



I am responsible...

When anyone, anywhere,

*Reaches out for help, I
want*

*The hand of A.A. always
to be there.*

*And for that I am
responsible*

Check our website:
www.barrieaa.com

**Barrie and Area
Intergrou:**
622-80 Bradford St.
Barrie, ON, L4N 6S7
(705) 725-8682
Literature Hours:
Tues. & Thurs 12-4 &
**Mon. & Fri. 4-
7p.m.**

**TIP or SUGESTION
OF THE MONTH**



READ THE BIG BOOK AND
TWELVE AND TWELVE

March is 3rd month
Why not read up on
Step # 3 in the Twelve
and Twelve
And /Or
Chapter 3 of
Alcoholics
Anonymous
**"MORE ABOUT
ALCOHOLISM"**

**"Celebrating Sobriety"
Ontario Regional Conference
of Alcoholics Anonymous
March 19,20 &21, 2010
Fairmount Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Ontario
call 1-416-487-2677 or
orc@aatoronto.org**

Barrie & Area Intergroup Meeting

March 12th at 7:00 pm
Central United church, 54 Ross Street, Barrie
&

Georgian Bay South District 8

Committee Meeting
Sunday, March 14th
St. Georges Anglican Church
Corner of Burton Ave and Granville St, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm.

We will be glad to see you!!

**Thanks you for making the
"Bradford"
One Day Round-Up
Which was
Saturday, February 20, 2010
A Success. We hope you have Enjoyed Yourself.
See You Next Year!**

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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



Mark Your Calendar ! or Check the web: www.barrieaa.com
for more details on these events & Updated Meeting List

2010 S.I.S.
Seniors In Sobriety
**5th Annual
International
Conference**
8 - 11 April 2010
Tucson, Arizona

See flyer at
www.barrieaa.com

**52nd ICYPAA –
A New Life**

International
Conference of Young
People in Alcoholics
Anonymous
26 to 29 August 2010
New York, New York

See flyer at
www.barrieaa.com

**Niagara Blossom
Time Convention**

7, 8 & 9 May 2010
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Niagara Falls, Ontario

www.blossomtimeconvention.com

Newsletter updates March ,2010

"It's Your newsletter"

Hi to all my fellow AA's!

We need your assistance in forming a committee to prepare/schedule "theme issues", articles on some aspect of the AA program and deliver the newsletter to all groups we serve in order that your group benefits from this and hopefully feel more united with AA as a whole. This newsletter is a great responsibility to our groups.

Suggestions, Short Reports from your minutes or Requests from P.I.C. C.P.C., Bridging the Gap, Grapevine or any District Committees are welcome in the end of serving all the groups we represent.

Please send any correspondence to (Benoit F.) at newslettereditor@barrieaa.com

Or phone me at 705-241-1562

Looking forward to hearing from you!

In Love and service, Benoit F.

FEATURE ARTICLE

. . . As We Understood Him

ONE SUNDAY afternoon, I was talking to a nonalcoholic friend, telling him my story and how God had removed the compulsion to drink from my life. He marveled and said that he couldn't begin to conceive what it must be like to be addicted and held in bondage to a substance for twenty-five years and then to be freed by the power of God. I told him that it was possible for any drunk who wanted to stop drinking to do so by following the AA Twelve Steps program. I then had him read the Steps, and he asked why it was written in two of the Steps "God *as we understood Him*" instead of just plain "God." I answered as I usually do when either an AA or a non-AA asks that question--by explaining that some drunks are atheists or agnostics, and those added words give them the choice of forming their own concept of God and using whatever power they feel is greater than themselves.

I explained that in the infancy of AA, there were objections to the unequivocal use of the term "God," and that the founding fathers wanted AA to be there to help *alldrunk*s, even if they didn't believe in God. So the clause "*as we understood Him*" was added, and that satisfied the objections.

The answer satisfied my friend, and it also satisfies some nonbelievers who come to AA. However, it did not completely satisfy me, and it never has. By a "coincidence," the topic of a recent Sunday-night Step meeting was the Third Step, and as I sat there reading that Step for the thousandth-plus time, it brought to my mind what my AA brother had said three months earlier. He asked, "Couldn't that be interpreted to mean 'as my understanding of God is growing'?" I remember thinking, "That's a neat way of looking at it," and then dismissing it from my thoughts. But that night, it bothered me. I read it again. "Made a decision"--that's clear; I know what that means. "To turn our will and our lives over to the care of God"--that's clear, too. "*As we understood Him*"--that's not so clear.

Then, suddenly, I *understood* what I was reading. At the same time, I realized that this Step need not be the stumbling block it has been to many in AA when they felt that they weren't able to turn their wills and lives over to the care of God. Step Three does not ask us to turn our will and life over to God immediately--only to *make a decision* to do so. Then, after some understanding of God has come to us, the decision has already been made, and it becomes a matter of letting go and letting God, of implementing our decision. Looked at this way, it becomes "*insofar as we understood Him*," so even if we haven't gotten any direct messages from God, we can simply go on with Step Four, which helps us find out where we are *now*. Continuing the Steps, we reach Eight and make a list of all the people we've harmed; then, it becomes easier to let go of control over our lives.

I had quite an awakening that night. The addition made by our founders did not change the meaning of the sentence, I realized, but simply acknowledged that some would understand more of God sooner than others. They gave us slowpokes time to come to *some* understanding without getting discouraged because it didn't come all at once. It appears to me that it has nothing to do with the conception of what God *isto* each of us, but instead refers to our ability to understand what God is trying to communicate to us as alcoholics.

So far, all I have been able to understand of what God is trying to tell me is (1) don't use alcohol, (2) tell others what has happened to me, and (3) let go and let God run my life. Those messages have come through loud and clear.

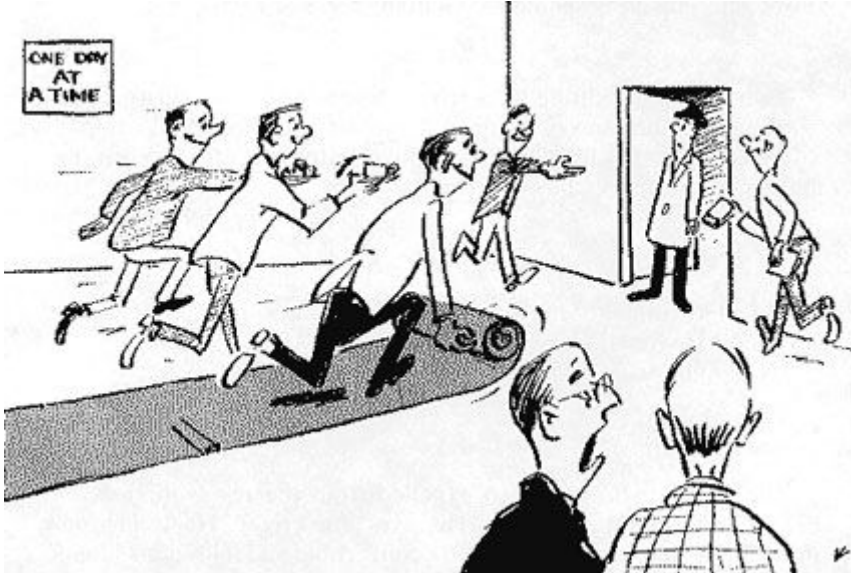
This realization--that there is another way of interpreting the Third Step--has been of great spiritual help to me. I have come to believe, along with the Reverend Samuel M. Shoemaker ("The Spiritual Angle," printed in the October 1955 Grapevine and reprinted in November 1978), that "God is what has made AA and today inspires it and keeps it growing." God runs AA (along with the rest of the universe), and His hand is clearly seen in the inspired wording of Step Three: "*as we understood Him*."

F. H.
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Tradition Three

Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. Group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

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Quotes sent in by AA members:

1. **Winner:** "I wish those guys had the same enthusiasm to do Step 5!" *Joe H., Vancouver, BC*
2. "Phil's trained his sponsee well!" *Dave B., Sherwood Park Group, AB*
3. "Look Bill, there they go trying to save another one." *Jay P., New Attitudes Group, Ocala, FL*
4. "He owns the local donut shop." *Anonymous*
5. "Isn't that the guy who shared last week about feeling he didn't quite belong?" *J.W., Boynton Beach, FL*
6. "Hey, last week you told me I was the most important person here!" *Doug V., Westland, MI*
7. "Oh great, the coffee maker finally got here!" *Kevin L., A New Freedom Group, Holyoke, MA*
8. "I know the newcomer's important ... but that's just ridiculous." *Brent G., Gut Level Group, Springville, CA*
9. "Who can sign for a shipment of coffee and doughnuts?" *Joey, Oregon, WI*
10. "Looks like we'll stay sober for another day, anyway!" - *Anonymous*
11. "Wow. Everybody does think of me as much as I think of myself." *Jason E., Kingsland Recovery Group, Kingsland, GA*
12. "We've been expecting you since we opened!" *Greg P.*
13. "Gee, all they told me was, If you don't want it don't let the door hit you in the a__!" *Gerald M.*