

Faithful Fiver Pledge:

- I pledge \$5 per month to support EVI and service work in my community.
- I'm feeling grateful. I can send _____ per month.
- I will mail or drop off my contribution monthly.
- I will mail or drop off my contribution quarterly (\$15 each).
- I will mail or drop off my contribution once a year (\$60)

Name:

Address:

When you acknowledge my contribution, please list me as (first name, initial or nickname):

Receipt

“Faithful Fivers” are individuals who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. A Faithful Fiver pledge is recognized by a mailed subscription to the EVI Newsletter. We will post your nickname on a board in the EVI office. We don't remind you or otherwise keep track of your contributions, and we will send the Newsletter whether or not you remember to send in your pledge. You may contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly. If you check the “Receipt” box, we will send you a receipt at the end of the year. If you would like to save EVI postage, write “No news” next to your address, and pick up your copy of the Newsletter at a meeting or at the EVI office.



Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

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1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

How Others See Us

At a recent meeting, a woman who'd been sober for some time asked the question, “Why do we close with the Lord's Prayer if we are not a Christian organization?” This, of course, spawned lengthy discussion, both pro and con, on an increasingly divisive issue: what should be AA's relationship to this traditionally Christian prayer?

It is a question I've struggled with on a personal level for years. I am a Buddhist and an agnostic, and at times have found the prayer offensive. At other times, I have been successful in “translating” the prayer into terms comfortable for me. These days, I join in the closing prayer with everyone else, content to “stop fighting anyone or anything.” Yet the discussion at this meeting made me take another look at the prayer and my own relationship to it.

The Lord's Prayer is unique among the prayers used in AA meetings. It does not appear in the Big Book, yet it is the most common closing prayer at meetings in the United States. And, unlike the Serenity, Third Step, and Seventh Step prayers, it appears in the Biblical Gospels, and is therefore inherently linked with Christianity.

I have heard AA members argue that the prayer is nonetheless “universal.” This is difficult to accept. I believe the original prayer was written by a rabbi in the first century BC, but it was adopted by Jesus and given to his earliest followers, and seems to have been abandoned by rabbinic Judaism--most Jews I know believe the prayer to be Christian. Because of centuries of missionary activity, this prayer is seen as a hallmark of Christianity by Christians and non-Christians alike. In India, AA members in meetings I went to did not say it because they don't believe that God is a “father who art in heaven,” nor that his kingdom is coming--that is a uniquely Christian idea. At least one of the world's religions--my own--does not even believe in God. For more than half the world's population, this “universal” prayer poses serious problems.

I've heard people say things like, “Well, if they really want to get sober, they'll come anyway,” or “I didn't believe in God when I came in, and I got sober.” I used to be accepting of such positions. Then I spent two months in Chiang Mai, Thailand, where they have great AA meetings. I was glad to see that the Steps had been translated into Thai, since alcoholism is a terrible problem in northern Thailand. But during my stay, I didn't see a single Thai member or newcomer attend the group--it was all expatriates. When I asked one of the members about this, he told me it was a problem with language. It seems the Thai language has several words for God. The one chosen for translation of the Steps was a word associated by the Thais with Christianity. Thailand is ninety-five percent Buddhist, and resisted Christian missionary attempts for centuries. AA's perceived association with Christianity is culturally offensive to them, and very few Thais get sober.

This is not an issue of individual religious stubbornness. Imagine, for a moment, if AA in the United States opened with a reading by Marx or Lenin. Many Americans would be confronted by a philosophy that they opposed all their lives. They may have gone to war, they may have lost family members in the struggle against it. To accept it would not only violate their own beliefs, but would open them to scorn and ostracism from society. How many would stay? How many would choose to die rather than give in--assuming that, as confused as newcomers can be, they were aware that death by alcoholism was their only alternative?

Let us be clear about one thing: the AA program works, even for Buddhists. It is not necessary to become Christian, or even to believe in God in the traditional western sense. My own sobriety is proof of that. But to publicly use a prayer which is seen by many as an overt symbol of Christianity is to deny millions the opportunity to try. Even here in the

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EVI News

June 2006

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Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401-4113
(541) 342-4113
www.efn.org/~eviaa

AA Meetings:

New

Sober Bucks in Veneta (Men's)

Friday 7:00-8:00 pm
25133 Broadway
Valley Methodist Church
(Downstairs), Veneta

Changed

Tuesday Night Book Study

2500 Maxwell
New time: 6:00-7:30 pm

The Great Fact Group

Tu, Th, Sat. 7:00-8:00 am
Moved to: 1761 E Street
Nazarene Church
Springfield

Creswell 12 x 12

Monday 7:00-8:00 pm
New Location:
298 Oregon Avenue
Creswell Grange Hall

Cancelled

Keep it Simple

Thursday 7:00-8:00 pm
Emerald Baptist Church
19th. and Patterson, Eugene

Serenity Seekers, West

Saturday 12:00-1:00 pm
Friends Church
3495 W. 18th., Eugene

Please remember to let us know if your group changes its schedule. To submit changes of any kind, please notify the EVI office. Thanks!

How Others See Us

Continued from Page 1

United States, which is still predominantly Christian, pluralism is increasing through immigration and conversion. The number of non-Christians needing AA is increasing, too.

The issue is not whether the Lord's Prayer is or is not Christian--that is open to debate. The issue is, rather, that much of the world perceives the Lord's Prayer as being Christian --a fact difficult to argue with.

I've made my peace with the prayer on a personal level, but I also have a responsibility to speak my conscience to the group. I hope that by increasing our awareness of how other cultures and religions see us, AA's effectiveness can also be increased.

Alcoholism cuts across religious lines. Perhaps someday AA truly will as well.

D.J.M.

Los Angeles, California

Reprinted with permission from the Grapevine, May 1999

Your Move: Keep on Rockin'

Response to the May 1999 issues on the topic of using the Lord's Prayer at AA meetings.

I am always glad to get the Grapevine in the mail. I open it quickly and enjoy every bit of it. I'm even grateful for the articles that get me upset because in these articles I find something in myself that needs work. The article "How Others See Us" was a case in point. Being a Christian, I immediately took offense at someone not wanting to say the Lord's Prayer. I thought to myself, "This is what I got sober with, and it meant a lot to me to hear it at the end of a meeting." But after much thought, I decided that the author of the article is both right and wrong, in my opinion (which is all I have).

On one hand, saying the Lord's Prayer might turn some new people off. I can understand this feeling because I was once at a meeting on a Native American reservation, and the meeting ended with a prayer to the Great Spirit. I felt a bit uncomfortable, not because they were saying a different prayer, but because I didn't understand what it meant to them. After talking with the elders and finding out what the prayer meant to them, my perspective changed. What I found out is that the prayer is not for me, but those who need it, and I can enjoy the fact that God (or whatever you want to call it) works in many wonderful ways. On the other hand, I love the fact that the Traditions give our groups the chance to decide for themselves how they want to end a meeting. For example, if ninety percent of the meeting is Buddhist, there will probably be a Buddhist prayer at the end, and that is wonderful--I for one would enjoy it.

Freedom and change are the keys to me. Allowing everyone to have the chance to believe in what they need to believe is important; I hope we will all remember to listen to the minority voice. This is what I was taught by my sponsors, who believed that everyone's opinion matters, which is why I love these topics that the Grapevine throws out.

Keep up the great work, and don't be afraid to rock the boat--we need it!

Darek H.

Hightstown, New Jersey

Reprinted from The Grapevine, September 1999

Tales From The Darwin Awards

Saluting the improvement of the human genome by honoring those who remove themselves from it. Four winners from 2005

Plug Me In (7 March 2005, Vietnam) Nguyen, 21, had been drinking with friends in Hanoi, when he pulled out an old detonator he had found. It was about six centimeters long and eight centimeters in diameter, with two wires hanging out. Because it was old and rusty, Nguyen said, it couldn't explode. His friends disagreed. To prove his point, Nguyen put the detonator in his mouth and asked his friend to plug the dangling wires into a 220-volt electrical receptacle. Turns out Nyugen was wrong! The victim had little time to reflect on his mistaken, or whether 220 volts alone could have been fatal. According to police, "the explosion blew out his cheeks and smashed all his teeth." He died on the way to the hospital.

Rocketing to Glory (7 February 2005, Malaysia) Fireworks are a longstanding lunar New Year's tradition among Malaysia's large Chinese minority, and continue to be widely used to celebrate, despite a ban on their sale and use. Wan, a 29-year-old excavator operator, spent the evening watching people set off fireworks outside a suburban Kuala Lumpur nightclub. These were no mere firecrackers. They were rockets that shot as high as a ten-story building before exploding. His curiosity piqued, Wan bent over one of the launching tubes for a closer look, wondering how these powerful rockets worked. He was peering down the tube when it fired, sending him flying ten meters. He died instantly from severe head injuries, according to a senior police official.

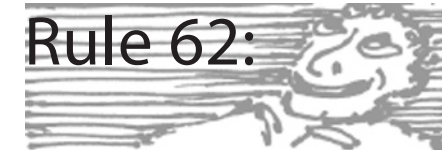
Failed Frame-Up (19 March 2005, Michigan) "Unusual" and "complicated" is how the Missaukee County sheriff described the mysterious death of 19-year-old Christopher. After an evening spent imbibing large quantities of alcohol, Christopher noticed a shortage in his liquor supply that could not be attributed to his own depredations. He concluded that his neighbor had stolen a bottle of booze! He menaced the neighbor with a knife, to no avail, whereupon he retired to his own apartment to brood about revenge. Finally he figured out the perfect way to get back at that conniving bottle-thief: Christopher would stab himself and blame the neighbor! A witness saw Christopher enter the bathroom as he called 911. He calmly informed the dispatcher that his neighbor had stabbed him. Witnesses said he looked fine when he emerged from the bathroom, but a moment later gouts of blood spewed from his chest. Suddenly he began screaming begging for help. The dispatcher heard a woman shout, "Why did you do this?" He collapsed at the door of his apartment. Deputies arrived quickly, but Christopher had already bled to death from self-inflicted stab wounds to his chest. An autopsy determined that he had stabbed himself in the chest twice. The first wound apparently didn't look dangerous enough, so he tried again. The second time, the knife plunged into his left ventricle. This wound was plenty dangerous: he had only two minutes to live. Christopher died in vain. His deathbed accusation of his neighbor failed, as a witness confirmed that the neighbor was not in the apartment. All Christopher got for revenge was an accidental death sentence.

Freeway Dangler (31 May 2005, Seattle, Washington) Strength and endurance are two of the most important characteristics that can be passed on to improve the species, so physical challenges between males are frequent. In this case, two drinking buddies found themselves on an overpass 40 feet above a busy freeway in downtown Seattle at 2:45 a.m. It turned out to be the perfect place to determine who had more strength and endurance. Whoever could dangle from the overpass the longest would win! Unfortunately, the winner was too tired from his victory to climb back up, despite help from his 31-year-old friend. The unidentified champion fell smack into the front of a semi-truck barreling down the highway at 60 mph and bounced onto the pavement, where he was hit by a car. The car did not stop. Authorities did not identify the winner of the competition.

A heart filled thanks to Roger B., previous Office Coordinator, for an excellent job. Roger went way over 110% keeping the EVI office clean and repaired, also having sweets and a cup of coffee at the ready, and in decorating for Christmas. Also thanks to Dee and his lovely wife. Dee and Sylvia, special thanks for the delicious St. Patrick's Day dinner. Thanks again, Roger, for being such a wonderful friend to me and to so many others. I miss most working with you, Tasha and Bob, also Elliot. Life changes. I'm there on Thursdays mornings.

--Mary K.

Rule 62:



"Okay, all done. You'll never drink again."



ACTIVITIES
Sylvia (913-7115), Denna (344-7996)

ANSWERING SERVICE
Joe H. (337-6565), Dave W. (653-1788)

ARCHIVIST
Johanna (302-9086)

BOOKKEEPER
Kurt J. (747-8925)

COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)
Bill H. (653-1474)

DIVERTER COORDINATOR
David W. (653-1788), Mike B. (607-0910)

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS
Meeting Director: Odessa Q. (513-1913)
Bill (915-9633)
Newsletter: Greg W. (349-0294)
Website: Bill (914-5351), Bill H. (517-3067)

E.V.I. OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Karen S. (484-5299, cell 913-0664)

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING
Karen H. (688-2189), Janet

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE
Chair: Angel (689-2892)
Co-Chair: Bill (653-1474)
Secretary: Darrell B. (515-3593)
Treasurer: Brad (968-5399)
At-Large: Cress B. (913-1791)
At-Large: Frank K. (345-7131)
At-Large: Linda K. (741-7845)
At-Large: Lori P. (343-2515)

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS (H&I)
Chair: Annie (342-4690)
Cooperation with Treatment Facilities:
Kurt J. (747-8925), Brenda K. (968-6680)
Hospitals: Open position
Johnson Unit: Jill (302-1311), David L. (335-1145)
VA Clinic: Jack H. (689-4681), Ray T. (607-2090)
Corrections: Lee H. (689-0570)
Alma Work Camp: Lee H. (689-0570)
C.C.C. Women: Paula L. (689-6458)
C.C.C. Men: Scott H. (688-5220)
Lane County Jail (Men): Lee H. (689-0570)
Lane County Jail (Women): GayLynne M. (914-2313)
Serbu Detention: Tanya E. (510-9031)

Treatment Centers:
Carlton House: Paul H. (685-0463)
Pathways: Doug R. (461-3872)
Serenity Lane:
B.T.G.: Kurt J. (747-8925)
Fri. Speaker: Mark Z.. (344-4329)
S.N.L.: Darian M. (345-3532)
W.F.T. Friday Night: Michelle W. (461-7246)

LITERATURE
Rick S. (465-1053), Rich (431-1037)

OUTREACH
Bob S. (915-2929), Angela D. (683-6551)

PUBLIC INFORMATION
Deb B. (520-7503), Pam (747-4731)

On The Lord's Prayer

Continued from Page 4

No sane person would want any of it. My willful handling of the Ninth Step had sent me back to the Sixth and Seventh. I was ready to let go. At that point, I was actually forgiving, I believe. Having seen how much of it was my own mess, there hardly seemed anything left to forgive him for. I was the one who had held on to the bitter feelings and made my life unhappy. I found that, in a way, I owed myself forgiveness. But I could only accomplish that in forgiving the other person, by letting it all go, by remembering I had turned my will over. "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

When I say "lead us not into temptation," I mean slippery places. "Deliver us from evil" is about old ideas and stinking thinking.

The most important part of the prayer for me is the word that runs all the way through: "Our." I have heard people say they don't care what the words are, but they do care about the circle we form as we hold hands to pray, and they do feel the unity of the program at that moment. I can feel the energy in the room, too, as we say the words together: the feeling of solidarity and commitment, of mutual caring, the presence of higher power. It is the only time we speak in unison and touch each other. As we practice the Eleventh Step in the group, I learn to practice it on my own.

We are in this together; I don't have to do it alone. That has been the greatest challenge and the greatest gift of the program. I came into the Fellowship a frightened drunk. If I went to meetings, I arrived late and left early. I threw away phone numbers people gave me. When I was a coffee maker, I was ungracious and angry. But the program was the only hope I had to change. And it works.

I am grateful for the friends I have made. When I say "Our" in this prayer, I know I am saying it with all the Fellowship. And as long as we remain together, I increase the gift of sobriety for myself and for the others I meet in AA. I believe the things we pray for in this prayer will benefit me because I ask them, not for myself only, but for the entire Fellowship, of which I am a part.

M. W.

San Francisco, California

Reprinted with Permission from The Grapevine, April 1987



Your Move: Bravo

Response to the May 1999 issues on the topic of using the Lord's Prayer at AA meetings.

Bravo, bravo for the article "How Others See Us" in the May 1999 issue. I am a Christian and I join in prayerfully when all hold hands and say the "Our Father"--at mass every Sunday. Personally, I think church is where it should stay. Using the Lord's Prayer at AA meetings clearly violates several Traditions, especially the Third and Fourth. Bill W. writes about the Third Tradition: "Why did we dare say, contrary to the experience of society and government everywhere, that we must never compel anyone to pay anything, believe anything, or conform to anything?" I thought for a long time that Tradition Four actually supported the use of the prayer, by granting autonomy to each group but I have come to believe that its usage does negatively affect Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. When I am privileged to chair our Tuesday night meeting, I pass out copies of the Seventh Step prayer to close with.

Having said this, I also know that anger and resentment are the dubious luxuries of normal people. So when others choose to close with the Lord's Prayer, I happily join in, keeping an eye out for anyone who may seem uncomfortable, which provides me another opportunity to share my experience, strength, and hope.

Doug P.

Crosby Minnesota

Reprinted with Permission from The Grapevine, September 1999

EVI Business Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2006

6:30 Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer. A quorum was present.

6:35 OLD BUSINESS

Open Positions. CPC has not been filled. Still need an Office Co-Coordinator, But Bill H. (517-3067) is the new web site co-Coordinator, Rich (431-1037) is the new Literature Co-Chair, Bill (915-9633) is the new Meeting Book Co-Chair, Denna (344-7993) is the new Activities Co-Chair..

After Hours Book Sales. There are to be no after hours literature sales. Literature must be bought during normal office hours.

7:15 NEW BUSINESS

EVI Job Descriptions. Cress has started reviewing known job descriptions for all EVI service positions including sobriety requirements and duties. Cress will present a draft when he has a better idea of what the positions actually are. Cress is also updating lists in the newsletter.

Office Keys. Karen is tracking down missing keys from past service AAs and determining exactly who needs keys and who does not.

Dogs. It has been agreed that only intoxicated dogs who need a meeting book or use the phone to call a sponsor may be allowed in the EVI office. If you must, leave your dog with the Al-Anons next door while you are in the EVI office.

Home Group Concept and Intergroup Rep. Angel passed out fliers with information about the importance of home groups and Intergroup representatives.

7:20 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities. Memorial Day softball game with root beer keg.

Archivist. Johanna is inventorying 387 speaker tapes.

Diverter. Going well with no gaps in coverage.

Meeting Lists. Need Co-Chair. Meeting changes need to be in by May 30th. Next printing June 13th..

Newsletter. Please give Greg any newsletter phone list changes ASAP.

Literature. Rick is determining what sells and what does not. Spanish literature is being ordered and communication with the Spanish speaking AA community in our area has been made.

Office. Office running very well. Need a few more volunteers who are reliable. No after hours book sales. Make sure your information in the newsletter is correct. There are too many keys out.

Outreach. The primary goal at this time is to establish a database of all meetings within the EVI area.

PI. Public service announcements have been distributed to radio stations and news papers. A workshop is planned.

Speaker Meeting. Over 100 attended the last meeting. The meeting is growing. Raffle donations are needed. It should be stressed by reps that speakers are coming to Eugene from long distances with long term sobriety and they need your support.

Treasurer. Income is \$400 ahead for the year. Prudent reserve is up. Donations a little slow.

Steering Committee. Angel reviewed last Steering Committee meeting.

8:00 Meeting closed with the serenity prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Darrel B., EVI Secretary
(Edited by Newsletter Chair)*



EVI Office

1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-3509
Monday-Friday 9:00 am -5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.efn.org/~eviaa

Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes, and more. (The tilde is found next to the exclamation point on the keyboard.) Save a book mark of a favorite and check back often.

EVI News

Emerald Valley Intergroup's monthly newsletter for the AA community in Lane County.

E.V.I. News is about, by and for the members of the Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article, event or notice imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or EVI. (Exceptions: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets, which are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.) E.V.I. News reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, length, language and editorial policy.

Contributions gratefully accepted for consideration for publication. Submissions are due by the last Monday of each month. To submit articles or event information, mail them or drop them off at the EVI office c/o E.V.I. News. Please include a contact phone number. Submissions may also be sent by e-mail to: EVINews@comcast.net.

Contributions:

June, 2006

Group Contributions (month/ytd)
 Attitude Adjustment 202.20/936.60
 Autumn Group 25.00/100.00
 Brown Bag Group .00/15.00
 Cottage Grove Gratitude 50.00/50.00
 Cottage Grove New Beginnings .00/10.00
 Cottage Grove Noon .00/10.00
 Cottage Grove South Valley .00/00.00
 District 19 .00/100.00
 Downtown AM Group 345.56/904.89
 Drop the Rock 337.00/337.00
 Early Firehouse Group .00/92.00
 Freedom of Choice 106.00/106.00
 Fresh Start at Noon. .00/30.00
 Friday Night Men's .00/200.00
 Gratitude Group, Venetta .00/48.00
 Great Fact Group .00/20.00
 Host of Friends .00/120.93
 How It Works, Tuesday 100.00/100.00
 How It Works, Women's .00/100.00
 Keep it Simple .00/37.23
 Language of the Heart .00/165.00
 Last Chance Study Group .00/00.00
 Men's Daily Reflections Group .00/00.00
 McKenzie River Group 25.00/25.00
 Monday Men's Stag .00/306.25
 Monday Night Get Well Group 20.00/20.00
 Monday PM St Jude .00/100.00
 New Beginning .00/20.00
 New Freedom .00/60.00
 One Dat at a Time .00/105.00
 Pass It On .00/39.00
 Search for Serenity .00/87.00
 Serenity at Noon .00/50.00
 Sober Awakenings 400.00/675.00
 Sobriety for Life 80.00/80.00
 Spirituaal Approach .00/25.00
 Stairway to Sobriety .00/50.00
 Sunday Morning Big Book 252.00/552.00
 Sunday Night Book Study .00/90.00
 Sun. Night Women's Step Study 12000/120.00
 Sunday Sunshine .00/60.00
 Thurs. Men's Book Study .00/50.00
 Try God Group 517.80/1224.13
 Tuesday Night Book Study .00/15.00
 Tuesday Night Young People .00/135.50
 Wed. Night Men's 350.00/530.00
 Women's Courage to Change .00/75.00
 Women's Road to Recovery .00/135.00
Total Group Contributions:
 2830.56/8801.40

Individual Contributions

Anonymous: .00/50.00
 Faithful Fivers: 115.00/412.00
 Other: 52.55/78.85

Total Contributions (ytd): 8968.95

On The Lord's Prayer

When I first arrived in AA one of my big surprises was the use of the Lord's Prayer at the end of the meeting. I thought it might be the eccentricity of that particular group (it met in a church, after all), but I soon realized that nearly all the groups I attended ended their meetings this way. I wasn't offended, but I figured it was just a leftover from the way our program began, something we kept up for sentimental reasons. I said it along with everybody else and didn't pay much attention.

The longer I have been around, though, the more grateful I am to have this prayer. It has helped me focus my life in sobriety and opened me up to growth. I've heard people object to it as too religious or too Christian for the program. I've heard people change the wording or refuse to join in. But it has come to mean a great deal to me, and I want to break my silence around it a bit.

The first phrase I remember thinking about is "Give us this day our daily bread." I noticed it because some people would change it to "Give us this day our daily strength." We don't really need bread, they would tell me when I asked them about the change, but we do need the strength of our Higher Power, "one day at a time." That makes sense. I thought about it, though, and decided to keep using the old word. "Bread" can symbolize all the things I need to keep me alive and growing for one more day, in addition to strength. It reminds me about healthy eating habits and about keeping it simple. But as I clarified that for myself, I learned that I can interpret the prayer for and out of my own experience. That realization I valued more than the decision about the word "bread."

I later noticed the phrase "Thy will be done." When I first arrived I thought this was taken from Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. I could certainly identify: "Let this cup pass from me." Then I might roll my eyes heavenward to let everyone know how willingly and nobly I bore the awful cross of alcoholism and all the painful things I go through in recovery. Self-pity always was a tasty dish to me. It took me a while to realize that God's "will" for me is the clarity of sobriety and a "happy, joyous, and free" life. As I face growth in the program, even when at first I feel uncomfortable, I am less suspicious because I have seen how working the Steps has changed my life for the better.

By working the Eighth and Ninth Steps, I woke up to "and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." When I made direct amends and then let go of the results, I began to feel burdens lifted. This is one of those lessons I resisted. I waited a while for one person, to whom I owed amends, to make amends to me first. I had everything ready, but I was sure he had offended me more than I ever offended him, so he should go first. It didn't work. I became miserable and edgy, and I piled up more to accuse him of daily. I finally had enough. All I wanted was to get rid of that obsessive dangling obligation of making amends to him. I certainly did not want to drink.

So I wrote the letter. No answer came. I began to rankle, waiting for his response. My sponsor and others pointed out that I had made amends, regardless of the response. I had swept my side of the street and was powerless over the rest. It took me a while to even hear them clearly: I needed to surrender my anger as I had surrendered my drinking, since I couldn't control either one. I needed the help of a Higher Power. So I tried to be honest about my resentment, open to other perspectives on it, and willing to act on new ideas to relieve me of it.

I finally realized that the man to whom I had written the letter does not operate by my standards at all. And why should he? Those standards are very much my own, just as the resentment was mine and the feeling of being unclean and unforgiven was mine.

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June Calendar

1st	Mon	Steering Committee, 6:30 PM
	Tue	District 20, 6:30 PM, 418 A St. Teffany H. (746-1438) <i>(July meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday. Only for July.)</i>
	Tues	District 33, 6:30 PM, Ray B. (517-2428)
	Wed	District 19, 5:30 PM, Martha S. (687-9569)
	Thur	Speaker Mtg. Committee, 7:00 PM, Vicki (688-5042)
	Sun	Activities Committee, 6:00 PM, Sylvia (485-3482)
2nd	Mon	EVI Business Meeting, 6:30 PM
	Wed	District 6, 6:30 PM, Tim A. (726-8558)
	Sat	Answering/Diverter, 10:00 AM, David W. (653-6565)
	Sat	EVI Speaker Meeting, 7:30 PM, 2801 W. 18th Ave.
3rd	Thur	Outreach Committee, 6:30 PM
Last	Wed	H&I Committee, 6:00

(All meetings are held at the EVI Office, unless otherwise noted.)

Fellowship Events

EVI Speaker Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 7:30 pm
 2801 W. 18th, Living Hope Church
 AA Speaker: Patricia R. (Portland)
 AI-Anon Speaker: TBA

Summerfest '06

June 30-July 2
 Eugene Hilton

4th of July Picninc, Sponsored by EVI Activities Committee

Tuesday, July 4, 4:00-7:00 pm
 Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Drive, River Road area
 Bring a side dish to share and a serving utensil
 Volunteers needed. Call Denna (344-7996)

2nd Annual Old Timers Reunion and Speaker Meeting

Saturday, J.E.S.C.O. Club
 Dinner: 5:00, Meeting: 6:30-8:00, Dessert & Social Hour: 8:00-9:00
 Bring a salad, dessert and/or \$3.00 donation
 Information: J.E.S.C.O. Club (686-0538) or Bill T. (360-433-1594)

Sisters in Sobriety Campout

July 28-31, Horse Creek Campground, McKenzie River, \$10
 Potluck Saturday 5:00, Speaker meetings Friday, Saturday and Sunday
 Information: Pat (302-3977) Diana (345-0436)

Gratitude:

Currently Available Service Positions:

EVI Committees: Chairs and/or Co-Chairs are needed for several EVI committees. Contact Angel (689-2892)

Hospitals and Institutions has an ongoing and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work. See page 6 for contact information for various facilities

Public Information needs people for various volunteer functions.

The EVI Office can always use people who are able to answer phones and perform office functions. Contact Karen S. (484-5299, cell 913-0664)

Newsletter needs a co-chair. Contact Greg W. (349-0294)

The Activities Committee needs volunteers to help plan and staff events. There is no minimum sobriety requirement, and the time commitment is flexible. Call Sylvia (485-3482) or Denna (344-7996).

Addresses for Group Contributions

Emeral Valley Intergroup
 1259 Willamette Street
 Eugene, OR 97401-3509

Contributions for Districts 6, 19, 20, and 33 may also be sent to the above address. Please indicate the district on the envelope.

Oregon Area 58 Treasury
 1900 NE 3rd Street, Suite 106-172
 Bend, OR 97701

AA General Service Office
 PO Box 459
 Grand Central Station
 New York, NY 10163-0459