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**Barrie & Area  
 Intergroup  
 Newsletter**

[www.barrieaa.com](http://www.barrieaa.com)

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 members of the Barrie  
 and Area A.A. groups.**

**Central Office:  
 622-80 Bradford St.  
 Barrie, ON, L4N 6S7  
 (705) 725-8682**



**Newsletter Editor:**

[newslettereditor@barrieaa.com](mailto:newslettereditor@barrieaa.com)

*We are back in action!  
 Please notify me  
 with any Info!*

**Thanks  
 Carol T.**

**Why We Were Chosen**

Address by Judge John T., 4th Anniversary of the Chicago Group of A.A. October 5, 1943

God in His wisdom has selected a group of men to be the purveyors of His goodness. In selecting them through whom to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous or the brilliant. He went to the humble, to the sick, to the unfortunate -- he went to the drunkard, the so-called weakling of the world. Well might He have said to us: Into your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted a Power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientists or statesmen, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests and ministers have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics, which I entrust to you. It must be used unselfishly. It carries with it grave responsibility. No day can be too long, no demands upon your time can be too urgent, no case too pitiable, no task too hard, no effort too great. It must be used with Tolerance for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect, lack of appreciation will be common, ridicule will be your lot, your motives will be misjudged. Success will not always attend your efforts in your work with other alcoholics. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs toward Spiritual perfection, and remember in the exercise of this power I shall not exact of you beyond your capabilities. You are not selected because of exceptional talents and be careful always if success attends your efforts, not to ascribe to personal superiority, that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of My gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission the power would have been entrusted to the physician and scientist. If I had wanted eloquent men there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all talents with which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better qualified than you who would have been available. You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and your long experience as a drunkard has made, or should make you humbly alert to the cries of distress that comes from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere. Keep ever in mind the admission that you made on the day of your profession into A.A., namely that you are powerless and that it was only with your willingness to turn your life and will into My keeping, that relief came to you. Think not, that because that you have been dry for one year or two years, or ten years, that it is the result of your unaided efforts. The help which has kept you normal will keep you so just as long as you live this program, which I have mapped out for you. Beware of the pride which comes from growth, the power of numbers and of invidious comparisons between yourselves; or of your organization with other organizations whose success depends upon members power, money and position. These material things are no part of your creed. The success of material organizations arises out of the strength of their individual members; the success of yours from a common helplessness. The power of material organizations comes from the pooling of joint assets; yours from the union of mutual liabilities. Appeal for membership in material organizations is based upon a boastful recital of their accomplishments; yours upon the humble admission of weakness; the motto of the successful commercial enterprise is: "He profits most who serves best"; yours: "He serves best who seeks no profit." The wealth of material organizations when they take their inventory is measured by what they have left; yours when you take moral inventory by what you have given.

*Thy Will, Not Mine, Be Done...*

## A.A. Birthday and Anniversary Celebrations

Alcona Monday Night Serenity Group	Monday, 8:00pm Presbyterian Church NE corner, Victoria St, E & Hwy 11, Stroud	Keep It Simple Gr Christine *Mar 26* 3yrs	Mon 8:00pm Burton Ave United 37 Burton Ave
Alliston Group Ken B. *Mar 29* 1yr	Thursday, 8:30pm St Johns United Church 56 Victoria St E	Pass It On Group	Mon/Wed/Fri 12noon Collier United 112 Collier St
As Bill Sees It	Tuesday, 7:30 pm Trinity Anglican, 24 Collier St Barrie	Saturday Morning Men's	Saturday 10:30 Trinity Anglican, 24 Collier St Barrie
Back to Basics Group	Friday, 10:30am Free Methodist Church Rm 116 290 Cundles Rd E	Sunday Morning Group	Sunday, 10:30 am ANAF Club, 70 George St. Barrie
Base Borden Group Keith F. *Feb 26* 5yrs	Monday/Friday 8:00pm Protestant Chapel Bld P-152	Sunday Niters for Uptighters Maureen M. Feb 26 11yrs Randy G. Mar 16 18yrs	Sunday, 8:30pm St. Andrews Church Owen & Worsley
Beginning to Live Sober	Wednesday, 7:00pm Trinity Anglican 24 Collier St Barrie	Tuesday Collier	Tuesday, 7:30pm Collier United, 112 Collier St
Fellowship Group Marlene S Feb 19 22yrs Norman B, Mar 22 3 yrs	Wednesday, 9:00pm Trinity Anglican 24 Collier St	Victory Group *Rose R. Mar 27 25 yrs	Tuesday, 9:00pm Grace United, 350 Grove St. E
Friday Night Allendale	Friday, 9:00pm Trinity Anglican 24 Collier St, Barrie	Women's 12 Step Group	Thursday, 7:00pm Collier United 112 Collier St
Golden Anniversary	Friday, 7:30 pm St. George's Church, Burton & Granville St	Young Peoples	Thursday, 9:00pm Burton United Church, 37 Burton Ave



Note: \* (symbol) denotes a TBC(to be celebrated)



*Happy Birthday to those celebrating milestones of sobriety... those 24hrs add up!*

### Tradition Two

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority –  
a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.



### Barrie A.A. Central Office Twelve Step Work January 2007

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## How Things Get Done In Your Central Office

### *How Do Such Offices Start?*

*How can we find out where & when nearby groups meet?*

*How can we exchange speakers with other groups or hold joint meetings or social gatherings with them occasionally?*

If we had one central place where prospective members could telephone, or come, couldn't we put them in touch with the group right in their neighborhood – and thus get help to them quicker? If the groups around here pooled efforts, couldn't we do a little better job of informing the public about AA? Or getting sick alcoholics into hospitals where they can be sure to get the proper treatment?

When questions like these come up, neighboring groups usually work out a system for working together. Remember its been said "all sorts of jobs have to get done". Central offices get going as simply the easiest, most efficient way of getting AA jobs done well, providing services for alcoholics with a minimum of organization (see Traditions 8 & 9).

Experience shows that such offices can perform many chores better (with more between-groups communication, less between groups confusion) than many individual groups can in different, uncoordinated, separate ways.

### *What are they needed for?*

These local service offices, which may have one or more paid workers and a number of volunteers, often handle such local, regional responsibilities as:

- 1) *Maintaining "AA" listings in local telephone books, handling telephone & mail inquiries, routing them to local groups, this distributing 12 Step work on a geographical basis so sick alcoholics get help.*
- 2) *Serving as a communications centre for participating groups, often using regular newsletters or bulletins to keep groups informed about each other, distributing up-to-date lists of all nearby meetings, etc...*
- 3) *Sponsoring & arranging any joint social affairs the member groups may want.*
- 4) *Maintaining AA publications such as: books, booklets & pamphlets to supply groups in the area.*
- 5) *Maintaining contact with other organizations partially or wholly in the field of alcoholism.*

### *How Do They Function?*

In most areas any group that wants to can belong to the intergroup or Central Service Association, which tries to provide services for all groups in its area. Member groups ordinarily elects an Intergroup Representative to represent them in multigroup affairs. Financial support to such a service office by its member groups is usually voluntary & not a requirement for membership. Most members know, however, they can't expect good service unless they pay their share of it.

### *What Does The Intergroup Representative Do?*

In areas where an Intergroup or Central Service Association has been formed, each group usually elects an Intergroup Representative who meets with other representatives once a month or whatever.

If this is your job, you represent your group in tasks undertaken jointly with other groups in your community and try to keep your group well informed on the jobs the local central intergroup office is doing.

One of the ways in which you can be most valuable, others have found, is in sharing experiences with representatives from other groups. Often, you find, one of them can tell you how his group solved last week a problem facing your group this week.

### ***How Do Group Problems Get Solved?***

Often group problems are simply misunderstandings easily threshed out in discussion. Or they may involve members trying to change other member's behaviors or opinions. Maybe two peoples mean different things by the same work. Or maybe members agree on a goal but simply have varied opinions on how to reach it.

Sometimes, group – or even Intergroup/Central Office- problems concern honest disagreement between two sincere, well-meaning sets of members.

They may be equally good hearts & intentions, but feel differently as to which crowd performs certain AA services better, or which methods to use, or which bunch has the stronger "right" to perform the jobs. In most cases, AAs traditions & past experiences have guided the way to harmony in such matters, & the result can be better services than either crowd had dreamed of.

No problem has to lead to drastic trouble for any group, since AA experience shows that good will, honesty, selflessness, and a spirit of love & service prevail against group difficulties, if we make an honest effort to "place principles before personalities". (Tradition 12)

A good sense of humor, cooling-off periods, patience, courtesy, willingness to listen & wait, a sense of fairness, & trust in a "Power Greater Than Ourselves" have been found far more useful than legalistic arguments or personal accusations.

In recent years several groups have found that they can apply in their groups some of the ideas in Bill W.'s Twelve Concepts for World Service.

### ***How Can You Help?***

Since Central & Intergroup Offices answer for us 12<sup>th</sup> Step calls on the other side of town we can't get to, or the ones that come in while you are at work, some AA member find other ways of performing their share of the local services. They serve on committees faithfully when asked (and thus broaden their outlook & friendship circle), & try to find other volunteer jobs they can do.

But a major way of helping, which none of us is denied, is giving trust. (see Tradition 2), support, interest, & appreciation to the groups Intergroup Representative & all others who labor in their particular AA vineyards. Often in AA, assistance improves things when criticism won't. And, as has been said better elsewhere, it is more of a blessing to give our share of service than to receive it.

An Intergroup Member

*Extracts from AA Pamphlet (The AA Group)  
"How Groups Function & How Groups Get Started"*

***This we owe to AA's future:  
To place our common welfare first.  
To keep our fellowship united.  
For on AA Unity depend our lives,  
And the lives of those to come.***

## OPENING PRAYER

*A.A. Meetings in Barbados, West Indies:*

OUR FATHER, we come to you as a friend. You have said that wherever two or three are gathered together in your name; there you will be in our midst. We believe that you are here with us now. We believe that this is something that you would have us do and that it has your blessing. We pledge with you always to be honest and to search our hearts for weaknesses and errors that we may deserve your help. We believe that you want us to be full partners with you in this business of living; accepting our full responsibilities and certain that the rewards will be freedom and growth and happiness. For this we are grateful. We ask you at all times to guide us; help us daily to come closer to you and grant us new ways of living and of gratitude.

AMEN

*Submitted by: Terry M.  
Back to Basics Group*

### **Editors Note on the Big Book:**

Page 45 in Big Book says that "Lack of power that was my dilemma. We had to find a power by which we could live, and it had to be a POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES. Obviously. But where and how were we to find this Power? Well thats exactly what this book is about. Its main object is to enable you to find a Power greater than yourself which will solve your problem."

## P E A C E

Have you ever thanked GOD for being alive?  
For the use of your hands, for the sight of your eyes?  
As you watched the sunset flooding the skies...  
Did you ever stop to realize how good this life can be?

Have you ever stopped in the rush of the day?  
Have you taken one precious moment to pray?  
Have you said to someone you met on the way?  
It's so good to be alive today?

And then at night, as you take your rest,  
Do you thank the Lord that you've been blessed?  
With all the wonderful, helpful things...  
That peace with your fellowman truly brings?

*Bill M. (deceased)  
Midland*

## *Mark Your Calendar*

### **Bradford One Day RoundUp**

Holy Martyrs of Japan Church, 167 Essa Street,  
Bradford, ON  
Saturday, 17 February 2007

### **Ontario Regional Conference 2007**

Fairmount Royal York Hotel, Toronto, ON  
16, 17, 18 March 2007

The Usual Suspects

### **First Annual 12 Step Weekend**

Red Pine Motor Inn & Convention Centre,  
497 Victoria Street East, Alliston  
11, 12, 13 May 2007

Check the web:

[barrieaa.com](http://barrieaa.com)

for a detailed listing of events

News Flash:

**NEW**

### **Central Office Literature Hours**

*Tues & Thurs 12 - 4*

*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of the month 5 - 7pm*

FILLING THE VOID – We needed to ask ourselves one short question. "Do I now believe, or am I even willing to believe that there is a Power greater than myself?" As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way.

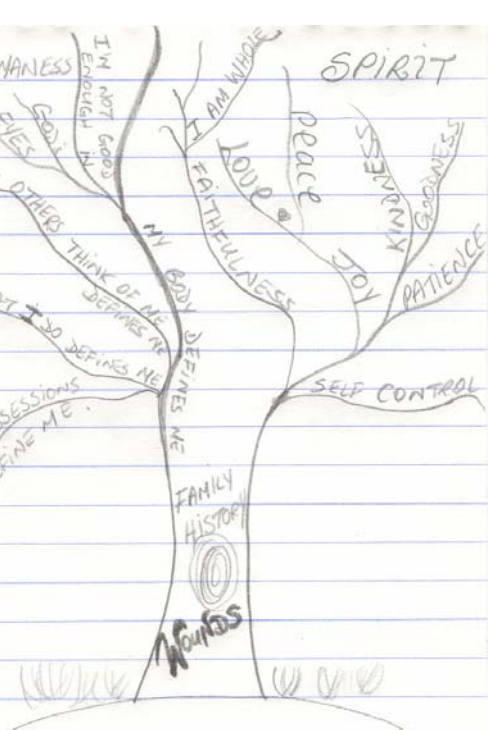
*Daily Reflections, pg 42*

## WHAT A GIFT!

I was reorganizing at home and came across a little notebook. My first thought was that you haven't used in a year throw it out. I happened to flip through the pages and came across a sketch my daughter made while at Sunday morning open meeting. Nicole would have been eleven years old. When she gave it to me at the meeting, I have to say it brought tears to my eyes & joy to my heart. Reason being that a lot of times I don't see or realize the benefits of this program and see how it is working in my family's life, in this case my daughter's.

You see, prior AA I never spoke of GOD, or to GOD in the way I do today. Being raised in Ireland it was rule of thumb that you did not talk about religion, I thought GOD was religion. Through this program I am developing a GOD of my understanding, and have been very open and honest with my daughter about my struggles in coming to believe & trust in a loving, caring, accepting, forgiving God who wants the best for me.

I have heard people share in the rooms of AA how they have felt the love & the presence of GOD in the rooms. As I was reading this again the thought came to my mind that maybe Nicole was sensing that love with her open heart and non-judging mind. Her GOD represents love, peace, caring, greatness, healing, grace, hope, beauty, spirit and she has no gender to her GOD.



When I first came into AA & heard God's name & quotes like "in the big book" which I assumed was the bible & "it is a spiritual program", warning bells went off **RELIGION CULT** my instinct was quick get away while you can. The truth was I had no idea of the word spirituality, what did that mean? So I asked a lot of questions, endless conversations with my sponsor about GOD, read the 12 & 12 & the big book, came to believe book, went to a big book study group which was very helpful in my journey of finding a GOD of my understanding, & went on some retreats.

Today my understanding of spirituality is that first I am spirit, having a human experience, there is nothing wrong with my spirit & **when I can see that** I am with the fruits of the spirit; love, patience, kindness, self-control, understanding, accepting & I have faith, which means I am able to trust. Unfortunately, my humanness gets in the way everyday, but I have a solution & that is the good news. I have been given a gift of the 12 steps & I have a choice today to work it or not. I believe it works if you work it. Thanks for my sobriety AA.

Cassandra L-G  
Back to Basics Group  
Friday Morning 10:30 am

**Note from Editor: Thanks Cassandra, you are such a great example of this program at work!**