

Events



Contributions & Self-Support

The Seventh Tradition states: *“Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”* While contributions cover each group's rent and other expenses, the Seventh Tradition is essential at every level of A.A. service. It is both a privilege and a responsibility for groups and members to ensure that not only their group, but also their intergroup/central office, local services, district, area, and the General Service Office remain self-supporting. This keeps A.A. free of outside influences that might divert us from our primary purpose — to help the alcoholic who still suffers. The amount of our contribution is secondary to the spiritual connection that unites all groups around the world.

Please visit AA.org to see how you can contribute

https://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/contributions-and-self-support

Most local face to face meetings have been canceled due to COVID-19.
Please check aaflagler.org for updates.

<https://aaflagler.org/online-meetings/>

Also see A.A. Online Intergroup
<https://www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php>

CONTACT

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SUPPORT

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WRITE US

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PROMISES

Flagler County Intergroup

aaflagler.org

July, August, September 2020

Continued from last Promises
AA's Roots in the Oxford Group
BY T. WILLARD HUNTER, Claremont, Calif..
Assistance from Mel B., Toledo, Ohio

The Jung Connection

In that same period, a problem drinker named Rowland H. learned from the distinguished psychiatrist, Dr. Carl Jung in Switzerland, that cases like his were hopeless except when a vital spiritual experience took charge. Rowland found his experience in the Oxford Group, and passed it along to Ebby T., who then carried it to Bill W. at his kitchen table in Brooklyn. At Towns Hospital in 1934 Bill had the same kind of spiritual experience that had come to Frank Buchman in England in 1908. And just as Frank had viewed his experience as an answer to the world's ills, so did Bill W. see it as the way out for thousands of other alcoholics. Thus, the stage was set for the Akron encounter which brought AA into being. At first, however, the alcoholic recovery program was all part of the Oxford Group activity.

Henrietta Seiberling, the gracious lady who brought Bill and Bob together at her Akron home, recalled that Bill introduced himself to her over the phone as “a member of the Oxford Group from New York and a rum hound.” It was a providential call, because Henrietta was herself a member of the Akron Oxford Group which had been trying to help Dr. Bob. Only two weeks earlier, in an emotion-charged meeting at the home of T. Henry and Clarace Williams, Dr. Bob, who had been attending the weekly meetings for over two years, finally admitted to the others that he had a drinking problem. Bob then and there led the group in prayer for his recovery. Now he was to meet the man whom he would later describe as the first living human being with whom he had ever spoken, who knew what he was talking about in regard to alcoholism from actual experience.

The Akron Connection

The astonishing thing about this historic meeting was that earlier events had made the Akron Oxford Group unusually strong and active at the very time an unrelated business venture brought Bill to Akron. A few years before, Jim Newton, an Oxford Group person who was closely associated with a prominent tire manufacturer was able to help one of the industrialist's sons overcome his drinking problem. The son in turn aided an alcoholic lawyer who was winning most of his court battles and losing his bottle battles. Because the tire scion's escapades had been the talk of the town, his recovery gripped the city's attention. As a result of such recoveries, the Akron Oxford Group was locally regarded as being effective in dealing with alcoholism.

The tire manufacturer, grateful for his son's recovery, then invited an Oxford Group team of 60 people to Akron in 1933 to conduct night and morning meetings throughout the city, activity that went on for ten days. Henrietta Seiberling and T. Henry and Clarace Williams joined the Group during this ten-day session, and started the Wednesday night meetings in the Williams home that were soon joined by Dr. Bob and Anne Smith.

Editors Note

Hi, My name is Barbara Z.
I am the editor of the Promises
Newsletter.

This newsletter will be published four times a year. January, April, July and October.

I will add topics and stories focusing on the Steps, Traditions and Promises. I will also include any upcoming events.

Please submit all AA related content to:
PromisesFlagler@gmail.com.
Deadline for all submissions for the October issue is September 15 2020.

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

Helpline: 386-445-4357

Literature and Coins

Contact Michelle
TEXT ONLY
352-283-9434



BY T. WILLARD HUNTER, Claremont, Calif. With Assistance from Mel B., Toledo, Ohio

The meetings were joyous and friendly, and Dr. Bob said the Oxford Group members attracted him because of their seeming poise, health, and happiness. "They spoke with great freedom from embarrassment, which I could never do, and they seemed very much at ease on all occasions and appeared very healthy. More than these attributes, they seemed to be happy," he wrote in his personal story.

He and Anne attended the meetings for 2-1/2 years, but he still drank every night nevertheless. He later acknowledged, however, that the Oxford Group led him to vital spiritual principles which were to be important in his AA work. Beyond that, of course, it was the Group connection and Mrs. Seiberling's inspiration that helped bring him into touch with Bill W.

Sam Shoemaker

Meanwhile, back in New York City, the Oxford Group was also highly active at its national headquarters in Dr. Sam Shoemaker's Calvary Church, where Bill W. received much valuable help. Dr. Sam was a prominent U.S. leader of the Oxford Group fellowship, and was the ideal person to become Bill W.'s spiritual mentor. As Bill later said, "...the early A.A. got its ideas of self-examination, acknowledgement of character defects, restitution for harm done, and working with others straight from the Oxford Groups and directly from Sam Shoemaker..., and from nowhere else. Sam's teaching did most to show us how to create the spiritual climate in which we alcoholics may survive and then to grow."

In 1978 Lois W. told an interviewer that for two and one half years, 1934-1937, she and Bill attended two Oxford Group meetings in Manhattan every week for most of the year. Thursday evenings were for personal sharing and planning. Sunday afternoons were the more public meetings where people brought new friends. In the video tape "Bill's Own Story," Bill rounds out this wonderful chain of events, saying, "We began to go to Oxford Group meetings.... Dr. Shoemaker's impact on us in those early days certainly registered, and the principles emphasized by the Oxford Group later lent themselves very readily to the formation of AA's 12 Steps and publication of our book Alcoholics Anonymous."

Despite this important linkage, Bill and the small band of alcoholics around him did not long remain associated with the Oxford Group. Bill began holding separate meetings for alcoholics soon after returning from Akron. In 1937, his fledgling group in New York City withdrew completely from the Oxford Group fellowship. Nevertheless, Bill always acknowledged that the important spiritual and working principles of AA came from the Group. Out in Akron, it was a slightly different story. Deeply loyal to non-alcoholic friends such as Henrietta Seiberling and the T. Henry Williamses, the recovered alcoholics in Akron maintained their Oxford Group ties until 1939. They, too, eventually decided to follow a separate path in order to be more effective in aiding alcoholics. By this time, the book Alcoholics Anonymous had been published and the fellowship of recovered alcoholics had its own name. AA groups had been started in Cleveland, and AA was now well on its way as a separate society, grateful to the Oxford Group but no longer dependent on it.



Anniversaries include Celebrants for the months of July, August and September 2020

July

24 Hour Group
Jackie B- 13yrs

Jump Start
Joan M-22yrs
William E-13yrs

K.I.S.S
Carol S-5yrs
Bon B-2yrs

Living Sober
Pat P-33yrs
Dave H-26yrs

Woman's Acceptance
Amy P-12yrs
Robin H-15yrs
Karen D-16yrs

Women to Women
Lesley M-17yrs
Joan D- 35yrs
JoAnne P-5yrs
Jeanne S-34yrs
Karen R-22yrs
Jackie B-13yrs

August

24 Hour Group
George A-36yrs
Sue B-1yr
Dannielle L-1yr
Sherry T-5yrs
Al K-1yr

JumpStart
Dave F-2yrs
Jackie B-12yrs
Roy B-28yrs

K.I.S.S.
Stacy C-2yrs

Steps to Serenity
Rick M-11
Art O-44yrs

Woman's Acceptance
Stacy—2yrs
Margo H-33yrs

September

24 Hour Group
Michelle F-10yrs
Mike C-4yrs
Anita G-37yrs
Cliff H-5yrs
Arlene C-2yrs
Meredith R-5yrs
Sue K-1yr

Footprints in The Sand
Bonnie B-32yrs

JumpStart
Kenny F-18yrs
Meredith R-6yrs

Living Sober
Heidi T-3yrs
Karen D-2yrs

Steps to Serenity
John L-15yrs

Woman's Acceptance
Sally C-42yrs
Dottie M-23yrs

Women to Women
Lena F-8yrs

We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

Self-seeking will slip away.

Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.