



THE NA UNITY

The Spirituality of Money

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Spirituality of Money	1-2
The God Of Our Understanding	3
Willingness	3
Gratitude A New Beginning Step 3	4
Clear Messages	5
Events And Activities	6

Meetings that need support...

- Sunday:** Westland Survivors 11:30-1:00
- Monday:** Alive and Free 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday:** Dearborn Recovery 7:00 p.m.
- Wed:** Twelve At Noon 12:00 p.m.
- Thur:** Living Free 7:00 p.m.
- Friday:** Winners On Warren 7:00 p.m.
- Sat:** Saturday Night Special 7:00 p.m.

Western Wayne Outreach determined these meetings need support!

During the darkness of my using, I had nothing to give. My spirit was so far away from light, death seemed like a bright star. My thoughts were about taking: taking from others, and taking my own life. The sparkle, excitement, and dreams had long gone from my spirit. The dance of life had lost its joy. I had lost all hope, and I humiliated myself day and night. I kept promising to stop hurting myself and others, yet I was powerless to do so.

This is a road that many of us traveled, one that leads to hospitals, institutions, death—and, for a lucky few, to Narcotics Anonymous. Fortunately for me, the road led to an NA meeting. When I arrived, my thoughts were on my own pain. I didn't know the price that had been paid for that meeting to be there, but it was all there waiting for me. I came, I believed, and I was restored to some kind of sanity. It wasn't simple. I needed a lot of help, and I learned to look outside myself to find it.

Once I moved away from being endlessly fascinated with my own problems, I was able to acquire one of the great skills that NA gives us: the art of listening. Meeting after meeting, day after day, my ability to step outside my own head and listen to others improved. It was a slow process. Often, I would be much more inside my head than at the meeting I was attending, but after a while I began to hear things that I had never heard before. By listening to others, I received the gift of hope, and in time I learned to share that hope with others.

It's been a while since then, and now I reflect on my first encounter with NA at a meeting of desperate people trying to get away from the pain of active addiction. Why were those people there? How did they get there? What made them take the time to help someone like me? If they were like me, self-obsessed and caught up with their own sorrow, how could they even think of helping anyone else? At times just getting to a meeting was more than I could manage. How is it that, through the efforts of a bunch of addicts, our fellowship has grown from one meeting in the whole world to almost 76,000 every week? Was it magic? Did it just all come together like some cosmic mistake?

I suppose there are many reasons, but this makes me think of a conversation I had while walking along a beach a few years ago. I was at a service meeting and we were having a break, so I went for a walk along a beach with an addict friend. We were talking about things that had gone on at the meeting when, all of a sudden, he asked me a question: "What do you think about the spirituality of money?" My mind didn't quite grasp what he was saying. I was sure he had made some kind of mistake. The words *spirituality* and *money* didn't go together well in my head.

Continued on page 2

Continued from pg 1

This is where the art of listening was put to good use. I tried to listen without turning my mind off to something that was far outside my own way of thinking.

For a few minutes my friend talked about how money could be used spiritually. This conversation has stayed with me since then. It has made me see money in a very different way. It also gave me part of the answer to how NA has grown from one meeting to almost 76,000. My head fought with the idea for some time, but today I can see that money has played an important part in the growth of NA. The people at my first meeting used love and money so that I could get the message NA has to offer. Before, I would have felt ashamed of such thoughts. I would have said that the recovery message was all to do with my higher power, and for some reason my higher power didn't have much to do with money. I saw him in almost everything, but it seemed wrong to think that my higher power was in money, too. I thought about how I was using my own money; in most cases, it was to benefit myself. One of the few things I was doing for others was putting money in the basket at NA meetings.

After that conversation on the beach, I began to think about what happened to the money I put into the NA basket, and not just my money, but all the money that went into all the baskets at all the meetings around the world. Fortunately, through service, I have been able to follow some of that money. I have seen it used to give a newcomer a free Basic Text, a cup of coffee, and a key-tag. It's used to pay rent so a meeting can stay open and carry the message. I have seen our money used to let people outside of NA know that we exist, and to hold meetings inside prisons, hospitals, and treatment centers. I've seen it used to open new meetings, create web pages, and print meeting lists so that others can find us.

Our money has helped groups join together to help each other, and to help NA grow and strengthen itself, to reach out across countries and form regions. I have seen it used to form zones and various worldwide service offices, and to print the message in many languages, to bring NA members from all over the world together to work so that no addict on the planet need die without the chance to recover. I have seen our money bring thousands of addicts together to celebrate recovery.

I see it in this very magazine, which allows me to share my recovery with all of you who are reading this; in the workers at our service offices who, day in and day out, care for the needs of our worldwide fellowship. I have read of NA members who hold their coins to the sky and pray that they will be used to stop the suffering of another in pain. I have seen it enlighten those who thought that to be an addict was to be a criminal. I have seen it in workshops, in fellowship development, in new literature, and in outreach efforts. I have seen it used to carry NA members from one country to another to serve addicts there who needed help. I could go on; the list seems endless, and I am sure others have seen things I haven't.

I feel that what I put in the basket is part of all this. This doesn't mean I will sell everything I own and put it into the NA basket. It just means that what I do put in goes a long way, and that I am part of something much, much bigger than just the money I give. It is a wonder to see so many who once had nothing to give, support themselves and give light and hope to the world. I am grateful to all those who did so before me, so that I can live the life I have today; to those very first members who, despite their own hardships, gave so that we could become the worldwide fellowship we are today. I hope what I give will do the same for those who are yet to find us.

Michael C, Marbella, Spain *from the NA Way magazine*

"A man without a dream is only half a man, and a fellowship without a Vision is a farce. And I still believe that and know damn well that we can find fulfillment in living a day at a time here. And a day at a time our Vision and our Fellowship can become a greater reality."

Jimmy K.

The God Of Our Understanding

Like most of us I was introduced to a God at a young age. The God I was introduced to was not of my own understanding though, it was someone else's belief passed onto me and at the time I accepted it as fact. As "the one and only God." Back then my understanding was flawed. I was taught God was a man. He was punishing. He tested me. I was taught to fear him. I was taught everything that happened, good or bad, he made happen. I had no communication with God. That belief caused a lot of resentment, anger, fear, doubt, confusion, and so on. I questioned God. I blamed God for everything bad that ever happened in my life. For my drug addiction. The insanity. The unmanageability. In my eyes it was all his fault, and if there was a God why did he take my family. Why did he make me suffer. Why is there so much bad in the world etc. My relationship with God was dysfunctional, so the relationship I had with myself was dysfunctional as well, along with every other relationship I had with all people, places, and things. At the time I didn't know but since then I've learned in order to have a healthy relationship with anything, I need a healthy relationship with the God of my understanding.

It wasn't until I got clean that I began to develop a God of my understanding and a healthier relationship with that God. The God of my understanding today is not the same God I was introduced to as a child. Today my God is neither man or woman. I don't fear my God because my God is loving and caring. I don't doubt my God, I have complete faith and trust in my God's will for me. My God does not test me, my God teaches me. My God does not punish me, I punish myself when I take my will back. I no longer question my God or blame my God for my misfortunes. Our relationship is no longer only good when things are going good and bad when things are going bad, it's healthier. It's not perfect, I still struggle at times but it's not as dysfunctional, it has improved tremendously. I've seen the evidence that Step 2 speaks of. I've witnessed the miracle of losing the desire to use. I've seen how my God has worked in others lives as well as mine. I went through the process of coming to believe my God can restore me to sanity in all areas of my life. I see how my God was there with me the whole time, I just wasn't willing to Surrender at the time. Wasn't ready to let my God guide me.

My God lives in my heart. My God is that voice inside of me that tells me what's right and what's wrong. He's that feeling inside me when something's not right. My intuition. He protects me. In my addiction I didn't listen to that voice, only the devil in my head because I was at the mercy of all my defects, the finding ways and means to get more ruled my life. Today I communicate with the God of my understanding. I don't believe in coincidence. He communicates through my heart. Through synchronicities. Today I listen to that voice inside me, I no longer drown it out. Even if something bad happens there's a lesson to be learned. Even if things don't make sense at the time I know in my heart there's a bigger picture and one day it will make sense if I don't take my will back. Today I practice having a healthy relationship with my God and by doing so I have a healthier relationship with myself. But it all starts with the God of my understanding... **Brandon R.**

Willingness

We can give another addict hope, but we cannot give them willingness. We become willing to move into action when we notice other happy addicts living a new way of life. Willingness is an inside job. If we want to find a new way of life in Narcotics Anonymous, we must be willing to do the necessary work. Our sponsor is not going to make a house visit and write our step for us. It is OUR responsibility to recover.

We become willing to go to a meeting when our disease wants us to stay home. Our willingness to recover pushes us to pick up the phone instead of the drug. It drives us to fulfill our service commitment even when it is not convenient. Willingness keeps us coming back to experience the miracle.

It is important to remember that anything we put before our recovery will be lost. Eventually our willingness brings spiritual wholeness that far surpasses any short-term gratification we experienced while using. When our spirit is broken through active addiction NA provides the alternative choice which is spiritual growth. As we do the work in NA we gradually attain the inner peace we have always sought.

We become willing to give to the fellowship that saved our lives. We find we are able to get out of ourselves and the tendency to be self-centered. We must always remember where we came from and be willing to carry the message of hope to the newcomer through service.

Anonymous

Gratitude

The how of the program is honesty, open mindedness and willingness: I'm gonna share some short stories about how we have to really be careful how we talk to ourselves. We really need to do some form of exercise. We can start with walking around the block, or, seeing that it's winter, YouTube has all kinds of suggestions, these also help our mindset. I'm still learning to go to NA meetings and look at the person who's sharing and not leave the table unless I really have to go to the rest room. It's still about table manners and having respect for my peers. NA has gave me my choice back and still shows me how the Journey Continues. On this road trip it tells me that if I don't take control of my life my dis-ease is willing and waiting so the daily maintenance must continue.

We have solutions today and we have a worldwide fellowship of recovering addicts. Narcotics Anonymous has more structure than any other program that I ever been a part. I thank God that we've been granted this gift. Don't get complacent and start going to meetings only when you're in trouble with the courts, family, etc. And if you only pray when you're in trouble, your in trouble! We need to stop hating self/change, if nothing changes no change will be made. We deserve to be happy and laugh, crack some jokes. When was the last time we laughed so hard that tears came or your stomach hurt. We had meals on wheels, at one time we'd meet up at coney Island after a NA meeting. We need to put some more ideas together and come together as a spiritual family because the world is really sick and suffering. But there is still a lot of good in this world, we have to be what we want to see even when no ones looking. You and your conscience will remind you. There's no model of the recovering addict. We can be a better version of self, we're not where we want to be but not where we used to be. And I just want you guys to know that I love my life and that is all from the heart of NA..

Pamela A.

A New Beginning, Every Day

In this life, we are given the greatest gift—the power to start over. No matter how far we've fallen, no matter how deep the wounds, there is always a way forward. That's what recovery is: not a destination, but a journey of choosing ourselves over and over again.

Every sunrise is a reminder that yesterday does not define us. Every step we take toward healing is proof that we are stronger than the struggles that once held us down. We are not our mistakes. We are not our past. We are warriors who have faced darkness and chosen light.

NA is not just a program—it's a family, a lifeline, a testament to the fact that people can change, grow, and thrive. It's where broken hearts find healing, where lost souls find purpose, and where we remind each other that no one has to fight alone.

So, if today feels heavy, if the road ahead seems uncertain, remember this: You are not alone. You are loved. And you are capable of more than you can imagine. Keep going. Keep believing. Because your story isn't over—it's just getting started.

We do recover,

Tyler L.

Step Three

The surrender we experience in Step One, coupled with the hope and belief we find in Step Two make us ready and willing to continue on the path toward freedom in Narcotics Anonymous. In Step Three, we put our belief in a Higher Power into action, making a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of the God of our understanding.

Essential to working the Third Step is our willingness to allow the God of our understanding to work in our lives. We develop this willingness over time. The willingness we experience in early recovery is valuable even though we may be willing only to a certain degree. Although this may seem like unconditional willingness, many of us have discovered that our willingness grew as we learned to trust a Power greater than ourselves.

It Works How and Why pg. 26

Clear Messages?

Just a few thought from the local NA curmudgeon.

I don't come around much any more. It is not because I am cured, or because I don't need NA. That would be a mistaken assumption. I need NA. I have devoted over half my life to NA and its program of recovery. I have a great need of the NA program in my life.

My absence is best explained by what I am not getting when I come to meetings. Meetings lack a clear NA message. I am not speaking of the language wars or the clean and sober BS that tore through our fellowship at one point. I am speaking of the distinct lack of the pure NA message as expressed in our literature.

There is pop psychology, mangled bits and pieces of the NA words, ripped out of context and misquoted. Crap that your therapist said, or the drug counselor told you. Opinions fly like birds in the fall, heading any where but towards the clear message of recovery a meeting is supposed to deliver.

Experience, strength and hope, that is what an NA member is supposed to share, other than stating he has a problem with "x" and asking for that experience, strength and hope. What your friend did, what your therapist told you, what you think they should do, none of that is the NA message. It is tripe and garbage, better suited for use as fertilizer.

Another thing, where you are at is not an appropriate topic either. You are in a NA meeting. We can all see where you are at. It is a forum to share experience, strength and hope, not a dumping ground for your pent-up emotions and anger, hate, sadness or grief. Your selfish share about where you are at may just deprive a person actually seeking help from finding it.

There are really only two appropriate shares in a discussion meeting. The first one is if you have direct experience, strength and/or hope on the topic, which is not a mere repeat of what the previous five people just shared. Second, is sharing that you are having a problem and asking for said experience, strength and hope on the subject.

The second one should be pretty short. It should not take up more than 30 words, including stating your name and that you are an addict. We do not need a 20 minute explanation of every little detail of your problem. For example, 'I am Bob and I am an addict. I am having trouble with acceptance of other peoples' behaviors.' See, nice and sweet, short and to the point. If you can not identify your problem in such a manner, then talk to your sponsor. They can help you figure it out.

Contrary to popular beliefs, the side talk, the playing with phones, children being children and assorted crap is not a problem. That and similar stuff has been going on for as long as I can remember in meetings. If those minor distractions are enough to keep you from hearing a message, if one is present, then you did not want it bad enough.

It is the lack of the message that keeps me away. I miss meetings, especially where I can go and hear the message of recovery that saved my life, and taught me how to live.

I wonder at times, how many of you have ever heard a clear message delivered in a meeting without the BS?

Anonymous

One Member Shared...

"Gratitude is a state of mind and Surrender is a feeling. Together they equal serenity"

"I still react sometimes but it has gotten a lot easier to apologize and admit when I am wrong"



CLEAN DATES

February-March

February 3rd, Delia C. 18 months
 February 10th, Rick C. 36 years
 February 11th, John C. 34 years
 February 11th, Giovanni L. 18 months
 February 12th, Mike D. 13 years
 February 12th, Fred B. 1 year
 February 15th, Curtis P. 8 years
 February 17th, Lisa S. 24 years
 February 21st, Crystal M. 2 years
 February 25th, Brian S. 4 years
 February 25th, Liz D. 17 years
 March 3rd, Kelly M. 5 years
 March 4th, Louis H. 10 years
 March 4th, Kathy K. 8 years
 March 5th, John K. 18 months
 March 6th, Chad D. 19 years
 March 7th, Kanna P. 10 years
 March 7th, Dan S. 11 years
 March 8th, Sunni C. 1 year
 March 8th, Leon H. 2 years
 March 8th, Lindsay M. 12 years
 March 9th, Pete P. 13 years

"The message is that an addict, any addict, can stop using drugs, lose the desire to use, and find a new way to live. Our message is hope and the promise of freedom."

Basic Text Tradition 5



SERVICE AND
ACTIVITIES

Area & Sub-Committee Mtgs.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Admin Meeting: 1:30 pm

New GSR Orientation: 1:30 pm

Area Meeting: 2 pm Second Sunday of the month:
Good Hope Church 28680 Cherry Hill, Garden City
MI, 48135

Activities: First Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
at Good Hope church. **Joe. C**

Helpline: Open

Hospitals & Institutions: Third Sunday of each
month at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope church. 28680
Cherry Hill, Garden City MI 48135. **Kelly M.**

Literature: First Sunday of each month at 6:30
p.m. at Good Hope Church. **Heather L.**

MSO Rep: Giovanni L.

Newsletter: First Wednesday of each month at 6:00
p.m. at Hype Recreation Center in Wayne.
Chair: **Open**

Outreach: First Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
at the Hype Recreation Center. **Bennie G.**

Policy: Same day and place as area at 1:00 p.m.
Rick C.

Public Information: The day before area each
month at 7:00 p.m. at the North West Alano Club
Stacy P.

RCM Region: Stefan Y.

RCM Alt: Stuart L.

Web Servant: Jasmine S.

Workshop: OPEN

Living The Dream
DACNA XXXII

Detroit Area Convention of Narcotics Anonymous

April 17-20, 2025 Detroit MI
Downtown Marriott Hotel Renaissance Center

Register online with credit/debit card at:
www.michigan-na.org/dacna

Western Wayne Euchre Tourney
May 10th, 2025

Doors open @ 5:00 tourney starts at 6:00

\$10 to get in the door, includes food and beverage
\$10 per person to enter the tournament

Boilermakers Local 169 Union Hall
1755 Fairlane Dr.
Allen Park, MI 48101

Western Wayne County Area
2025 Campouts

June 12th, 13th, and 14th
and
August 14th, 15th, 16th

Wolverine Campground Columbiaville MI

Must pay in full to reserve and hold your site

Contact: Stuart L. 313-937-0095 for details

(All submissions for the Western Wayne Newsletter
can be directed to duane85reece85@gmail.com)

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Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____