

## 1991 World Service Directory of Meetings & Contacts Now Available!

The 1991 edition of the World Service Directory of Meetings and Contacts is now available. Listing every known DA meeting, this directory is an invaluable resource for D.A. members who would like to find local meetings as they travel the world. (This directory is confidential and is for the use of DA members only. It is not to be used as a mailing list or for any form of solicitation.)

Every year when this is published we get to again reflect on the growth of our fellowship. As of September, 1991, we have 286 known groups (up 17% from last year!). These groups hold over 300 meetings a week throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe.

Of the 286 groups registered with the General Service Office (GSO) in New York, we are only able to contact 190 (66%). This is due to the fact that when groups change General Service Representatives or Group Contacts, they fail to notify the GSO. You can help by making sure that your GSR or Group Contact is registered (an easy way to tell is that they should be receiving a free subscription to the Ways and Means!) If your group is not registered, please write to the GSO and ask for a "Group Registration Form."

To receive a copy of the World Service Directory, please send \$5.00 (plus \$1.25 to cover postage and handling) to: DA - GSO, P.O. Box 20322, New York, NY 10025. Please make your checks payable to "D.A. General Service Board." Please remember, these directories are only for the use of D.A. members! Respect the confidentiality of this publication.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Having an event? If we have room, we'll help spread the word! Let us know as soon as you can and we'll see if we can get it in print!

February 29, 1992 (1-5pm): Detroit, MI "Leap Into Relief" pressure group workshop, for info leave a message with the "hotline" at (313) 446-5333

April 10-12, 1992: Houston, TX "In God We Trust - With Compound Interest", contact Cindy (713) 975-7846

### DEBTORS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE BOARD, INC.

#### STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES (UNAUDITED) January 1, 1991 through September 30, 1991

<b>REVENUES</b>		
Contributions		\$ 9,250.07
Literature Sales		\$26,989.01
Ways & Means		\$ 1,200.00
World Conference:		
Chicago	\$ 2,470.00	
San Francisco	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 6,845.00
Bank Interest		\$ 318.42
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$44,602.50</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Rent		\$ 6,750.00
Office Administrative		\$ 5,616.85
Personnel:		
Salaries	\$ 3,214.00	\$ 4,249.00
Payroll Taxes	\$ 1,035.00	\$ -0-
Insurance		\$ 6,262.28
Trustee Travel		\$ 507.79
Answering Service		\$ 1,593.06
Ways & Means		
Literature:		
Printing	\$19,655.00	
Shipping	\$ 791.63	\$20,989.05
Development	\$ 542.42	\$ -0-
Service Pamphlets		
World Conference:		
Chicago	\$ 269.63	
San Francisco	\$ 4,375.00	\$ 4,644.63
Committees:		
Conference	\$ -0-	
Fellowship	\$ 215.60	
Public Information	\$ 1,291.54	
Recovery Book	\$ 302.62	
Service	\$ 48.10	\$ 1,857.86
Filing Fees		\$ -0-
Bank Charges		\$ 91.96
Returned Checks		\$ 111.95
Donations:		
Cash	\$ -0-	
Literature (@ face)	\$ 50.35	\$ 50.35
Gifts		\$ -0-
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$52,724.78</b>

#### STATEMENTS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (UNAUDITED) As of September 30, 1991

<b>Assets</b>		
Cash in Bank:		
General Funds	\$ 1,359.26	\$ 6,321.92
Literature	\$ 4,962.66	\$ 6,860.96
Literature Inventory (@ cost)		\$ 609.00
Security Deposit		\$13,782.88
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$25,774.76</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable		\$ 159.71
Payroll Taxes		\$ 445.20
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>\$ 604.91</b>

**Ways & Means** is published 4 times a year by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. It is mailed free to all GSRs. Individuals may subscribe by sending \$8.00 (Foreign: US\$13.00; Canada: US\$8.50) to the General Service Office (GSO) in New York for a four issue subscription. For single/sample issues, send \$2.25 and a self-addressed #10 envelope.

**Ways & Means** is a forum for sharing experiences of DA groups, service committees and members. It does not interpret DA traditions or principles.

**Ways & Means** welcomes articles and welcomes writers. Send materials to GSO - please volunteer to write!

Fall 1991

# Ways & Means®

## A VISION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

### Our Founder Shares His Experience at the World Service Conference

(Editor's note: Due to space limitations, the following is an edited version of John's talk)

#### THE VISION

I'm John. And I have a dream. I have a dream that this room tonight, all of us included is full of incredible genius. Here tonight are some of the greatest writers, architects, artists, lawyers, doctors, therapists that exist in the world. And my dream is that this energy, this talent, this gift be liberated tonight. There still remains that shadow of doubt and ambivalence and shame and blame. And what I want us to do is to join in prayer that we be freed as this shadow is lifted so that we can all march out and do what we were created to do.

#### THE ILLUSION

When we go into a DA meeting we want to hear someone say "I just got my new Mercedes", "I just got married", "we just got the new house", "the kids are all graduating from Princeton" It doesn't seem to happen. What is that thing that keeps this from happening? All I can share with you is my own experience. In 1981, I thought I had control. I really thought I had it at last. I was going to get a spending plan, put it on a computer, push a button and say what I would do today and it would all be balanced. At the end of the day I'd know how much income I'd made and I'd get a P&L and balance sheet pushed out every night.

I would sit and pour over my records, thinking. My son recently said to me, "You used to think something would happen by looking at those numbers." Without realizing it, I wanted to find some way that this churchgoing Roman Catholic would not have to let God into the numbers. I was going to have this private deal, God could take care of everything else except this. This I was going to handle all by myself and I would not have to depend on His vagaries. Something wasn't working.

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Volume 4, Number 3

Published by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous

Send articles & subscriptions to:  
Editors  
**Ways & Means**  
P.O. Box 20322  
New York, NY 10025



## OUR FOUNDER SHARES HIS VISION (CONT.)

### THE INTUITIVE

At about this time in 1981, I was introduced to a book called *Please Understand Me*. The essence of what I got out of it was that there are two types of people in the world. There's the *intuitive* who represent one quarter of the population and there's the *sensate* who represent seventy-five percent of the population. I'm so far on the *intuitive* scale it's frightening. What I understood is that that is me. Genetically it's me, I was born that way, it works that way and that's me. There were a lot of good parts to it. I had vision. I was creative. I saw a wide range of options. I could see things that other people didn't see. I saw relationships that other people didn't see, and I had a great opportunity to have a very remarkable, creative and fulfilling life.

Now, what that same *intuitive* type did with numbers was something else. If they passed out breath, and I got a weeks supply of breath on Monday, I'd be in bad shape by Tuesday night. The *sensate*, that other seventy-five percent of the people with whom I have to live and deal are different. I see what can be; they see what is. And if we get it together it's great. But if they're not there and I'm just going after what is possible, I'm in deep trouble.

### THE DILEMMA

That happens to be me. What I have to do is accept that part of me and realize that that part of me is not going to change much and I have to live with it. I didn't know what to do with this information. I thought about it. I concerned myself with it. It seemed to me to have the key. Perhaps there was absolutely nothing wrong with me or anybody else in Debtors Anonymous except that we happened to be *intuitive*. We happened to be gifted. If that's the case the talk, as far as I was concerned, of disease, illness

or any type of pathology was totally irrelevant. I simply happen to be a gifted, *intuitive* person who had difficulty in relating to numbers, it's not just dollars, it's time, it's distance, it's space. Now, what to do with this information.

### BORN BLIND

I have a very good friend, JoAnn, who's a tennis instructor. I told her of my dilemma. We're now up to 1985. I say, "What do I do with this information?" She says, "I don't know, but it does remind me of something. A man came on the tennis court one day and he said 'I'm blind and I want you to teach me how to play tennis.'" So I asked her, "What did you do?" She said, "I taught him how to play tennis. I just taught him to listen to the tennis ball and he played tennis."

That was at 10 o'clock in the morning when JoAnn told me how she taught a blind man how to play tennis. Five o'clock that afternoon I went to Church and the priest read the gospel. He said "As Jesus was walking along he saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked him 'Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind. Was it his sin or was it his parent's sin?' And Jesus answered 'His blindness has nothing to do with his sins, or his parent's sins. He is blind so that God's power may be seen at work in him.'" If indeed I'm blind it is so that God's power can be seen at work in me.

### THE HEALING

I still didn't know what to do with this. I mean now I've got up to God but... Now two more years go by - two very confusing years. Everybody knows the sleepless nights: Where is this going? What's it leading to? Just add to that that you're the founder of Debtors Anonymous.

I was sitting with Father Graham, a friend of mine, I said "I think I've got this." He'd been through this with me for twenty-five years. I said there's two tracks here. One is a *genetic* track and it isn't changing. We've now been through pressure groups, spending plans, computer programs, the whole thing, and that just doesn't change. You ask me how much money I've got, I got to check it. That's there and that doesn't seem to change.

And there's another part of it and that's cultural. I said maybe that will change. And boy, that's where it began. The beginning was the recognition that I could do nothing about the way this mind computed dollars and cents and time. What I could do something about was the healing of this relationship with these people who made this uncomfortable for me.

There begins the next pursuit. Well, lo and behold someplace in the heart of the Bronx I found a wonderful nun, Sister Anne. This nun's work is in praying for the healing of ancestral relationships. We began to pray. We began to pray hard. We began to pray regularly. She asked me to lay out everybody. And I mean not just father and mother and sisters and brothers but everybody, all the way back for three or four generations. And I didn't have to think about it, just write them down and forgive them; and ask for their forgiveness. And then she took it and she prayed and I prayed and we prayed. And all of a sudden it's gone. That whole historical, cultural, environmental frame of reference isn't there anymore. If I knock this microphone off now I knock the microphone off now, it's not because my father was a microphone knocker-off. It just isn't there anymore. I still can't figure out how those dollars work. That doesn't get any better at all.

What I now know is that if the dollars are less than I expected they would be it's not because my father fought with my mother. It's simply that the dollars are less than I thought there were, or they're more than I thought there were.

(continued page 3)

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS (CONT.)

finally ponied up the dough.) My personal bank loan was paid up last week (I literally glowed as I wrote the last check.) I have also paid off five of my six credit cards, four of which had been up at the limits. The cards themselves are destroyed and the accounts are closed. Instead of the fear and defeat I anticipated enduring when actually cutting up the cards, I felt nothing but freedom and relief. I have liquidated over \$4,000 of my debts at this writing -- all without any sense of deprivation. I even went on a much needed two-week vacation and paid for it in cash. I keep a daily Spending Record and monthly Spending Plan, tools that I scoffed at when I first came to DA. Strangely enough, I never realized just how much money I actually earned until relatively recently.

Needless to say, all of the above are gifts beyond my wildest dreams. When I was debting, my life consisted entirely of deprivation and pressure. Transforming that miserable existence into a meaningful life is nothing short of miraculous. Now I can look forward to the future instead of dreading it. I'll live better, not worse, than I did in the old days. And for these gifts I have DA to thank.

This trip down memory lane has been revealing and rewarding. Now I know how far I've come in ten months of DA recovery and how far I still have to go. This journey has not been easy. All of my character defects and compulsions revolve around money. Through DA I know that money itself is not the problem; rather, the problem is the issues money brings up. For now, at long last my dreadful slumber has ended; daylight has come.

## Stagefright Recovery and 12 Step Sharing

by Harry M., Sacramento, CA

### The Problem:

Sharing at meetings is a valuable part of all 12 Step programs. Yet, despite the loving, accepting atmosphere, some of us feel too much "Stagefright" to share until we've been in the program a long time. Or we share but feel ashamed of what we shared.

Heros: We think we have to do a perfect job of sharing. All our lives we have been performing. We see sharing as yet another performance. We can't make a mistake.

Lost Children: We are uncomfortable with being in the spotlight. We've tried to live our lives in the shadows. It's hard to raise our hands and ask for our turn.

Scapegoats: We were criticized for everything we did. Maybe teachers made fun of us when we spoke in class. We found the typical public speaking class or Toastmasters club to be yet another shaming experience.

Mascots: We are not used to sharing feelings. We always tried to make people laugh.

### The Solution:

Sharing is not a performance. Aside from cross-talk, gossip or religion, nothing you say is wrong.

Get out of denial. Admit you are afraid. Feel the fear.

Stop isolating. Ask for support. Tell someone you're scared to share. Ask for a hug. Begin by admitting you are scared.

Nurture your kid. Take his or her fears seriously. Gently explain the purpose of sharing. Do something genuinely nurturing for her or him.

Stop trying to control your body. Turn it over to your higher power. It's ok to blush, shake, stutter, etc. It's ok to be nervous. It's ok to risk. It's ok to be a human being.

Here are some magic words to say: "Wow! It's exciting to share my recovery." Say them often. They really are magic.

## As Flowers Grow

(The following poem was shared by Margie M., Chairperson of DA's General Service Board at the close of the World Service Conference.)

*Bless us like flowers growing,  
Let us smile and nourish each other.  
Let our work together be like beautiful baskets,  
thoughtfully woven together to contain our love for us all.*

## The 1991 DA World Service Conference: A Personal Share

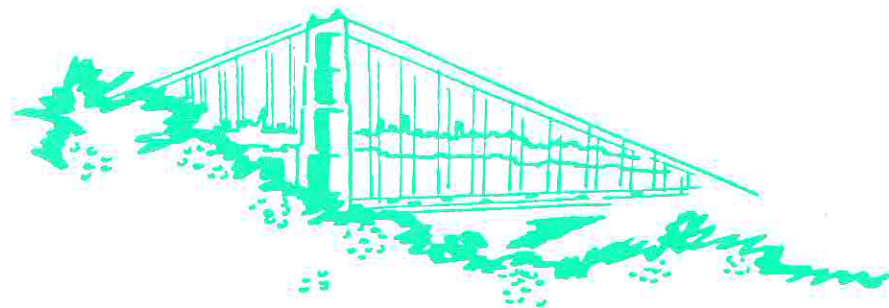
by Jim C., Port Hueneme, CA

Attending the 1991 Debtors' Anonymous World Conference in San Francisco was a very different experience for me this year. After serving 18 months as a GSR, attending 6 regional GSR meetings, and working with a committee on the World Conference level, I was prepared and clear as to what my responsibilities were. I came with my group conscience as a voting member. As such, I voted on the issues, attended a number of panels, was invited to speak on a panel, and forwarded the questions that my meeting had presented throughout the year on the twelve traditions. I was no longer a Freshman, but a slightly more seasoned Sophomore with more to contribute, more clarity on what was expected of me, and a more thorough understanding of the committee structure. One more time the concept "clarity creates miracles" held true.

Sharing with others in San Francisco was an electrifying testament to the growing strength and unity of our fellowship. Beginning with the membership who support the GSRs to the committees and ultimately to the DA Board of Trustees, I believe that the dedication of the participants in the World Conference is something for us all to be proud of. The conference opened on Thursday night with a welcoming DA meeting and registration. Friday morning encompassed a selection of six workshops including such topics as DA literature, service and degenderization. In the afternoon and early evening, we dedicated our time to committee agendas. On Friday evening, the DA Treasurer, Allan S., shared a powerful message of recovery to all those assembled. Once again, Saturday morning was devoted to committee work until 10:45 am when we met for a general session on "What is the Primary Purpose of DA?"

On Saturday, Fellowship Day, hosted by the local intergroup, also included many pressure groups and meetings. DA co-founder John H. shared his vision for DA with all of us on Saturday evening. At 9 pm the Debtors' Ball began, and it rock 'n rolled till the wee hours of Sunday morning. Our closing session, the convocation, on Sunday morning attended to the business of committee reports and voting on the issues raised.

For me, the World Conference held a multitude of very special personal experience like being allowed to participate in a newcomer's first pressure meeting, declining to speak on a second panel in order to avoid self debting and being treated instead to one of the most moving pitches that



I have ever heard in DA by the alternate who spoke instead, joining new friends for a scrumptious dinner at Fisherman's Wharf, and being moved to tears when our founder, John, shared his vision with the assembly. I could go on and on detailing the wonderful occurrences at World Conference. I continue to share the experience, strength, and hope that I received in San Francisco at my local meeting.

Following I have summarized the committee reports presented at the Convocation:

**Fellowship Communications:** I was selected as the chairperson for the upcoming year. I will work with our 10 member panel to accomplish the following: 1) Ongoing quarterly publication of the Ways and Means newsletter (currently published at 600 copies per issue), 2) Registration of meetings and contact persons around the world, 3) Publishing the World Service Directory for the 1992 Conference, and, 4) Improved communications with local intergroups via local intergroup contacts and an Intergroup Liaison.

**Service Committee:** This committee brought forward a proposal that Service be added as the 12th tool. After some debate, this was voted on and approved. Their agenda for the upcoming year will be to: 1) Revise our GSR pamphlet, and, 2) Develop a temporary brochure "Service as a Tool."

**Literature Committee:** This tireless committee will be working on many items this year, including: 1) Pamphlets on: Vision, AA Literature, Awareness, Sponsorship, Singleness of Purpose, and Service, 2) a Tape subcommittee will be investigating putting our pamphlets on tape, 3) the Degenderization subcommittee will be working to degenderize brochures as well as the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, (continued on page 5)

## A GSR's Personal Share (cont.)

4) the DA Book subcommittee will be working on a book of stories of DA recovery, and 5) the Recovery Book sub-committee will tackle developing a DA Recovery Book. The Literature Committee also submitted the pamphlet "Record Keeping" which was voted on and approved.

**Finance Committee:** This committee recommends that we encourage each meeting to give as generously as possible to help support DA's many responsibilities, including the maintenance of the World Service Office. Their goals are: 1) First and foremost to increase the

contributions throughout the fellowship, 2) to educate and improve communications, and, 3) to motivate the fellowship.

**Public Information Committee:** This committee is aiding us in how to spread the message of DA. Their goals for this year are: 1) Update the current "Slow is the Way to Go", 2) Media tracking around the country, 3) Encourage membership to forward any DA related articles to the General Service Office (marked "Attn: Public Information Committee"), 4) Develop a fact sheet about DA, 5) Communicate through quarterly conference calls. Public Information also has sub-committees working on the booklet "Slow is the Way to Go" and "Attraction Rather Than Promotion."

**Conference Committee:** This committee is responsible for coordinating the 1992 conference in Boston. Their goals for this year are: 1) To follow the same basic structure as the 1991 conference, and, 2) Review and report on the proposal to restructure DA.

Thank you to the Conference Committee and the Bay Area Host Committee for all of the tireless work that went into giving service and making this a truly unforgettable experience. A very special thanks to Duncan, the chairperson, and the committee members and volunteers who constantly reached out in fellowship to give loving service.

## The Twelve Days of a Solvent Christmas

by Fred F., Winston-Salem, NC

*On the 12th Day of Christmas my program gave to me:*

- (12) Twelve steps to live by,
- (11) A prosperous new vision
- (10) The hope of being solvent,
- (9) A third a third a third
- (8) A phone to use to bookend,
- (7) A spending plan that's working
- (6) A Where and When of meetings,
- (5) No Credit Cards!!!
- (4) A pressure group,
- (3) A recording book and
- (2) A Higher Power and
- (1) The serenity that comes from D.A.

## Affirmations

By Diane S., Mt. Holly, NJ

*Life only gives.  
It is up to us whether or not  
we choose to receive.*

Life, the Universe, our Higher Power, whatever we choose to call the force greater than belief -- this force only works toward the positive.

We are the people who turn off the tap, stopping the flow. We stuff our plug of fear, anger, and ungratitude up the path, making it so small that only a trickle can flow through.

How much simpler life would be if we could choose only to live in love. The faucets of life could steadily pour out warm, safe, steady currents of love and life. We would only relax and bathe in this safety.

*Today I pray to be open to  
and accepting of all that the  
Universe holds for me.*

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS: A FOND LOOK BACK

by Kristine D., Brookline, MA

On Sunday, January 20, 1991, I awoke from a long dreamless sleep and found myself \$20,117.96 in debt -- to six credit cards, many friends, student loans, my bank, and to my nemesis, the Massachusetts Department of Motor Vehicles.

I didn't know how it all happened. I was truly mystified. All I knew was that I was a trustworthy and decent human being; that I had not intentionally set out to make friends and total strangers upset, impatient, frustrated, and angry with me. I had never seriously entertained the idea of running out on my debts or "beating" my creditors; I had every intention of repaying the money I borrowed and spent. I thought that a variety of unfortunate circumstances -- a bad childhood, a few bad adult relationships, an illness, car problems, a job loss (and a successful lawsuit against my former employer for back wages), graduate school, a career change, a lousy job market, and an eventual low-paying job -- had made it impossible for me to avoid going into debt. In sum, I was the most misunderstood and maligned person on earth.

On the other hand, I knew *exactly* how it had all happened. By the time I was out of college, I was already bouncing checks and borrowing against credit cards. I had never had a home where I paid the rent on time. My mood-changing shopping sprees, my spending for status, my poor financial judgement, my equating love with money, my anxious wait for The Big Fix, my denial, my rationalizations -- all these and more I knew to be true on some gut level, but they hadn't reached my soul yet.

I didn't know what to do. Terrified, I was literally penniless. I had incoming bills that I couldn't pay, a car that was

out of gas and needed preventive maintenance, and an empty refrigerator. Believe me, I tried to borrow more money. Although on another gut level I knew it was impossible to get out of debt by borrowing more money, at this point all that concerned me was pure basic survival. Borrowing was the only way I knew to get by. I called my bank and begged them to lend more money to me; I called my credit card companies and pleaded with them to raise my credit limits (how humiliating!) but my efforts were all in vain. No one would lend me another dime (my "debt-to-income ratio" was too high). And now, as I look back, that was a blessing in disguise.

I had known of Debtors Anonymous for nearly a year before I joined. I first heard of it in a graduate course on addictions and substance abuse. "Hmmm, Debtors Anonymous," I mused somewhat sarcastically. "Sounds like something I could use." Purely out of curiosity I decided to attend a meeting, but as fate would have it, when I arrived I learned that the meeting had been moved to another location, one that I couldn't get to without arriving very late. Deciding that my late arrival would be too embarrassing, I opted to return the next week. As it happened, I returned the next year. Again, as I look back, I was not meant to go to that first meeting. I was still in the heyday of my debting and hadn't hit bottom yet. "DA is my last resort," I told myself. "If I really screw up, then I'll go." And gods, did I screw up!

That following year, on January 27, 1991, to be exact, I attended my first DA meeting. I was extremely arrogant. In retrospect, I don't know how anyone put up with me. I thought that my

expenses were extraordinary, that I wasn't some deadbeat who didn't pay my bills, and that once I graduated and got a real job I'd really rake in the bucks, and hell, I'll show you! I didn't keep a Spending Record or Spending Plan, and I still used my credit cards. Even outside of DA, all I ever talked about was bills and money.

Gradually, however, things began to change. I was starting to internalize what I heard at meetings. This was not a conscious process -- I was listening with my soul. Outside of DA, in my other life, I noticed subtle differences in my thinking. I wasn't so uptight and impatient, so bitter and resentful. Amazed, I eventually realized that I wasn't doing anything that I enjoyed. No wonder I was so depressed and lethargic! Either I was doing what I thought others expected of me, or I was living for others because of my inability to set boundaries, or I was debting to take my feelings away.

DA taught me these truths: that just because I don't have everything I want doesn't mean I have nothing, and money can't buy what money can't buy, and it just wasn't going to buy what I was missing. Spending and spending to fill that soul emptiness that I thought was so wide and gaping wasn't going to work. Instead, I filled my soul emptiness with actions and quickly discovered that the emptiness closed up of its own accord. I enjoy what is mine, both material possessions and personal attributes, and I've found that my life has become quite fulfilled (and hectic! I never knew there was so much out there!).

As for my debts, the reason I came to DA, they are slowly coming under control. I have negotiated repayment agreements with my personal creditors, took forbearances on my student loans, and paid off each and every outstanding parking violation and will not incur any new ones (both of which I proclaimed I'd never do -- "I have a Constitutional right to park my car!" -- in fact, the redoubtable Commonwealth itself slid a little out of the red the day I

(continued page 7)

### FOUNDER'S VISION (cont.)

I don't know where this is going to go. What I do know is that God loves me. I've been sober now for 42 years, and I do know that for the last 42 years if I'm honest with myself, every consecutive year for 42 consecutive years my life has gotten better. You can't beat that trend. I don't know what that means materially. I don't know what it means financially. I don't know what it means with time. I don't know what it means in a whole lot of things but I know that next year when we get together things will be better and I'll be a little bit clearer.

### THE SURRENDER

One other thing has happened this year in this process. One day, sitting in church, I realized that when I came into Alcoholics Anonymous and they said you turn your will and your life over to the care of God I said "OK." I mean this had to do with jobs, marriages, illness, deaths, teenage children, whatever you want, God was in charge of everything *except*. And there was the money, I couldn't let that go.

I felt it go. I literally felt the acceptance of God in that area of my life. What seems to have begun to happen is that I remain a very gifted intuitive person who has great vision sees remarkable things that many other people don't see, and can do important things. With the love of God entering, what seems to follow is that I'm now prepared to allow other people to enter into this area of my life. I'm prepared and the reason I believe I'm prepared is because the shame and the blame seems to be lifting.

### MY BELIEF

And what I believe, what I truly believe is that there is nothing, absolutely nothing wrong with anybody in this room. I'll let you speak for yourselves, but I believe that there is no reference to pathology here. I personally don't think anybody in this room has a problem. And if we do have a problem, what I truly believe is that we can let that problem go this very minute because it is all totally, completely in our head. Once that shame has lifted,

and once that blame has lifted, I become - incidentally, Christ happened to heal that blind man - free to do and be whatever I want.

I think there is nothing so important to the realization of what we really truly are, can be, and want to be, as to have a passionate desire to fulfill that realization. I don't mean in the head. I mean a passionate desire at a visceral level that allows for absolutely no plan B. When I am ready to say that this is the life I want, that I desire with passion at a visceral level, faith will come. If I have a passionate desire the faith follows and everything else comes into being. To sit around, for me, and to ever again say that I'm disabled would be an absolute utter denial of faith. I am totally capable of realizing and fulfilling whatever it is that God meant for me to do.

The dream, the vision I have is that all of us can be what we're meant to be, and I believe the future of Debtors Anonymous is in unlocking the unrealized potential of the most remarkable segment of our population that is the creative, intuitive person who is so gifted that they can build the world, theirs and ours.

## A Commitment to Service

by Mark, K., Burbank, CA

I would like to share with my fellow DA's a personal feeling I have about my service/recovery commitment at the conference.

I was drawn to the Finance Committee for one reason. It is my opinion that the General Service Board has less than an abundant spending plan and cannot currently live its ideal spending plan. This was my situation when I came to DA.

## Moving Away

by Fred F., Winston-Salem, NC

As my wife and I planned to move from Washington, D.C. to North Carolina, one of the scariest prospects was to be in a city that, as of yet, had no DA meetings. I can first assure you that there will be DA in Winston-Salem! However, as DA moves to cities and regions that are not under the auspices of a strong intergroup, we look toward the General Service Office (GSO) for guidance. In some ways, the GSO will act as an "intergroup" for these solitary groups.

As DA continues to grow, we must take up our responsibility towards this service. This means support for the GSO, so that debtors anywhere will have a place to turn. Not only should we be concerned about the vitality of the new program down the block, but also a debtor or group of debtors in East Anyplace. This, as I see it, is the primary goal of the World Conference and the General Service Board. I ask all GSRs to bring perspective to their groups and to please encourage their members for their continuing financial support of the GSO.

It is my hope that DA experiences the same recovery I have been blessed with in my life, and to that end I share my experience, strength and hope.

I appeal to all of our 290 GSR's around the country to help bring DA to a place of abundance and prosperity - financially, emotionally, and spiritually - just as DA has brought that to our own lives.