase? No. While those matters are routinely discussed at a Group conscience meeting, its purpose is to ascertain how the Group is doing with its primary purpose: carrying AA's message to alcoholics.

Are newcomers told what alcoholism is and about AA's solution? Is the Group attracting new members and keeping existing members? Are attendees of the Group's meetings warmly greeted on arrival? Is the Group cohesive, harmonious and a great Group to belong to? If not, why not?

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