

Victor Valley Intergroup, Central Office, Inc.  
18888 Highway 18, Suite 107  
Apple Valley, CA 92307  
Telephone: 760-242-9292; Email: vvigco\_aa@yahoo.com;  
Web site: www.victorvalleyaa.org



## Step Twelve

And so, the cycle ends at Step Twelve. But of course it doesn't end. Just as there is that old worn cliché about High School Commencement being a beginning, not an ending (How many times have we heard that?), Step Twelve is the beginning of a new life. A life without alcohol, sure. And if all that the Twelve Steps had done for me was help me to stop drinking and stay stopped, it would have been more than enough. But as Dr. Paul O. says in his book, "There's More to Quitting Drinking, Than Quitting Drinking." The Twelve Steps are the doorway through which we become fully realized, fully functioning human beings exactly as our creator intended for us to be.

The first indication of this is in the first part of the Step where it says that we have "had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps." That spiritual awakening is what makes us new all over again. My "spirit," the part of me that connects with God and with my fellow human beings was not just asleep. I had drunk it into a coma. As a result, I was isolated, lost, and nearly dead spiritually. Through taking the Twelve Steps thoroughly and in order, my spirit first wakened to connect with my Higher Power and then began connecting with others around me. I picture it as a web of light connecting each person with God and with those nearest, with extended connections to everyone else through God. It's kind of like a representation of the World Wide Web with each individual connected to the main-frame and other nodes. Or I picture it like the final climactic scene in "Raiders of the Lost Ark," where the Spirit of God pierced all of the soldiers in one big connection. Of course in the movie, it was too strong for them and they were consumed. But the "fellowship of the spirit" that connects us all to each other and to our Higher Power is what allows us to grow and help each other, and is indicative of the psychic change we have undergone. As we learned in Step Eight, we have gone from selfish and self-centeredness to genuine caring about other.

That caring is evidenced in the second part of Step Twelve. We carry the message to others. A.A. is founded on the principle of one drunk talking to another. But it is not just a couple of boozers comparing notes on favorite bars, drinks,

(Continued on page 2)

## Tradition Twelve

Anonymity, as we observe it in A.A., is at root a simple expression of humility. When we use the Twelve Steps to recover from alcoholism, we are *each* trying to achieve real humility, to put our self-respect on a solid base of truth, rather than on fantasies about ourselves. When we use the Twelve Traditions to work together in A.A., we are *all* trying to achieve humility: as individual members, by recognizing our true place in A.A.; as a fellowship, by recognizing A.A.'s true place in the world.

Tradition One reminds each of us that we are not recovering on our own, that we should control our personal desires and ambitions in order to guard the unity of our group and our Fellowship. We ought not (Tradition Two) fancy ourselves as big shots in A.A., no matter what office we hold.

All of us are just alcoholics together, and in our groups we are not entitled (Tradition Three) to rule on the qualifications of other alcoholics seeking the same help that we've had. Yes, a group needs humility, too. It may make its name public, but in the *spirit* of anonymity it should see the Whatever Group as merely part of a bigger whole (Tradition Four), careful in every enterprise to consider the welfare of all the other groups that make up A.A. In both group and individual activities, we should remember what the full name of our Fellowship is. It does not represent any established religion, nor is it a new religion. We are not evangelists or gurus out to save humanity; we are anonymous alcoholics trying to help other alcoholics (Tradition Five).

In the rising battle against alcoholism, we ought not let our pride in A.A. mislead us into linking our Fellowship with other agencies, in order to bid for a share in their power, prestige, and funds. If we keep Traditions Six and Seven in mind, we will instead direct all our efforts toward A.A.'s own unique purpose.

When we go on Twelfth Step calls, we should not tell ourselves how noble we are for doing such valuable work without pay. The meaning of Twelfth Step work cannot be measured in money (Tradition Eight), and we *have* received advance pay for it, in coin of far greater worth—our very lives. In the same Tradition, it's suggested that a service center

(Continued on page 2)

*Step Twelve**(Continued from page 1)*

or barmaids. And it is not just drunks sympathizing over past transgressions. The point is that one drunk is talking to another to help them get sober. Yes, we identify by talking about ourselves. But then we talk about our recovery and how we accomplished it. We talk about our Higher Power. We talk about the program of A.A. And we give the message of hope. I hear it often in A.A. that you can't keep it unless you give it away. And that working with the newcomer is what keeps us sober. I have certainly found this to be true. When I am getting into worrying about something going on in my life, maybe feeling a little sorry for myself, nothing works better at getting me out of myself than trying to help another alcoholic. When I talk to someone about how my life has changed, and how well my Higher Power takes care of me, I realize the truth of what I'm saying and the worries and concerns slip away. This working with another alcoholic can take many forms. Sometimes it is one-on-one conversations over coffee somewhere. Sometimes it takes the form of sharing in a meeting. And now, for me, it has taken the form of being the speaker at a speaker meeting. I really enjoyed the experience and got a lot of positive feedback from people who heard my "pitch." Carrying the message is rewarding on many, many levels.

Finally, the last part of Step Twelve says that we "practice these principles in all of our affairs." Whew!! Step Twelve is more like three steps! And the last part is only about what we do all of our days for the rest of our days. Oh? Is that all? But this is clearly why A.A. is not just about quitting drinking. We A.A.s, as newly minted sober people, awake spiritually and changed from the inside out, are now setting out on a new direction. We practice the principles we have learned in the Twelve Steps. Through Steps Two, Three, Seven, and Eleven, we trust our Higher Power to guide us and protect us. Through Steps Four, Six, Nine, and Ten, we examine our lives and try to grow along spiritual lines. With Steps One and Five, we identify with other alcoholics who may still be suffering. And finally, with Steps Eight and Twelve, we show the evidence of our spiritual change by caring for others more than ourselves and share our experience, strength and hope with them.

It has become popular in recent years for publicly pious people to wrap themselves in the Ten Commandments as if they are the ultimate guide to living a spiritual life. Someone is always trying to post them in schools, public buildings, parks, and other places. If you know anything about the old Hebrew law, you know that the Ten Commandments are only a small part of a huge body of laws and restrictions, many of which are long outmoded. Heck, not

even all the Ten Commandments are really relevant today. The Twelve Steps are a much better way of living. If only everyone would practice THESE principles! However, if you are still of a pious nature and would rather use the Bible as your guide, then take God's new commandments from the New Testament. In the New Testament, Jesus tells His followers that ALL of the old law can be replaced by two commandments—to love God with all your heart and to love your neighbor as yourself. I call that the "Twelve Steps in short form." Think about it. Then do it. You will be rewarded as I have been. My life is better than I can remember, and I am happier than I have ever been. Thank you, A.A. Thank you, God!

Submitted by,  
Doug H., Hesperia, CA

---

## With Gratitude

I would like to take this time to say, "Thank you," to Doug H. from Hesperia for the wonderful, well-written essays he submitted for publication on the Twelve Steps. Last year at Intergroup I asked those in attendance if any would care to write what the Steps meant to them. Doug was the only one who stepped up to the plate and volunteered.

So, Doug, from the Fellowship here in the High Desert and all around the country:

### **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!**

If anyone would like to contribute articles for publication, they will be welcome. I have tried this year to keep the articles from local contributors. You can either e-mail them to Central Office, or you may use "snail mail." Be sure to include your name and telephone number in case I have any questions for clarity purposes. And remember: you can always remain anonymous.

Thank you, Fellowship, for allowing me another year as your faithful servant.

In sobriety,

Betty B., Editor

*Tradition Twelve*

*(Continued from page 1)*

maintains A.A. humility by paying its employees decent wages—rather than considering A.A. so virtuous an outfit that employment there is a favor.

*(Continued on page 3)*

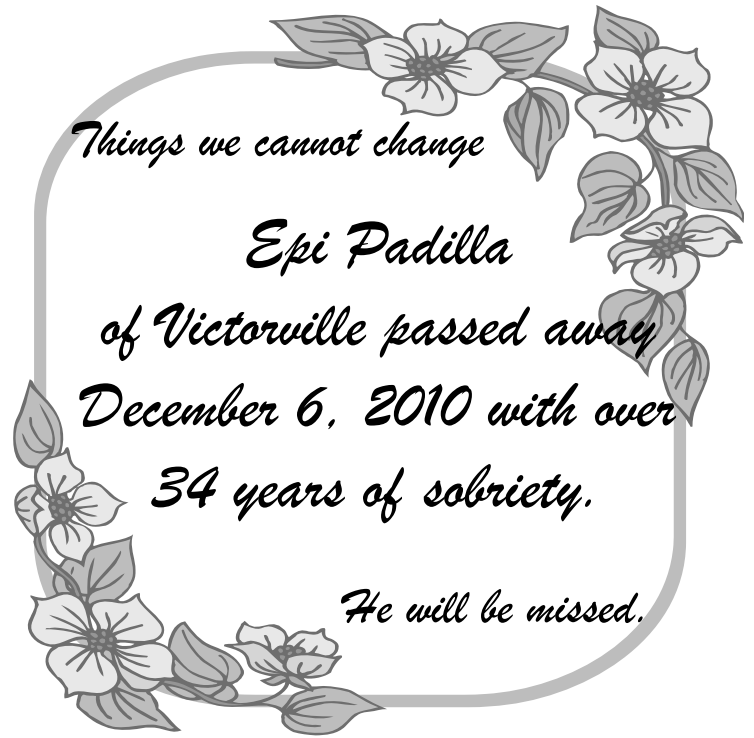
*Tradition Twelve*

*(Continued from page 2)*

When we are given special responsibilities within A.A., Tradition Nine defines these as opportunities to *serve*, not titles to flaunt. The humility of the Fellowship itself is safeguarded by Tradition Ten, with the refusal to set ourselves up as general authorities, swinging our collective weight around in the public arena.

We do not want to sell our program as a “surefire remedy” in the extravagant terms of a promotional campaign (Tradition Eleven), nor dramatize it by identifying noted people in A.A., thereby implying that recovery has been for each of us an individual accomplishment. As Tradition Twelve reminds us, we have something stronger than our human personalities to rely on. Our principles come first—and they are not our own invention. They reflect eternal spiritual values. With the Tradition, both as individuals and as a fellowship, we humbly acknowledge our dependence on a power higher than ourselves.

*Via, The Twelve Traditions Illustrated*



## Central Office Activities

	<u>October</u>	<u>Y.T.D</u>
Visitors	91	943
Info Calls	198	1,942
12 Step Calls	1	10

### CALL FORWARDING

Info Calls	202	1,637
12 Step Calls	3	20

### TOTALS

Info Calls	400	3,596
12 Step Calls	4	30

## Faithful Fivers

Pete P.	25.00
Wayne S.	25.00
Randy S.	20.00
Kara O.	5.00
Jim L.	5.00

### F.Y.I.

**Central Office is now selling Big Book Covers! And don't forget we also have fancy chips, medallions and jewelry. Come by and do some Christmas shopping for that someone special on your holiday list!**

## Faith and Love

*To my A.A. brothers and sisters,*

*I wanted to share something that happened yesterday on December 6, 2010. I had heard that my friend, Epi Padilla, was very sick and that he was in the hospital. It had rained very heavily the night before, so by the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> there was still a lot of moisture in the air. But as the day wore on and the sun came out it turned into a beautiful December day. I had a bunch of chores to do in the morning, but I hurried through them cleaned up and went to see my friend.*

*As I walked to hospital room 204, little did I know I would be a witness to something very special and wonderful. Epi was surrounded by family and friends who were caring for him in a loving manner. Epi kept trying to say something. What was it he was trying to say? It sounded like he was saying, “Father. Father. Our Father.” When his wife, Mary, realized what he was trying to say, she began and then the rest of us joined in, reciting the world's most powerful prayer. Here was a man on the doorstep of his passing, who kept his faith, who kept his love for his Heavenly Father. When it was Epi's time to walk the walk, he did indeed walk it. Mr. Padilla, it was an honor and a privilege to know you. I was humbled to be in your presence.*

*Jim S., Apple Valley, CA*

It is time to thank all those who made your Inter-group/Central Office up and running during 2010. Without you, the dedicated volunteers, it would be impossible to continue helping those who are seeking help with their problem with alcohol. Also, I would like to thank those who serve in District 19, H & I, our Ways and Means Committee and the Convention Committee. Their financial support goes a long way in helping to keep the doors open and the telephones answered.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a safe and sober Happy New Year!

In Sobriety,

Craig B., Office Manager

Betty B.  
Chris B.  
Don S.  
Regina S.  
Rubin Q.  
Chris G.  
Renée B.

CALL FORWARDING  
VOLUNTEERS

Wayne S.  
Kathy G.  
Jeff A.  
Susan B.  
Allen B.  
Helene  
Margarita F.  
Melissa  
Al B.  
Ruby C.  
Rod B.  
Roxy  
Libowitz C.  
Chris B.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Mike E.  
Sheldon S.  
Lorie N.  
Sam D.  
Bonnie C.  
Mark C.  
Eric S.  
Bill P.  
Kara O.  
Mary C.  
Rod B.  
Craig B.

Kara O.	Chairman
Sam D.	Co-Chairman
Sheldon S.	Treasurer
Wayne U.	Secretary
Matt N.	Associate Member
Helen M.	Public Information
James J.	Public Information
Betty B.	Newsletter

*"I am responsible."*

## Become a "Faithful Fiver"

What are Faithful Fivers?

They are A.A. members who pledge at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of their Central Office to "carry the message." Many of us have spent more than \$5.00 daily/hourly on alcohol during our drinking days!

I agree to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
and enclosed is my contribution.

Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*You may remain anonymous if you wish.*

### And Finally . . .

#### 3 Wishes

Santa is sitting at the end of a bar. He sees a lamp at the end of the table. He walks down to it and rubs it. Out pops a genie.

It says, "I will give you three wishes." "Santa thinks a while, finally he says, "I want a beer that never is empty."

With that, the genie makes a "poof" sound and on the bar is a bottle of beer. Santa starts drinking it and right before it is gone, it starts to refill.

The genie asks about his next two wishes.

Santa says, "I want two more of these."

#### Taste

Santa walks into a bar and rudely demands a shot of 12-year-old scotch. The bartender thinks, "This guy doesn't know the difference," so he pours a shot of 2-year-old scotch.

Santa takes one sip and spits it out. He promptly hollers at the bartender, "I said 12-year-old scotch, you Bozo!"

Still unimpressed the bartender pours some 6-year-old scotch. Santa takes a sip—same reaction. But the bartender still doesn't believe the patron knows the difference. So he pours a shot of 10-year-old scotch.

Again, the same reaction from Santa. Finally the bartender is convinced. He pours a glass of 12-year-old scotch. Santa takes a sip and is most satisfied.

All the while this has been going on, a drunk at the end of the bar has been watching. He slides a shot glass down the bar to the patron and drunkenly says, "Hey, mishter, tashte this!"

Santa obliges; he promptly spits it out. "It tastes like piss," Santa shoots back to the drunk.

The drunk replies, "It ish! Now tell me, how old am I?"

*Via, "Fun Cracker" on the Internet*

## Happenings

**Dec. 24-25, 2010;**

**Dec. 31, 2010-Jan. 1, 2011**

**H.U.G., 9989 E Ave., Hesperia: Marathon Meetings,  
7:00 a.m.—11:30 p.m.**

**Dec. 31, 2010**

**New Year's Eve Dance, Victor Valley Alano Club,  
11085 Central Rd., Apple Valley; 9:00 p.m.—1:00  
a.m. Jan. 1, 2011. Bring some goodies to share.  
SORRY! NO CHILDREN, PLEASE!**