

## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE – “JOINED IN HARMONIOUS ACTION”

“The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. We have a way out on which we can absolutely agree, and upon which we can join in brotherly and harmonious action. This is the great news this book carries to those who suffer from alcoholism.”(p.17) ***Has each resident absolutely agreed to join in brotherly and harmonious action and pursue our common solution? If not, why would they be allowed to live here?***

“If you are as seriously alcoholic as we were, we believe there is no middle-of-the-road solution. We were in a position where life was becoming impossible, and if we had passed into the region from which there is no return through human aid, we had but two alternatives: One was to go on to the bitter end, ...and the other, to accept spiritual help. This we did because we honestly wanted to, and were willing to make the effort.”(p.25) ***Is each resident seriously alcoholic and need spiritual help? If they don't need what we have, why would they make the effort? If they do need it, do they honestly want our solution and are they willing to make the effort?***

“Most alcoholics have to be pretty badly mangled before they really commence to solve their problems. ...His defense must come from a Higher Power.”(p.43) ...When we saw others solve their problems by a simple reliance upon the Spirit of the Universe, we had to stop doubting the power of God.”(p.52) ***It's so important for the new man to see others who solved their problems by a simple reliance upon God. Former residents are encouraged to return and bear witness to new residents.***

“Continue to speak of alcoholism as an illness, a fatal malady. Talk about the conditions of body and mind which accompany it. ...Explain that many are doomed who never realize their predicament. ...you may talk to him about the hopelessness of alcoholism because you offer a solution. ...Stress the spiritual feature freely. If the man be agnostic or atheist,... The **main thing** is that he be willing to believe in a Power Greater than Himself and that he live by spiritual principles.”(p.92-93) ***If any resident is unwilling to believe in God and live by spiritual principles, then has he not agreed to join us in brotherly and harmonious action and pursue our common solution? If he is not willing, what should we do? Here is what the Big Book says: “If he is not interested in your solution, ...you may have to drop him until he changes his mind. This he may do after he gets hurt some more. ...He should not be pushed or prodded by you, his wife, or his friends. If he is to find God, the desire must come from within. If he thinks he can do the job in some other way, or prefers some other spiritual approach, encourage him to follow his own conscience. ...Let it go at that. ...Search out another alcoholic and try again. You are sure to find someone desperate enough to accept with eagerness what you offer. We find it a waste of time to keep chasing a man who cannot or will not work with you. If you leave such a person alone, he may soon become convinced that he cannot recover by himself. To spend too much time on any one situation is to deny some other alcoholic an opportunity to live and be happy. One of our Fellowship failed entirely with his first half dozen prospects. He often says that if he had continued to work on them, he might have deprived many others, who have since recovered, of their chance.”(p.95-96) ***How many times have we allowed an unwilling resident to stay in the house, hoping he would eventually see the light? Was he not, even in his best moments, a producer of confusion rather than harmony? Let's search out other alcoholics. Find those desperate enough to accept with eagerness what we offer so we can all be joined in brotherly and harmonious action in pursuit of our common solution!******

***- This has been working so well for the Power House, we simply must keep doing it! –***

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