

Pikes Peak Pint

The Pikes Peak Pint is a monthly AA-oriented newsletter that serves Colorado Springs and the surrounding communities.

March 2010

Area Meeting Additions, Deletions, and Changes (all meetings are non-smoking)

To include new meetings, changes or cancellations, deliver or email them to our service office.

All Meetings at DOWNTOWN GROUP, 7 E. Bijou, Room 25 PLEASE ENTER AND EXIT THROUGH REAR OF BUILDING!

CHANGE: Central Dirty Nine-Thirty/Open-Handicap Access/ 2011 E. La Salle (located in the Park Plaza bldg. @ De Paul & La Salle) has **NEW THEMES** for each day of the week as follows: **MONDAY:** Speaker's Meeting **TUESDAY:** 12 x 12 **WEDNESDAY:** Came to Believe **THURSDAY:** Living Sober **FRIDAY:** Topic Discussion

CHANGE: Woodland Park Beginners/Thursday/ 7:30 PM/Open-Handicap Access/Big Book discussion, in church offices of Woodland Park Community Church, 700 Valley View Drive.

CHANGE: Keep It Simple/Friday/7:30 PM/2508 E. Platte Ave., across from Colorado Springs Palace Events Center.

Notes from the Editor



We welcome your submissions! Write to The Pint at pint@coloradospringsaa.org

- ✓ Milestones in Sobriety p. 6
- ✓ AA Around Town ... Call for Intergroup Board & Service Committees p. 7
- ✓ AA @ A Glance Calendar p. 11
- ✓ Ebby Thatcher's Eulogy, by Bill Wilson p. 13

Email sobriety anniversaries, announcements, letters to editor and email subscription requests to the Pikes Peak Pint before the 20th of each month:

pint@coloradospringsaa.org

Local AA Service Office:

1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
Phone: 719-573-5020

Email: serviceoffice@coloradospringsaa.org

Website: www.coloradospringsaa.org

INTERGROUP INFORMATION AND CONTRIBUTION ADDRESSES

DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Standing Committees

Corrections:

OPEN - Chair
Renee - *Vice Chair*
corrections@coloradospringsaa.org

Public Information:

Jack - Chair
OPEN - *Vice Chair*
pi@coloradospringsaa.org

CPC:

Joey – Chair
Larry S. - *Vice Chair*
cpc@coloradospringsaa.org

Treatment:

Casey C. - Chair
Lisa S. – *Vice Chair*
treatment@coloradospringsaa.org

INTERGROUP COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Local Service Committees

(Call the Service Office for committee chair phone numbers)

Program:

OPEN . – Chair
Megan H. – *Vice Chair*
programs@coloradospringsaa.org

Pint:

Rachel N. - Chair
Kim R. - *Vice Chair*
pint@coloradospringsaa.org

Volunteer:

Cissy – Chair
OPEN - *Vice Chair*
volunteers@coloradospringsaa.org

Nightwatch:

Mary Katherine. – Chair
Dana - *Vice Chair*
nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Web Site:

Courtney B. – Chair
OPEN - *Vice Chair*
webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org

Archives:

OPEN – Chair
OPEN - *Vice Chair*
archives@coloradospringsaa.org

WHERE to SEND CONTRIBUTIONS:

Area Service Office:

Make checks payable to Area Service Office
(Cash OK, but do not mail). Include group name on check.

Send to:
Colorado Springs Area Service Office CSASO
1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

GSO:

Make checks payable to General Fund.
Include Group name and number on check.

Send to:
General Service Office
Box 459 Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Area 10:

Make checks payable to Area 10.
Include group name, number, and District #7 on check.

Send to:
Area 10 Treasurer
12081 W. Alameda Pkwy. #418
Lakewood, CO 80228

Districts:

Make checks payable to **DISTRICT 7**
Include Group name, number and District number on check.

Send to Service Office.

Colorado Springs Area Service Office CSASO
1353 S. 8th Street, Suite 209,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Pink Can Contributions:

Make check or Money orders to
Area 10 Corrections Committee.
Include Group Name and Number.

Send to:

Pink Can Contributions
P.O. Box 1307
Englewood, CO 80150

Your Area Service Office and Intergroup would like you know how very much we appreciate your personal contributions!



In the month of January
we received
4 Grateful Giver contributions,
2 Birthday contributions,
And 2 Personal contributions!!!

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS – THANK YOU!!

| GROUP NAME (2009-2010) | | | GROUP NAME (2009-2010) | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------|---|-------------|------------|
| | Yr. to date | Jan. '09 | | Yr. to date | Jan '09 |
| Above The Bar Group | \$276.50 | | Living Sober | \$225.00 | |
| Apex | \$870.95 | | M.A.G. | \$651.43 | |
| Back to Basics | \$621.47 | \$68.50 | Motherlode | \$0.00 | |
| Beacon Light | \$250.00 | | Natural High | \$75.00 | \$75.00 |
| Big Book Action | \$788.00 | | New Beginners | \$344.61 | |
| Big Book Study UPH | \$0.00 | | New Woman's | \$628.00 | \$86.16 |
| Black Forest | \$680.77 | \$176.05 | Northwesters | \$70.00 | |
| Breath of Life | \$156.00 | \$33.00 | Not A Glum Lot | \$68.50 | |
| Broadmoor | \$0.00 | | Off The Wall | \$100.00 | |
| Brown Baggers | \$62.83 | \$45.50 | Outright Mental Defectives | \$0.00 | |
| Celebrating Diversity | \$50.00 | | Pass It On | \$80.00 | \$40.00 |
| Central | \$0.00 | | Pathfinders | \$0.00 | |
| Clean Air Group | \$128.60 | | Penrose Discussion | \$0.00 | |
| Cripple Creek Natural High | \$0.00 | | Plug in the Jug | \$264.00 | |
| Don't Worry Be Happy | \$440.00 | \$120.00 | Pre-Dawn Meeting | \$403.95 | |
| Down By The Creek | \$86.00 | | Progress Not Perfection | \$301.60 | |
| Downtown Group | \$1,776.29 | \$101.66 | Recovery in Action | \$400.00 | |
| Drylander's Group | \$0.00 | | Rule #62 | \$0.00 | |
| Easy Breathing Group | \$144.25 | | Saturday Early Morning Mtg. | \$248.40 | |
| Easy Does It | \$175.00 | \$25.00 | Security Eye Opener | \$46.80 | |
| Ellicott Group | \$0.00 | | Serenity Riders | \$847.36 | \$309.71 |
| End of the Road | \$0.00 | | Serenity Sisters | \$278.78 | |
| Eye Opener | \$0.00 | | Silver Key Seniors | \$125.00 | \$25.00 |
| 4th Dimension | \$10.00 | \$10.00 | Solutions at 5:30 | \$100.00 | |
| Far North Group | \$35.00 | | Solutions at Noon | \$854.94 | \$51.62 |
| Fountain of Sobriety | \$40.00 | \$20.00 | Steel Magnolias | \$490.57 | \$63.50 |
| Foxhall Group | \$513.01 | \$128.25 | Sunday Morning Speaker | \$360.00 | |
| Freedom From Bondage | \$0.00 | | Sunday Night Big Book Study (Clean Slate) | \$203.35 | \$40.00 |
| Friday Night 12 x 12 | \$128.40 | | Survivors Group | \$18.89 | |
| Friday Night Live | \$150.00 | | Taking Steps | \$239.00 | |
| Friday Women's Group | \$814.55 | | Then and Now | \$288.00 | |
| Gals of Woodland Park | \$75.50 | | Thursday Mens | \$300.00 | |
| Gift of the Heart | \$0.00 | | Thursday Noon--Woodland Park | \$100.00 | |
| Good Ole Boys | \$340.97 | \$90.97 | Ute Pass Breakfast | \$102.00 | |
| H.O.W. | \$140.00 | | Veterans for AA | \$100.00 | |
| Half Pint Group | \$138.00 | | Walk the Talk | \$3,522.67 | \$352.63 |
| Happy Destiny | \$166.05 | | Walking on Water | \$775.00 | \$100.00 |
| Happy Hour | \$615.06 | | We Are Not Saints | \$1,220.89 | \$188.00 |
| Hilltop AA Meeting | \$0.00 | | Wed. Afternoon Ladies | \$0.00 | |
| High Noon | \$154.50 | \$18.00 | Wed. Westside Womens | \$300.00 | |
| Hugo Group | \$242.00 | | Westside Eye Opener | \$1,082.83 | |
| Into Action | \$45.00 | | Womens Step Study-WP | \$25.00 | |
| Keep it Simple | \$90.00 | | Woodland Park Beginners | \$120.00 | |
| Lake George Group | \$394.30 | \$95.12 | Woodland Park Book Study | \$89.40 | |
| Last Chance | \$24.05 | | Young People | \$471.00 | \$155.00 |
| Little Log Group | \$0.00 | | | | |
| Living Free | \$0.00 | | | | |
| | | | Totals: | \$26,545.02 | \$2,418.67 |

Thank you for your contributions. Support your group and support our service office!

7th Tradition

An extra dollar in the 7th Tradition basket just for your home group will help us meet our 2009-10 budget goals for Intergroup and the Area Service Office.

Intergroup Financial Reports

Financial reports are given to the Intergroup representatives at each monthly Intergroup meeting.

They are available upon request at the Area Service Office.

YOU ARE AWESOME!!!!



Gratitude Month

had **30** Groups contributing
for a total of

\$2,942.28!!

AA~ANNIVERSARIES



March 2010



MAG Group

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Jake J. | 23 yrs. |
| Dave T. | 21 yrs. |
| Ray R. | 5 yrs. |

Tuesday New Woman Group

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Beverly J. | 33 yrs. |
| Barbara S. | 23 yrs. |
| Bea P. | 22 yrs. |
| Noell M. | 18 yrs. |
| Michelle C. | 5 yrs. |
| Lucy L. | 3 yrs. |

Steel Magnolia's

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Lisa F, | 23 yrs. |
| Christi P. | 1 yr. |
| Jill R. | 1 yr. |

Happy Hour

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Brenda H. | 14 yrs. |
| Mona C. | 19 yrs. |
| Willy C. | 6 yrs. |

Apex

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Linda L. | 32 yrs. |
| Betty A. | 13 yrs. |
| Willy C. | 6 yrs. |
| Adam C. | 5 yrs. |
| Ed | 5 yrs. |
| Lee J. | 5 yrs. |
| Lynne | 3 yrs. |
| Jimmy P. | 2 yrs. |

Walk the Talk

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Diane G. | 30 yrs. |
| John F. | 29 yrs. |
| Newell | 28 yrs. |
| Erin | 28 yrs. |
| Willy C. | 6 yrs. |
| Derwin W. | 4 yrs. |
| Lynne | 3 yrs. |
| Jennifer | 3 yrs. |
| Randy W. | 1 yr. |
| Dave L. | 1 yr. |

Friday Women's

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Mary McG. | 23 yrs. |
| Jill R. | 1 yr. |



The First Ninety Days

AA~AROUND TOWN

Intergroup Service Opportunities

Nominations for the Intergroup Board of Directors will be accepted and ratified, at the March Intergroup meeting, which will be held Tuesday, March 9, 2010. If you would like to submit a nomination, or stand for a position on the Board or on one of the local service committees you may pick up a form at the Service office. Please see the Charter for further details on each of the positions and the suggested sobriety requirements.

Board of Directors – Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer, Member at Large, Secretary

Local Service Committee – Intergroup Programs, Archives, Nightwatch, Volunteers and Pikes Peak Pint.

WEBSITE VICE-CHAIR NEEDED

Website Committee currently looking for a Vice-Chair to help with coloradospringsaa.org

- ✓ Must have own computer and access to the internet.
- ✓ At least one year of sobriety is recommended.
- ✓ Plan on a One year (+) commitment.

Please e-mail: webmaster@coloradospringsaa.org if you are TRULY interested.



ARCHIVES COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

The Archives Committee is currently UN-CHAired. We urge you to step-up and fill this very important service position!

STEP UP INTO SERVICE

The Following Service Positions are currently **OPEN & NEED** to be filled

Alternate DCM

Board of Directors – Registrar

Board of Directors – Vice Treasurer

Board of Directors – Member at Large

Archives Committee – Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Volunteer Coordinator–Vice Chairperson

Corrections Committee – Chairperson & Vice Chairperson

Night Watch has FILLED all slots, but they're looking for a back-up!

If interested contact Mary Katherine @

Nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

If interested in volunteer hours at the Service Office contact

volunteers@coloradospringsaa.org

The Treatment Committee **NEEDS** volunteers

Contact Casey or Lisa @ treatment@coloradospringsaa.org

NIGHTWATCH NEEDS YOU!



Have the hand of AA be there when the still suffering alcoholic reaches out!

We need volunteers for shifts and we are updating our current database.

If you are a Night Watch volunteer, wish to become one or have any questions, please contact us.

nightwatch@coloradospringsaa.org

Mary Katherine 761-1018

Dana 491-0587

Step 3

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

Made a Decision to What?

WHEN I CAME to the Third Step, it was pretty frightening for me. It sounded so unsettling and yet so permanent. But I knew I needed to work all of the Twelve Steps in order to gain lasting sobriety. I had tried for nearly twelve years to gain sobriety without working all the Steps and had always found that it just couldn't be done.

I got as far as the third word, "decision." There, I was stopped cold! What *was* a decision, anyway? I didn't really know, so how could I make one? For all too many years, I hadn't really decided anything--I had rolled with the tide and blamed everyone else for the messes I got myself into. And now I was asked to make a decision.

The closest thing I could come up with to describe making a decision was: making a total commitment and following it through with action. Commitments hadn't been my long suit, either, and I had always considered myself a "reacter," not an "acter." But I wanted sobriety, and I thought I might be able to make my decision--at least for the next twenty-four hours, if I could do it that way. The next problem came with the words "turn our will and our lives over," because I didn't know what my will or my life really was. I had always referred to myself as a strong-willed person, when I really meant that I was stubborn and bull-headed. But I was almost sure that wasn't the kind of will the Step was talking about or asking me to turn over.

After doing a lot of soul-searching and asking others, I decided that my will meant all of my thoughts, inner feelings, behavior, impulses, and desires, and maybe even my subconscious. My life meant my surroundings, my daily living routine, situations, events, and other people. To me, it meant I would be turning over everything in my life--not just the part of it that I was eager to give up, but all of it! That sounded like a mighty big order. I wasn't sure that I could even attempt it, much less do it. But once again, I thought I might be able to if I could do it on just a twenty-four-hour basis. I knew I couldn't do it alone. I would need the people I knew in the program; I would need prayer; I would need meditation. Most of all, I would need to learn that it was okay for me to need!

Finally having some understanding of what the Third Step was saying, for me, I began to work on it in this way: I committed both the inside me and my outside life to God, as I understand Him. The "God" part of this Step seemed the easiest part for me. I hadn't lost my God while I was drinking. In my blurred mind, He had become a little less loving and a bit more judgmental; but I hadn't lost Him. In only a short time, just a few twenty-four hours, I again had the loving God of my childhood, and things were beginning to improve. But, like other recovering alcoholics, I have a tendency to take back my will every now and then. It usually isn't too long before I realize my mistake. I find myself thinking about things that go against my own conscience, or my stomach lets me know that I'm not comfortable. And I have to call on God and let Him have the control again.

I like to run things; I like to control others; and I seem to enjoy making a mess out of my life. So turning it over to God sometimes takes constant effort on my part. But with time and awareness, it seems to take less and less effort, as I let life happen--instead of trying to make it happen.

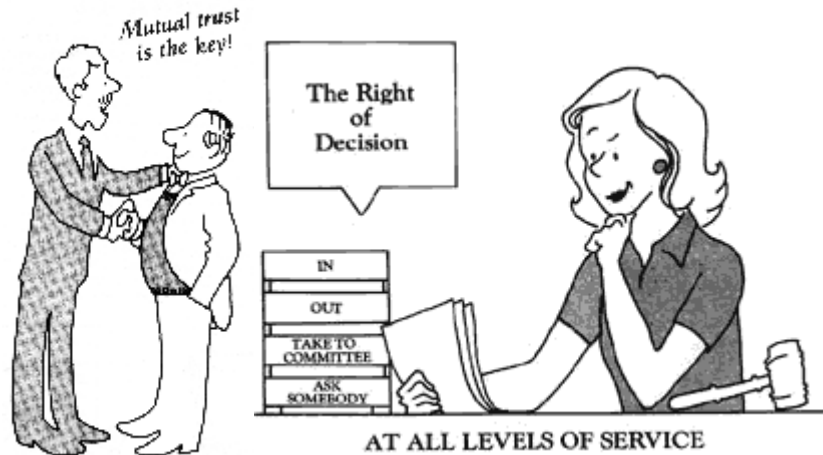
My twenty-four hours are beginning to accumulate a little now. As I attend my meetings regularly, talk with my sponsor, and work my program, I find more and more time and opportunity for me to practice being myself. When I allow God to keep the control that was once so hard for me to concede, I am at long last free to be myself!

M. S.

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Concept 3

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."



Tradition 3

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

1. In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
2. Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
3. Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
4. Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
5. Am I over-impressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
6. When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

AAAt A Glance

March 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|-----------|--|---|
| | 1 Board Meeting 6:30 PM Service Office | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Cooperation W/Professional Community Committee 7 E. Bijou 9:00 AM |
| 7 | 8 | 9 Intergroup Mtg. 7:00 PM Bethany Lutheran Church 1401 8 th Street, CS (downstairs) Next door to S.O. | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Treatment Committee 4:00 PM Pikes Perk 14 S. Tejon St. |
| 14 | 15 | 16 Combined District Meeting Red Cloud 7:30PM | 17  St. Patrick's Day PI Committee Meeting 6:00 PM | 18 | 19 Submit Milestones to the Pint | 20 Corrections Committee 9:00 AM Sacred Heart Room 6  |
| 21 R.I.P. Ebby Thatcher | 22 | 23 | 24 Step UP! Be of Service | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

AA Thought for the Day

Distilled Spirits

I've recently had a lot of time on my hands due to the economy. Sitting around waiting for the phone to ring can bring on our number-two killer, self-pity. When this arises, I always remember what we were told in Bill's story, and I head for the local hospital. As the Big Book tells: "On talking to a man there, I would be amazingly lifted up and set on my feet. It is a design for living that works in rough going." The message I bring is the same one that Ebby T. gave to Bill in his kitchen. We simply lay out the kit of spiritual tools for inspection and describe how it has worked for us. After that, it's up to the individual and the Higher Power.

Kevin O'M.

Chicago, Illinois



"We said we'd help you get through St. Patrick's Day—but do you need the whole group?"

Monthly Meetings

- The Board** 6:30 pm 1st Monday, Svc. Office
- Corrections** 9:00 am 3rd Saturday, Sacred Heart, Room 6,
2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
- CPC** 9:00 am, 1st Saturday - 7 E. Bijou Street
- Treatment** 4:00 pm 2nd Saturday, Pikes Perk, Tejon St, Downtown
- Public Info.** 6:00pm 3rd Wednesday, St. Francis Hospital, 5th Floor
- Intergroup** 7:00 pm 2nd Tuesday, Bethany Lutheran Church
1401 S. 8th St. CS CO (downstairs)
Located next door to the Service Office

District Monthly Meetings

- Red Cloud Serenity Club**
8020 W. Highway 24, Cascade
- District 7**
7:30pm, 3rd Tuesday

The Last Word

Ebby Thatcher's Eulogy, by Bill W.

In his seventieth year, and on the twenty-first of March, my friend and sponsor "Ebby" passed beyond our sight and hearing.

On a chill November afternoon in 1934 it was Ebby who had brought me the message that saved my life. Still more importantly, he was the bearer of the Grace and of the principles that shortly afterward led to my spiritual awakening. This was truly a call to new life in the Spirit. It was the kid of rebirth that has since become the most precious possession of each and all of us.

As I looked upon him where he lay in perfect repose, I was stirred by poignant memories of all the years I had known and loved him. There were recollections of those joyous days in a Vermont boarding school. After the war years we were sometimes together, then drinking of course. Alcohol, we thought, was the solvent for all difficulties, a veritable elixir for good living.

Then there was that absurd episode of 1929. Ebby and I were on an all-night spree in Albany. Suddenly we remembered that a new airfield had been constructed in Vermont, on a pasture near my own home town. The opening day was close at hand. Then came the intoxicating thought: If only we could hire a plane we'd beat the opening by several days, thus making aviation history ourselves! Forthwith, Ebby routed a pilot friend out of bed, and for a stiff price we engaged him and his small craft. We sent the town fathers a wire announcing the time of our arrival. In midmorning, we took to the air, greatly elated -- and very tight.

Somehow our rather tipsy pilot set us down on the field. A large crowd, including the village band and a welcoming committee, lustily cheered his feat. The pilot then deplaned. But nothing else happened, nothing at all. The onlookers stood in puzzled silence. Where were Ebby and Bill? Then the horrible discovery was made -- we were both slumped in the rear cockpit of the plane, completely passed out! Kind friends lifted us down and stood us upon the ground. Whereupon we history-makers fell flat on our faces. Ignominiously, we had to be carted away. The fiasco could not have been more appalling. We spent the next day shakily writing apologies.

Over the following five years, I seldom saw Ebby. But of course our drinking went on and on. In late 1934 I got a terrific jolt when I learned that Ebby was about to be locked up, this time in a state mental hospital. Following a serious of mad sprees, he had run his father's new Packard off the road and into the side of a dwelling, smashing right into its kitchen, and just missing a terrified housewife. Thinking to ease this rather awkward situation, Ebby summoned his brightest smile and said, "Well, my dear, how about a cup of coffee?"

Of course Ebby's lighthearted humor was quite lost on everyone concerned. Their patience worn thin, the town fathers yanked him into court. To all appearances, Ebby's final destination was the insane asylum. To me, this marked the end of the line for us both. Only a short time before, my physician, Dr. Silkworth, had felt obliged to tell Lois there was no hope of my recovery; that I, too would have to be confined, else risk insanity or death.

But providence would have it otherwise. It was presently learned that Ebby had been paroled into the custody of friends who (for the time being) had achieved their sobriety in the Oxford Groups. They brought Ebby to New York where he fell under the benign influence of AA's great friend-to-be, Dr. Sam Shoemaker, the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church. Much affected by Sam and the "O. G." Ebby promptly sobered up. Hearing of my serious condition, he had straight-way come to our house in Brooklyn.

As I continued to recollect, the vision of Ebby looking at me across our kitchen table became wonderfully vivid. As most AA's know, he spoke to me of the release from hopelessness that had come to him (through the Oxford Groups) as the result of self-survey, restitution, outgoing helpfulness to others, and prayer. In short, he was proposing the attitudes and principles that I used later in developing AA's Twelve Steps to recovery. It had happened. One alcoholic had effectively carried the message to another. Ebby had been enabled to bring me the gift of Grace because he could reach me at depth through the language of the heart. He had pushed ajar that great gate through which all in AA have since passed to find their freedom under God.