



DISTRICT 48 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014

This issue is dedicated to my sponsor, Diana B., always a voice of reason amidst the chaos; and to her lovely family.

Wondering What to Give for the Holidays?

The *Grapevine*, AA's international magazine, would make a great gift for anyone in A.A. and can be purchased online at www.grapevine.org. A two-year subscription is \$54. The on-line edition is \$34.97. There are more options to choose from as well.

Here are some other suggestions which can be purchased online at www.aa.org.

Came to Believe \$5—A 120-page booklet of stories who write about what the phrase "spiritual awakening" means to them.

Living Sober \$5—Practical 92-page booklet gives examples of how A.A. members throughout the world live and stay sober one day at a time.

AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate \$2.50—Stories that reflect the experience of A.A. members who found their way to the Fellowship while in prison.

As Bill Sees It \$9—Daily source of comfort and inspiration of Bill's writings.

Daily Reflections \$10.25—AA's reflect on favorite quotations from A.A. literature. A



reading for each day of the year.

Pass It On, The Story of Bill Wilson and How the A.A. Message Reached the World \$11—biography of A.A.'s co-

founder and development of the Fellowship.

75th Anniversary Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous \$12 — a replica of the original with circus cover dust jacket and bulky paper, which is why it was initially called the "Big Book".

Experience, Strength and Hope \$5.50—Fifty-six retired stories from the first three editions of the Big Book.

Below are just some of the CDs that can be purchased online as well. (Shipping and handling is calculated on a sliding scale.)

Three Legacies, By Bill \$6—Co-founder's talk on Recovery, Unity and Service.

Pioneers of A.A. \$18—Pioneers' stories from the Third Edition of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Contact AA Online:

www.district48.org
www.aa.org
www.area59.org
www.aagrapevine.org

By Phone:
570-327-2860

By Mail:
G.S.O.
P.O.Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

For strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers:

Al-Anon Online:
www.alanon.alateen.org

Anniversaries:
Dec. 27 Lois L. 8 Years





And now it's time to play (drum roll please)...

Not-So-Trivial Pursuit!

In which of our literature books and on what page can the following prayer be found?

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to
console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*



You might be an alcoholic if you can relate!

If you are new and still wondering if you are *really* an alcoholic, have you tried reading pg 44 in *Alcoholics Anonymous* ("the Big Book") for clarification? What it says is, "If when you want to, you find you cannot quit entirely, or if when drinking, you have little control over the amount you take, you are probably an alcoholic." I can relate because once I started drinking, I couldn't stop.

The Doctor's Opinion, a story in the same book, relates to the reader that the action of alcohol on chronic alcoholics as a manifestation of an allergy and that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. It also states these "allergic types" can never *safely* use alcohol in any form at all. I can drink, just never safely. However, today I choose sobriety and tomorrow when I wake up, having made it through the day before, I will choose sobriety again.

If you are an alcoholic who wants to get over it, you may already be asking, "What do I have to do?" Well, I am so glad you asked! That is the purpose of the big book, *Alcoholics Anonymous* as stated in the chapter titled, "*There is a solution*". The hope is that this volume will inform and comfort those who are or may be affected. There are many.

When I first came to AA, I was told that I never have to be alone again. That I should get a sponsor. In A.A., sponsor and sponsored meet as equals. Essentially the process of sponsorship is this: An alcoholic who has made some progress in the recovery program shares that experience on a continuous, individual basis with another alcoholic who is attempting to attain or maintain sobriety through A.A.

*from the pamphlet, "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship".