



# The Awakening

July 21, 2005

A publication of the Sunset Group of Alcoholics Anonymous

## TORONTO MESSAGE: "I AM RESPONSIBLE"



Toronto hosted the 70<sup>th</sup> annual AA convention, culminating on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with the world's largest meeting, which filled the giant Skydome with joy and recovery. The theme of the convention was "I am responsible", a message of faith and action that is the theme of the Big Book:

Faith without works was dead, he said. And how appallingly true for the alcoholic! For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead. If he did not work, he would surely drink again, and if he drank, he would surely die. Then faith would be dead indeed. With us it is just like that. – p. 14

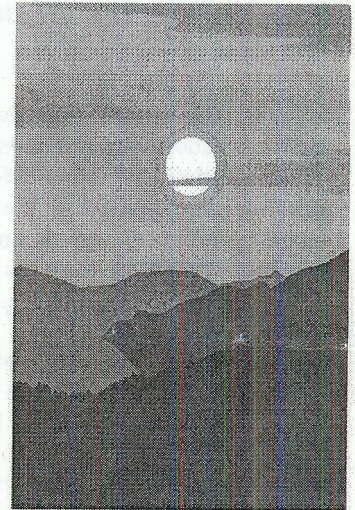
Our very lives, as ex-problem drinkers, depend upon our constant thought of others and how we may help meet their needs. – p 20

...we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code. – p. 84

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when other fail. – p89

Your job now is to be at the place where you may be of maximum helpfulness to others, so never hesitate to go anywhere if you can be helpful. You should not hesitate to visit the most sordid spot on earth on such an errand. Keep on the firing line of life with these motives and God will keep you unharmed. – p 102

Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. – p 164



The Sunset Group  
meets every Thursday  
at 7:00 pm  
Jewish Community Center  
13164 Burbank Boulevard  
Sherman Oaks, California

### Speakers:

**July 28**

Jack G. of Huntington  
Beach

**August 4**

Ron B. of Woodland Hills

**August 11**

Jim M. of West Hollywood

**August 18**

Nikki N. of Hollywood

**August 25**

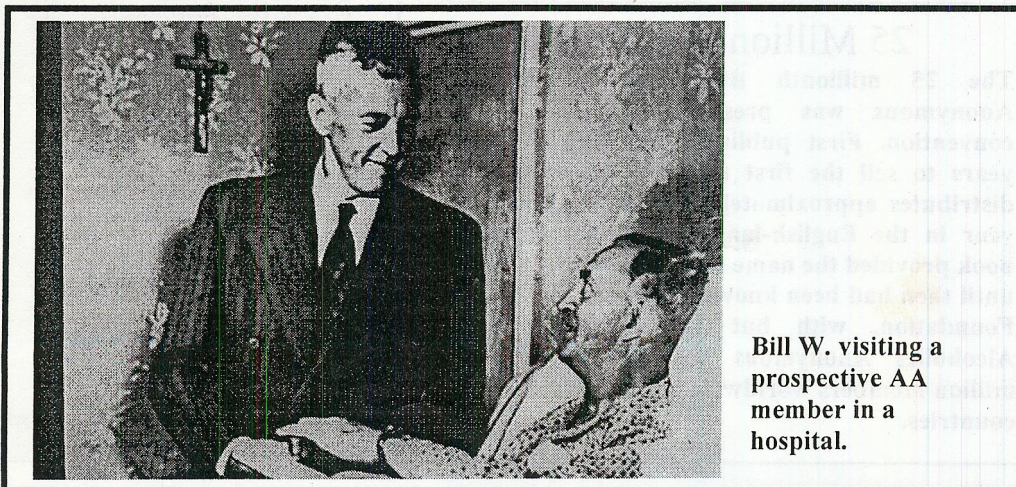
Clancy I. of Venice

**September 1**

Ronald W. of Los Angeles

**September 8**

Bill N. of Spring Lake,  
New Jersey



Bill W. visiting a  
prospective AA  
member in a  
hospital.





## STEP FIVE

On Saturday, the Sunrise Group begins our study of Step Five. Below are excerpts from *The Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*, pp. , which pertain to this step.

Having made our personal inventory, what shall we do about it? We have been trying to get a new attitude, a new relationship with our Creator, and to discover the obstacles in our path. We have admitted certain defects; we have ascertained in a rough way what the trouble is; we have put our finger on the weak times in our personal inventory. Now these are about to be cast out. This requires action on our part, which, when completed, will mean that we have admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being, the exact nature of our defects. This brings us to *the Fifth Step* in the program of recovery...

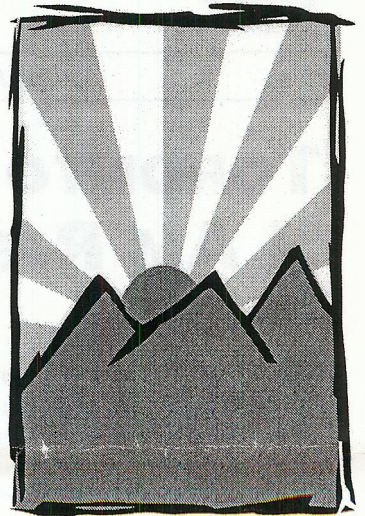
We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past. Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe.

## STEP SIX AND SEVEN

On Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Sunrise Group begins our study of Steps 6 & 7. Following are excerpts from *The 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous* which pertain to these steps:

"THIS is the Step that separates the men from the boys." So declares a well-loved clergyman who happens to be one of A.A.'s greatest friends. He goes on to explain that any person capable of enough willingness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults--without any reservations whatever--has indeed come a long way spiritually, and is therefore entitled to be called a man who is sincerely trying to grow in the image and likeness of his own Creator."

When we have finally admitted without reservation that we are powerless over alcohol, we are apt to breathe a great sigh of relief, saying, "Well, thank God that's over! I'll never have to go through that again!" Then we learn, often to our consternation, that this is only the first milestone on the new road we are walking. Still goaded by sheer necessity, we reluctantly come to grips with those serious character flaws that made problem drinkers of us in the first place, flaws which must be dealt with to prevent a retreat into alcoholism once again.



## SUNRISE GROUP

Saturday Mornings  
8:15 am  
above Jerry's Deli and  
PINZ Bowling Alley  
12655 Ventura Blvd  
Studio City, CA

### STEP 5

JULY 23  
Tim H. of Orange Co.

JULY 30  
Briggett B. of Los Angeles

### STEP 6 & 7

AUGUST 6  
Clint H. of Woodland Hills

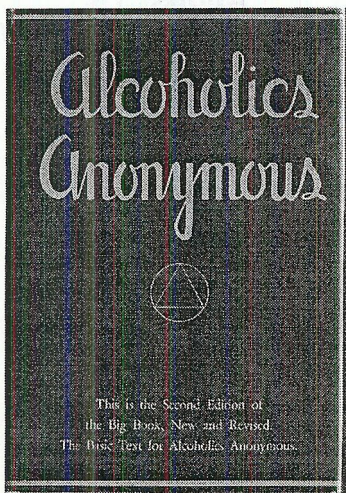
AUGUST 13  
Sharon M.

### STEP 8 & 9

AUGUST 20  
TBA

AUGUST 27  
Candice M.

STEP 10 & 11  
SEPTEMBER 3  
Bill C. of Los Angeles



## 25 Million Big Books!

The 25 millionth Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous was presented at the Toronto convention. First published in 1939, it took 36 years to sell the first million copies. Now A.A. distributes approximately one million books each year in the English-language edition alone. The book provided the name for a small movement that until then had been known simply as the Alcoholic Foundation, with but 100 members. Today, Alcoholics Anonymous has an estimated two million members worldwide with a presence in 180 countries.