GRATITUDE GAZETTE

A Color copy of this newsletter is available on the website at

www.temeculacentraloffice.org



Submitted Articles	1, 2, 3
AA Service Meetings	4
Central Office Services	5
Step and Tradition	6
Contributions	7
Central Office News	8
Birthdays	8
Hotline Schedule	9
AA Events	10, 11
Word Puzzle	12
Word Puzzle Solution	13

Alcoholics Anonymous

I AM RESPONSIBLE

Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there, and for that I am responsible.

 Declaration of 30th Anniversary International Convention, 1965

Tradition 5:

Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Tradition 5 in its long form states, "Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who stills suffers. I mention this because we rarely mention the spiritual aspect of this Tradition within the short from usually read at local meetings. But Bill is a founder of this thing and probably knew of what he spoke, namely the spiritual foundations that must serve as the underlayment of any group carrying on the work of the program.

When I first came back to the rooms of AA I was shaking, nervous, lonely, and beaten. This was the last house on the street. The doctors had given me less than a year to live if I continued to drink. My body was bloated from the toxin of alcohol, and my skin was pale from years of isolating from the world. I showed up a few minutes late to that first meeting and missed introducing myself. As people shared, I struggled with fear, pride and the feeling of not wanting to be noticed. I was told in the rehab, that I had left 2 weeks previously, I must identify and ask for help. As the meeting was coming to an end I spoke up and simultaneously began to cry. "My name is Sharon and I'm an alcoholic and I need your help." Those were the only words I could say because I couldn't control my crying. Then it was time to say the Serenity Prayer. My legs were weak and shaking - I felt so ashamed... so beaten. Afterward, I was embraced by two women and two more stood close by as they told me they could help. I briefly explained myself and they proceeded to give me their phone numbers. They said I could call anytime and I left that meeting with a glimmer of hope. When I sit in meetings today and see a newcomer identifying, I sometimes wonder if I should approach them or wait until they ask for help. I asked for help. Ever since I was asked to share my thoughts on this Tradition, I've been thinking long and hard about how it was for me and pondering the power of the spirit of the fellowship, or "brotherhood" as I like to call it. I've reflected on the many times I have just walked past a newcomer because I thought I had something better to do with my time. I do have something better to do. This I need to change.

When in our meetings we do not congregate to admire one another and polish our tokens. We meet to give this thing away. We show up on time and end when the schedule says to end, we have literature available, and we put our best face forward to attract suffering alcoholics. The best way to do that is to support struggling meetings, be consistent in attending our home groups, reach out our hands to the newcomer and when asked to share do so like it's the first exposure to AA that a newcomer may experience. To do this I must be spiritually fit. Will a newcomer be more or less apt to return based on what I shared at the meeting? Did I reach out my hand?

~Sharon C. ~

Submission

The Gift of Willingness

Being smaller, less than, uncomfortable, put down, left out, shoved aside, never chosen, not cared for, and a burden; that's what I remember. That's what it was like. I felt that way until the fateful, fall day around my 13th or 14th birthday when my first bout with "The Captain" sat rotting in my gut. The delicious grief swept me into clamorous oblivion where no more chains could hold me. I was launched into an abyss from which I would not emerge until 27 drunken years later. Booze delivered me directly to the doorstep of suicidal psychosis. Unable to identify the line between fantasy and reality, and 20 lbs. under-weight, I was but a shell of a woman. I felt physically impaired and emotionally and spiritually deceased. Then the moment of clarity. Like a tsunami claiming the desert, my higher power washed me with the overwhelming desperation to get sober. Immediately and in an instant I knew it was time to look into Alcoholics Anonymous.

There isn't much I remember about those first 6 months except I was frequently sick with the sweats, shingles, colds, the flu, insomnia, anxiety, ad infinitum. The one thing I remember very clearly is the gift of desperation - that overwhelming and all encompassing desire to stay sober. I thought about drinking often. I thought about running away even more. But that desire to stay sober just for five more minutes was steadily becoming one ounce stronger than the obsession to drink. Today, I STILL feel it! I have learned that this desperation is actually the willingness to go to any lengths to stay sober.

The clarity continued to come. I got a sponsor right away. She was a very sweet, hands-off sponsor, but when I was 6 months sober I knew her style of sponsorship wasn't going to work for me. I had so many enablers outside the rooms, and if anyone else loved me until I learned to love myself they may have loved me right back into my cups. I needed someone who was going to love me enough to be direct and honest with me. I was so riddled with discomfort and emotional pain that I felt as though my skin would catch fire at any moment. The Big Book doesn't say. "Come to AA and cool your jets until you feel like doing stuff." It asks us to COMPLETELY give ourselves to this program and to be rigorously honest! It says spiritual growth comes from major emotional upheavals and rearrangements. Recovery isn't for the faint of heart. Recovery is for those who are desperate to learn a new way of life. I kept hearing that AA is a program of action, and I knew if I didn't get to work it wouldn't be long before the only thing that would shut my head off would be a drink. I found a new sponsor and got to work writing my First Step. My recovery had officially begun. I could look back over my drinking history and see the progression. If I had any reservations whatsoever, they were dismissed after writing an honest First Step. Then a second surrender was upon me. My desperation for answers grew more and more. Why did I drink? Why did one drink always lead to oblivion? Why couldn't I stop and stay stopped? I was not only hungry for the solution but I was starving for a different way to live. I was running on pure self will and merely surviving from crisis to crisis. My life had become yards and yards of scrap fabric sewn together with bottle caps, labels and hangovers. Somewhere in my youth I had become stuck in crisis mode and instead of moving into healing, I just drank and drank and drank.

Even when I felt I didn't deserve it, my higher power still shrouded me delicately in gentle grace, love and that amazing gift of desperation. That gift of willingness. I was ready then and remain ready still to go to any lengths - not only for my sobriety, but for yours as well.

I have to be willing to remain sober through anything, everything, always and every day. Without the willingness to have a little more faith, I am drunk. Without the willingness to listen a little closer, I am drunk. Without the willingness to trust my sponsor's direction, I am drunk. Without the willingness to not drink today no matter what, I am drunk. I still want to be sober more than anything in the world, so throughout the day I renew my pledge to my higher power, to myself and to the fellowship of AA to stay sober just for today.

Something beautiful happens when one alcoholic shares with another their experience, strength and hope: one of them might get to stay sober. Something infinitely magical happens when I put pen to paper: I definitely get to stay sober. And because of this, I encourage you to write your story and submit it for publishing. Thank you for reading this. May you find the unshakeable hope and freedom that I've found in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous.

~Michelle~



Submission

Sparing Glaring Defects?

The Big Book generally addresses and reconciles our unwieldy behavior concerning romance, sex and intimate relationships while [because] we were drinking, offering a program of recovery. The entire chapter in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (12x12), Step Four*, asks provocative questions about several character issues involving sex, family, community, guilt, finances, security, work, responsibility and more. That's right, *more!*

Further, The 12x12 declares that, '...Since Step Four is 'the beginning of a lifetime practice, it can be suggested that he first have a look at those personal flaws which are acutely troublesome and fairly obvious.' (p.50)

Frankly, since my personal flaws aren't obvious to me, I need all of the practice I can get in identifying any one the multitude: true selfishness, childish frustration, emerging envy, indisputable pride...ad infinitum. Thus, I'm grateful that the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions are recited, verbatim, at any given meeting.

In my first six months of sobriety (DOS: 12-03-10), I didn't understand the repetitive nature of how the meetings commenced and ended. Considering it was AA and all, the passing hour was surprisingly...orderly. My sponsor, Joan, suggested I bring my own Big Book to follow along. Sticky notes and paper clips mark the pages always – always – read at the beginning of a meeting. Thankfully, I have both a God and an AA protocol of my own understanding (I effectively created the latter in my head).

Creativity usually produces something tangible like an oil painting, a photograph, an invention to serve the masses, or a recipe for scrumptious, chocolate chip cookies. The 12x12 suggests '... writing our questions and answers as an aid to clear thinking and honest appraisal. It will be the first tangible evidence of our complete willingness to move forward.' (p.54).

There's that word, *tangible*, again: Perceptible by touch, material, substantial, concrete evidence of (drumroll, please) our complete willingness to move forward. This is not to mention that a portion of MY documented, first edition Fourth Step (in continuous revision) is squirreled away in a referential journal, sort of like a creative, work-in-progress. On one of the tens of pages, Joan has helped me to narrow down my top three, glaring character defects in tangible, bold...erasable print. Out of the hundred or so of my identifiable shortcomings, envy, impatience and impetuousness randomly change numerical order with any one of the remaining 97.

Notwithstanding my glaring defects, my ability to multitask was once lost in the golden haze of tequila. Today, I'm thankful that I can figure out basic math while constructing a coveted list. Now that's moving forward in sobriety.

~Lyn P. (Unity Hall)~



AA Service Meetings

What	When	Where
H&I Committee Meeting	1st Monday - 7:30pm	TVAC-27470 Commerce Center Dr.
		Temecula, CA 92590
TVCO Board Meeting	1st Tuesday - 6:30pm	Central Office - All are welcome,
		but only board members may participate.
Mid So-Cal Area Meeting	2nd Sunday - 9:30am	Meets at various locations. Call Central
		Office for meeting location
Cooperating with Prof Community (CPC)	2nd Tuesday - 5:45pm	Boston Billies - 26850 Cherry Hills Blvd.
		Sun City
GSR Meeting - District 17	2nd Tuesday - 6:30pm	Boston Billies - 26850 Cherry Hills Blvd.
		Sun City
Intergroup Meeting	3rd Tuesday - 6:45pm	United Methodist Church, Murrieta
	Visitors Welcome	24652 Adams at Kalmia & Adams
GSR Meeting - District 14	3rd Wednesday - 7pm	Good Shepherd Episcopal Church
		308 E Acacia Ave, Hemet, CA 92543

What is the Intergroup?

Each group is encouraged to have an Intergroup Representative. This person is the liaison between Intergroup and their home group. The Intergroup Central Office depends upon the local members and groups for the necessary support to carry out its responsibilities. This support comes in the form of volunteer help and financial contributions. Our

efficiency and the continuation of services offered are related to the level of support from the groups. Please register your group at Central Office. Any A.A. member is welcome to attend the Intergroup or Board meeting as a guest. If your group is interested in joining Intergroup, send a member to the meeting, and we will gladly give you all the information you need to get started.

"The Intergroup associations are the best insurance we can have that our life lines to the hundreds of thousands yet to come will never break or tangle. Let us always be generous. Let us warmly support Intergroup."

AA co-founder Bill W. 1949

BRIDGING THE GAP

Bridging the Gap is designed to help an alcoholic between a treatment program or prison make the transition. One of the more slippery places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of a facility and the nearest AA group or meeting. AA experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to Bridge the Gap, AA members have volunteered to be temporary contacts & introduce newcomers to AA. It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of AA meetings; introduce him or her to other AA's; insure that he or she has some phone numbers of several AA members and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

Temecula Valley is in the process of coordinating this committee.

Volunteers are needed.

What you get from Central Office!

During the day, your Central Office keeps the doors open to assist recovering and suffering AA members alike and provide the following services:

We provide the Big Book.

We provide the 12x12, assorted literature, chips, and newcomer packets.

Your office manager organizes volunteers, makes sure the office is a healthy place for all, keeps your accounting data accurate, and safe guards your inventory. The office manager is there to support the groups

and the individual members of our fellowship.

We make and distribute your meeting schedules and we publish the Gratitude Gazette. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, volunteers take calls from suffering alcoholics and organize 12 step calls. The phone line and special call-forwarding are paid for by your central office contributions.

Please ask at your next business meeting if you are contributing monthly to your

Central Office. It doesn't have to be a lot. Being self-supporting means not only paying for your rent and coffee, but also paying for the services you receive through Central Office.

If your group has stopped contributing (or never started), please bring it up at your next business meeting and take a group conscious.

Let us know when and how we can help.

Your Central Office Team

Central Office appreciates ALL of their volunteers.
Volunteer spots are available.
Give us a call
(951) 695-1535



Submissions

We would love to print your submissions for the Newsletter. The primary theme of any article content must pertain to; alcoholism and recovery, the Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions, or The Concepts. Poems, inspiring materials, AA trivia, jokes and cartoons are welcome also. Proper credit must be given to each articles source. If taken from previously printed materials include its copyright so that we can acknowledge it. The committee reserves the right to edit or refuse any articles submitted. All profanity will be edited out of the final copy. Please submit in plain text.

Submissions accepted via email at: gazette@temeculacentraloffice.org
Mailing Address: Temecula Valley Central Office, 28636 Old Front Street, #106, Temecula CA 92590

Get On The List

Be notified of meeting changes, new events and other important AA information from your Gratitude Gazette.

Send email to

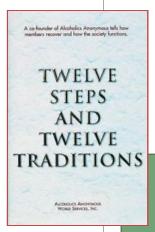
<u>DLSevant@TemeculaCentralOffice.Org</u>

and be added to the list.

Central Office Service

Please call **(951) 695-1535**if you can be of service at
Central Office by volunteering for time slots to
answer phones and help walk-ins. Volunteers
are always appreciated, and of course you
get the grand reward...

Sobriety for another day!



Step Five Guidelines

"Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

How It Works

This is perhaps difficult, especially discussing our defects with another person. We think we have done well enough in admitting these things to ourselves. There is doubt about that. In actual practice, we usually find a solitary self-appraisal insufficient. Many of us thought it necessary to go much further. We will be more reconciled to discussing ourselves with another person when we see good reasons why we should do so. The best reason first: If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking. Time after time newcomers have tried to keep to themselves certain facts about their lives. Trying to avoid this humbling experience, they have turned to easier methods. Almost invariably they got drunk. Having persevered with the rest of the program, they wondered why they fell. We think the reason is that they never completed their housecleaning. They took inventory all right, but hung on to some of the worst items in stock. They only thought they had lost their egoism and fear; they only thought they had humbled themselves. But they had not learned enough of humility, fearlessness and honesty, in the sense we find it necessary, until they told someone else all their life story.

-A.A. Big Book p.72-73

More about Step 5 in the Big Book

Tradition Five

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

STEP

5

Group Contributions

		1
	Apr 2014	Apr 2013
Wildomar Wild Ones #653642	600.00	0.00
Tem Del Rio Survivors	252.00	150.00
SC Unity Hall/Umbrella #164257	250.00	250.00
Mur Community House/Mon-Sat 7am/ABSI	175.50	219.00
Tem St Catherine's/Fri Noon/Step Study	150.00	45.00
Tem Serenity Friday 10pm	150.00	0.00
Tem Sat 8pm/World Famous Speaker Meeting	120.00	120.00
Tem RC Church Office/Tue 6pm/Mosh Pit	120.00	0.00
Tem Lyndie Ln/Sat 8am/Early Risers	100.00	66.00
Tem Mon Night Men	100.00	105.00
Tem Ser Cir/Tue 730pm/Mens Stag	91.00	160.00
Tem Pech Sr Ctr/Mon 6pm/Mon Madness	80.00	60.00
Tem Lyndie Ln/Sun 6pm/Twilight	80.00	0.00
Tem Lyndie Ln/Thur 10am/Sisters Sharing	60.00	0.00
Murrieta The Searching Party	60.00	0.00
Menifee/Sun 9am/Grass Roots #706488	60.00	0.00
LE AOG Church/Thur Noon/Womens BB	60.00	48.00
Tem Lyndie Ln/Mon 10am/Open Arms	50.00	0.00
SC Boston Billies/Wed 7am/Mens Breakfast	49.00	93.00
Tem Serenity Friday 6pm #710973	45.00	0.00
Tem The Meeting Place/Wed 5pm/Just Us	25.00	28.50
LE Meeting Place/M-F Noon/#171639	25.00	54.80
Wildomar IVH/Fri 7pm/Step Study	20.00	0.00
Mur Community House/Sun 730pm/The Geek	20.00	0.00
Tem Serenity Monday 6pm #610281	0.00	83.50
Mur United Methodist/Mon Noon/Womens ABSI	0.00	40.00
Tem Ser Cir/Sun 10am/Big Book Study	0.00	50.00
Mur/TVCO Intergroup/#179377	0.00	58.75
Tem Pech Sr Ctr/Wed 7pm/Step Sisters	0.00	30.00
Sun City/Mon 645/We Ladies #706188	0.00	42.00
Tem ABT/Mon 7am/	0.00	10.00
Mur Community House/Wed 7pm/Mens Stag	0.00	10.00
	2,742.50	1,723.55



Birthday Donations

Date	Name	Amount
4/25/14	Paul Rohrbacher Celebrates 15 Years	75.00
4/28/14	Mary S Celebrates 23 Years	23.00
4/28/14	HAPPY BIRTHDAY STUART! 7 Years	35.00
		133.00

Buck A Month Club

Date	Name	Amount
4/1/14	Monday Night Madness	14.00
4/30/14	Gene W	5.00
4/30/14	Karen K	1.00
4/30/14	Marcos	70.00
4/30/14	Edna E	2.00
4/30/14	Suzie	12.00
4/30/14	Georgia	1.00
4/30/14	Linda F	15.00
4/30/14	Mary	3.00
4/30/14	Kenny	12.00
4/30/14	Michelle B	1.00
4/30/14	Gary	1.00
4/30/14	Astrid	5.00
4/30/14	Anonymous	3.00
4/30/14	Greg	2.00
4/30/14	Ron	1.00
4/30/14	Sandy	5.00
4/30/14	Tom	2.00
4/30/14	Bob	5.00
4/30/14	Bryan	12.00
4/30/14	Jack	1.00
4/30/14	Tim	1.00
4/30/14	Cornelius	1.00
4/30/14	Stephanie	1.00
4/30/14	Lauro	1.00
4/30/14	Steve	1.00
4/30/14	Eric	3.00
		181.00

Central Office News

Volunteers

_	Ъ. п
1	Beth
2	Chris Ke
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Debi G
4	Debbie R
5	Gary
6	Gay
7	Jennifer
8	Jill A
9	Jill M
10 11	John W
11	Kristen P
12	Nancy
13	Rich
14	Sharon
15	Sharii
16	Shawn
17	Steve
18	Stuart
18 19 20 21	Tony
20	Trish
21	Tyrone

Daily Activity For March

Phoned in	169
Walk ins	81
AA Meeting	50
Al-anon	6
12 Step	4
Donations/Purchases	93
Misc/Other Business	22

	0Date	Name	Amount	
P	04/09/2014	Shep and Annie	20.00	
	04/09/2014	Paul Rohrbacher	20.00	
	04/09/2014	Chris and Thalia	20.00	
F	04/10/2014	Jim F	50.00	
S	04/14/2014	Mike B	20.00	a .
	04/14/2014	Jill A	20.00	4
	04/14/2014	John and Brenda	10.00	
	04/22/2014	Mold Away USA	25.00	1
	04/28/2014	Anonymous	5.00	
	04/28/2014	Anonymous	50.00	
	04/28/2014	Anonymous	30.00	
	04/30/2014	Patti S	10.00	5
			280.00	

AA Jokes & Stuff

http://www.jeffersonalcoholicfoundation.org/Jokes Stuff.html

- Dipsomania refers to an abnormal or insatiable craving for alcohol.
- Sucking on pennies will have no affect on the results of a <u>breathalyzer test</u>. (Therefore, doing so makes no cents!)
- The Pilgrims landed at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, rather than continue sailing because they were running out of supplies, especially alcohol beverage.

Alcoholic Prayer

Lord, In the past several hours I have not hurt any one. I have not drank. I have peacefully coexisted with life. For that I am grateful. But I'm about to get out of bed now and I'm really going to need your help.

Temecula Valley Intergroup

Hot Line Schedule



1st Monday Monday 7:00 Am As Bill Sees It & Saturday Am Reflections (Murrieta)

1st Tuesday Tuesday 10 Am Women's 12x12 (Murrieta)

1st Wednesday Women's Closed As Bill Sees It - Monday 12:00 (Murrieta)

1st Thursday Thur. Women's 10:00am-Lyndie Lane (Temecula)

1st Friday Men's Stag 7:00 Pm Wednesday (Murrieta)

1st Weekend Liberty Bells (Lake Elsinore)

2nd Monday Saturday Early Risers (Temecula)

2nd Tuesday Unity Hall 7 Am (Sun City)

2nd Wednesday The Funks 2nd Thursday Julie P

2nd Friday Menifee Grass Roots

2nd Weekend Mosh Pit

3rd Monday Jill M 3rd Tuesday Paul R

3rd Wednesday Women's Acceptance Wednesday (Lake Elsinore)
3rd Thursday Women's BB Study L.E. (Lake Elsinore)

3rd Friday Back To Basics (Sun City)

3rd Weekend Chris K

4th Monday Sunday 7 Am Attitude Adjustment (Lake Elsinore)

4th Tuesday Searching Party

4th Wednesday Linda D 4th Thursday Paul R

4th Friday Women's Candlelight –Thursday (Temecula)

4th Weekend Wild Ones Grape Street (Wildomar)

5th Monday Sunday Came To Believe Lyndie Lane, Temecula

5th Tuesday Paul R

5th Wednesday Bobbi And Richard

5th Thursday Charlene And Jeff (Murrieta)
5th Friday Brenda and John W (Wildomar)

5th Weekend Men's Stag – Tuesday 7:30 pm (Temecula)



AA Events

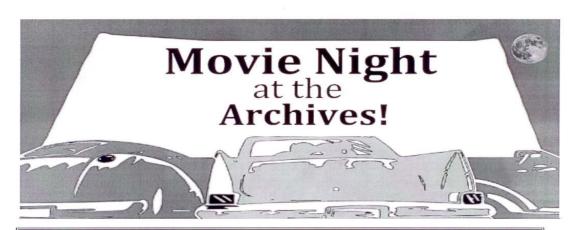




MARK YOUR CALENDARS !!! 2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

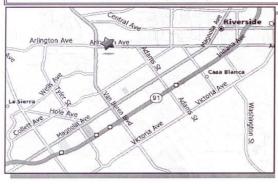
IS BEING HELD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JULY 2-5, 2015
THEME—80 YEARS –HAPPY, JOYOUS, FREE

AA Events



2014 Schedule

Bill W Documentary (2012) Saturday – Jan 18 My Name is Bill W. (1989) Saturday - Feb 15 When Love is not Enough (2010) Saturday - Mar 15 One Too Many (1950) Saturday – Apr 19 Life of the Party (1982) Saturday - May 17 28 days (2000) Saturday - June 21 Days of Wine and Roses (1962) Saturday – July 19 Saturday - Aug 16 Flight (2012) Saturday - Sep 20 The Lost Weekend (1945)



7111 Arlington Ave, Suite B
Riverside CA 951 785-0845
(Past the Airport in the Riverside Air Park)

Show Time: Doors open at 7:00PM.

The movie starts at 7:30PM.

Stay after and tour the archives.

Cost: FREE!

Bring your lawn chairs or chaise lounge and enjoy classic Hollywood movies about AA in our own unique theater. (we have chairs too!)

Refreshments will be available

Word Search

Step 5 - Tradition 5

G G S N A S Ε Q Α В 0 0 G G Ε S Ε Α Q D F Т V V U МО D Ν U P G R Ο Р Ν L R Y Ε Т G L Н R Α R Ρ S K Τ Т U Α W E U S F F Ε R S Ε Р C U U U D C Η U Ν Μ Α Α C Н C X Α L 0 O L E Υ R Α M Τ R Р Р X

ADMITTED ALCOHOLIC BEING
EXACT GOD GROUP
HUMAN NATURE OURSELVES
PRIMARY PURPOSE SUFFERS
WRONGS



Word Search Solution

```
G + S N + S + A E B
O + G A + E + D S E
D + N T + V + M O I
GROUPL+IPN
+ + R R + E + T R G
+ + W E + S + T U T
SUFFERSEPC
H U M A N U + D + A
ALCOHOLICX
Y R A M I R P + + E
(Over, Down, Direction)
ADMITTED (8, 1, S)
ALCOHOLIC (1, 9, E)
BEING(10,1,S)
EXACT (10, 10, N)
GOD (1, 1, S)
GROUP (1, 4, E)
```

HUMAN (1, 8, E)
NATURE (4, 1, S)

OURSELVES (6,9,N) PRIMARY (7,10,W)

PURPOSE (9,7,N)

SUFFERS (1, 7, E)

WRONGS (3, 6, N)



THE TWELVE STEPS

- 1. I can't
- 2. God can
- 3. Let God
- 4. Look within
- 5. Admit wrongs
- 6. Ready self for change
- 7. Seek God's help
- 8. Become willing
- 9. Make amends
- 10. Daily inventory
- 11. Pray and meditate
- 12. Give it away