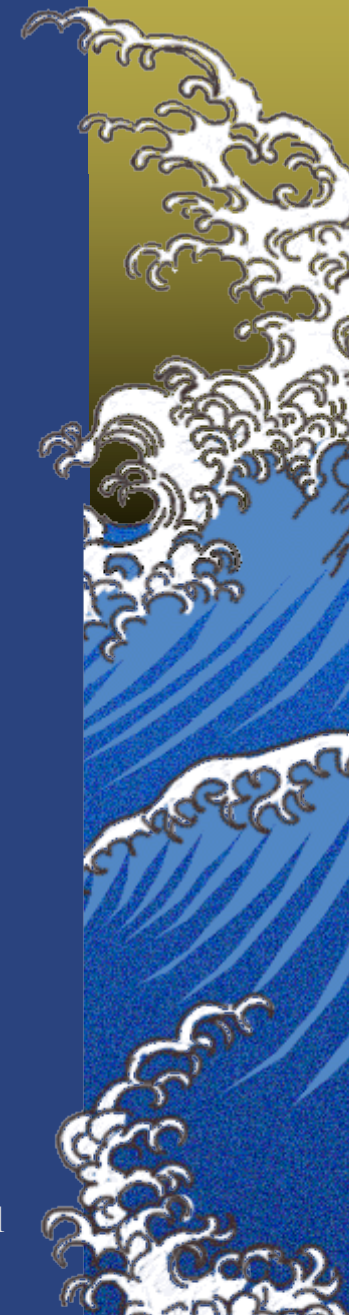


# AA Spiritual History Workshop

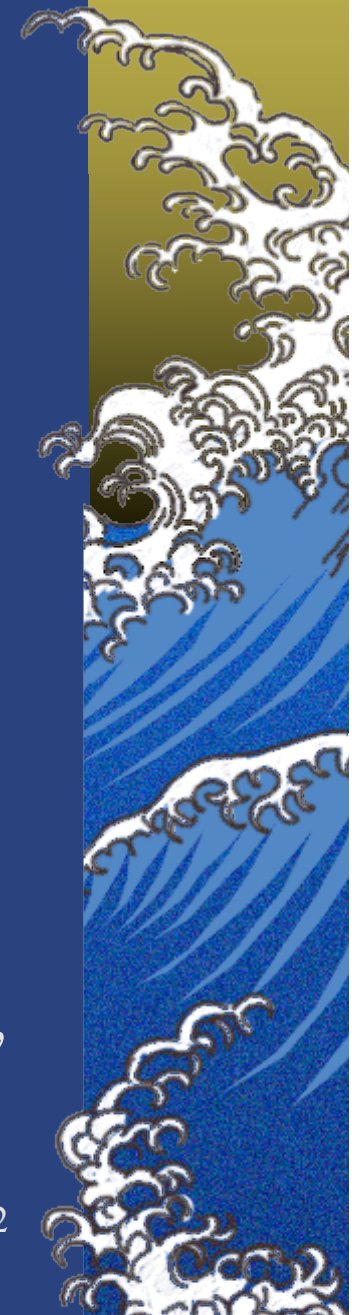
*Jay Stinnett*  
*Reykjavik, Iceland*  
*March 11, 2007*



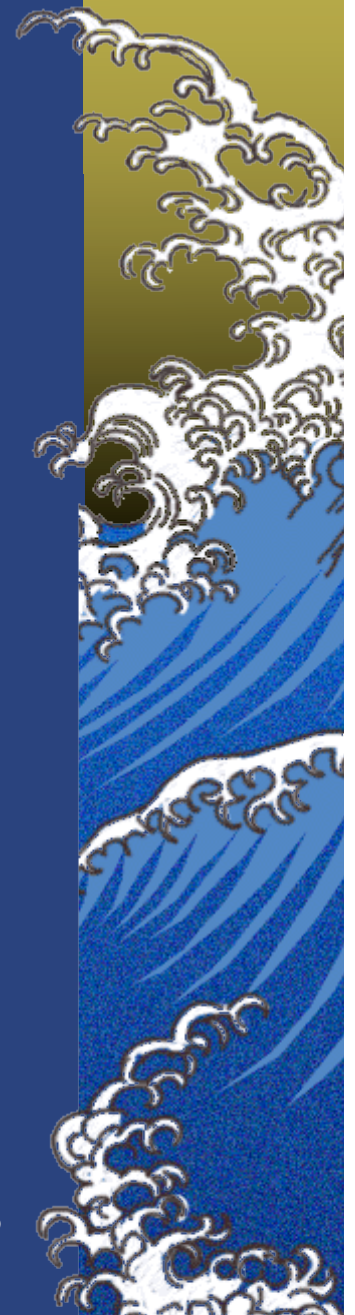
# The Oxford Group

*A semi religious but informal movement founded by Frank N.D. Buchman while an undergraduate at Oxford University in 1921. The name was first applied by the press of South Africa in 1928.*

*The professed purpose of the movement is “to solve personal, national and international problems by bringing men and women everywhere back to basic principles of Christian Faith enhancing all of their primary loyalties .”*

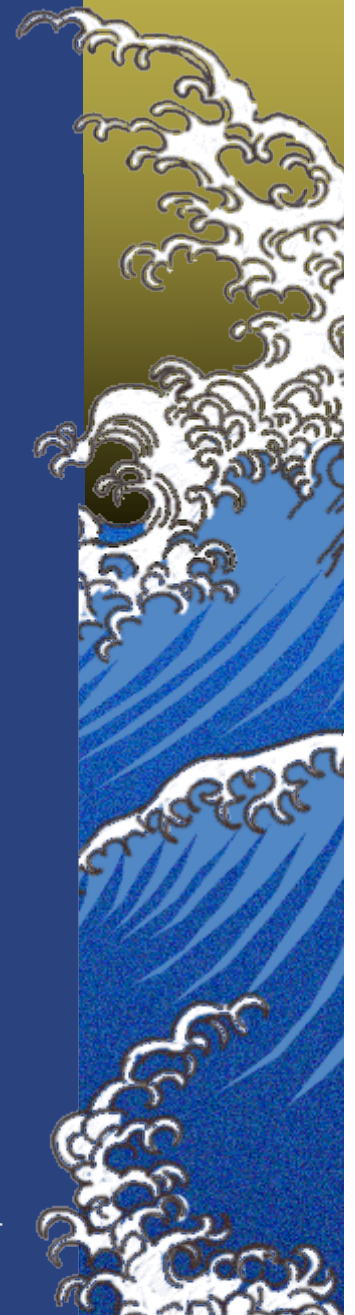


*Without the benefit of organization, memberships, subscriptions or definite creed, the movement rapidly gained adherents in nearly all countries of the world, particularly in the middle and upper classes, and was accorded recognition by the heads of many governments. Adopting the slogan of “moral rearmament” in 1938, the leaders of the movement sought by spread of it’s principles to stem the rising tide of international hostilities.*



# What is the Oxford Group?

*You cannot belong to the Oxford Group. It has no membership list, subscriptions, badge, rules or definite location. It is a name for a group of people who, from every rank, profession and trade, in many countries, have surrendered their lives to God and who are endeavoring to lead a spiritual quality of life under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

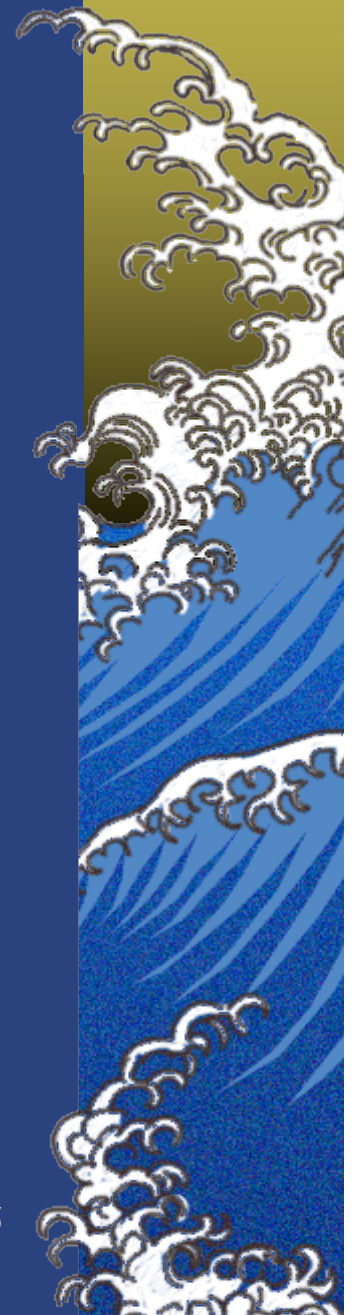


*The Oxford Group is not a religion; it has no hierarchy, no temples, no endowments; its workers have no salaries, no plans but Gods plan; every country is their country, every man their brother.*

*What Is The Oxford Group?*

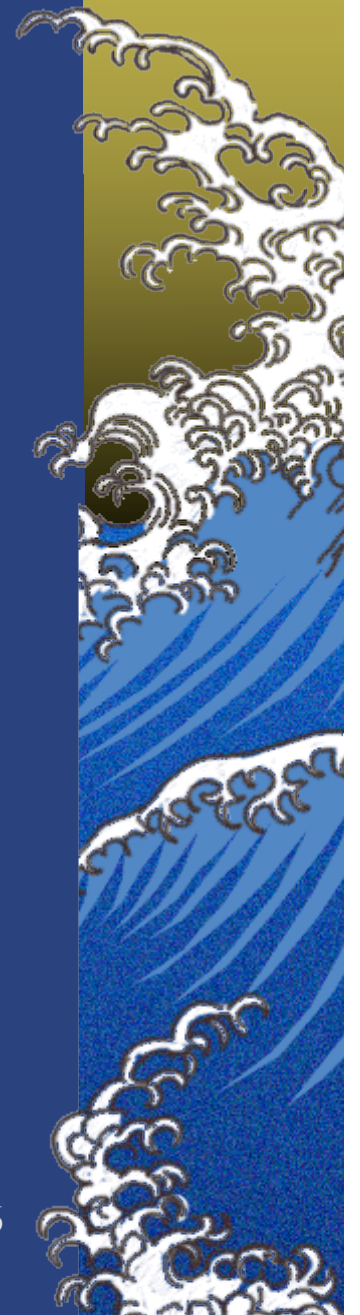
By A Layman With A Notebook

1933



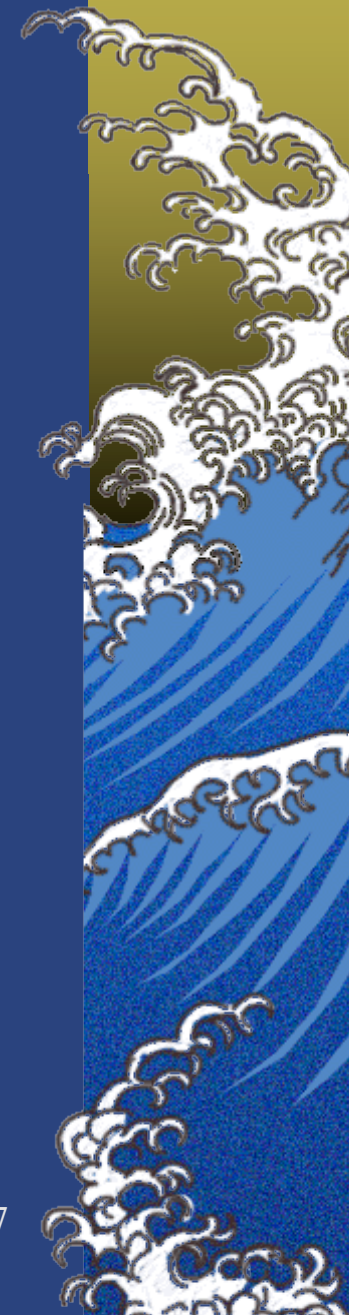
# Oxford Group 4 Absolutes

- **Honesty**
- **Purity**
- **Unselfishness**
- **Love**



# The Five C's

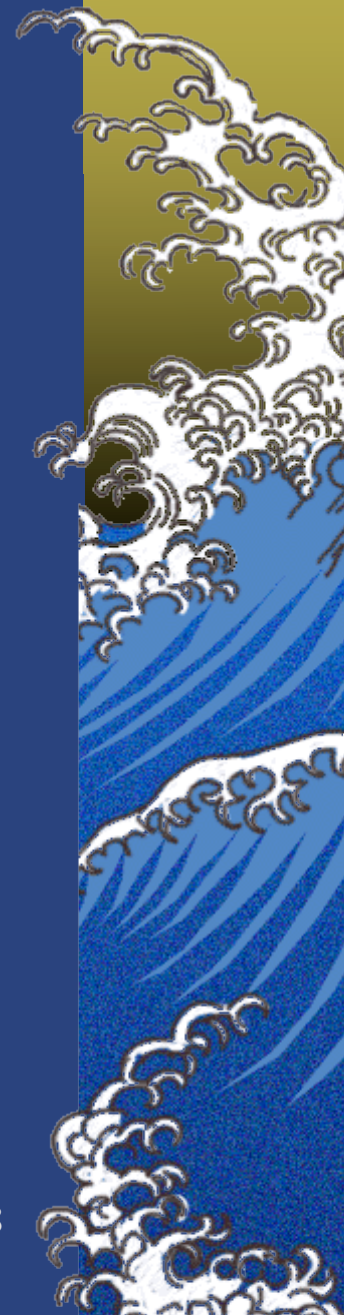
1. *Confidence*
2. *Confession*
3. *Conviction*
4. *Conversion*
5. *Continuance*



# Accessing Power

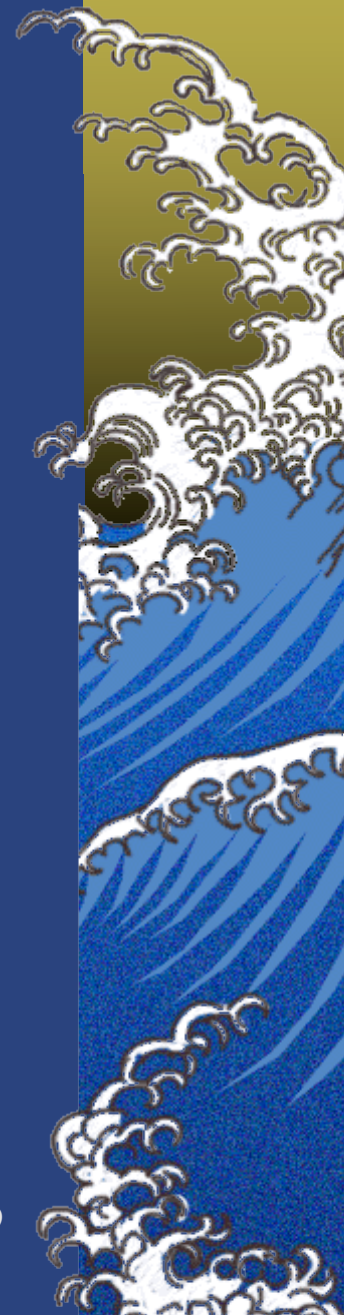
## *I Was A Pagan Vic Kitchen 1932*

Oxford Group had a power I did not have. They said however, that I could have it — just as they did—if I would pay the same price, comply with the same conditions and go through the same series of exceedingly simple steps.



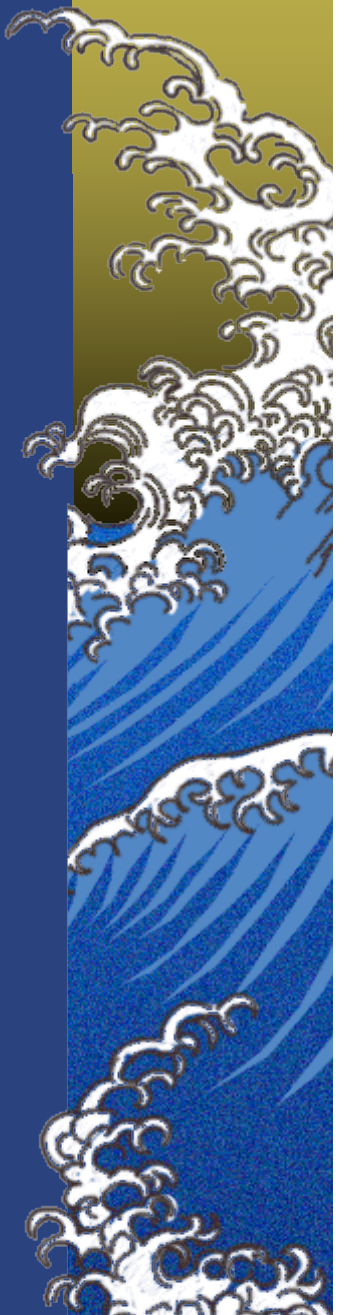
# Oxford Group Steps

- 1 The Sharing of our sins and temptations with another Christian life given to God, and to use Sharing as Witness to help others, still unchanged, to recognize and acknowledge their sins.
- 2 Surrender of our life, past, present, and future, into God's keeping and direction.



# Oxford Group Steps

3. Restitution to all whom we have wronged directly or indirectly.
4. Listening to, accepting, relying on God's Guidance and carrying it out in everything we do or say, great or small.

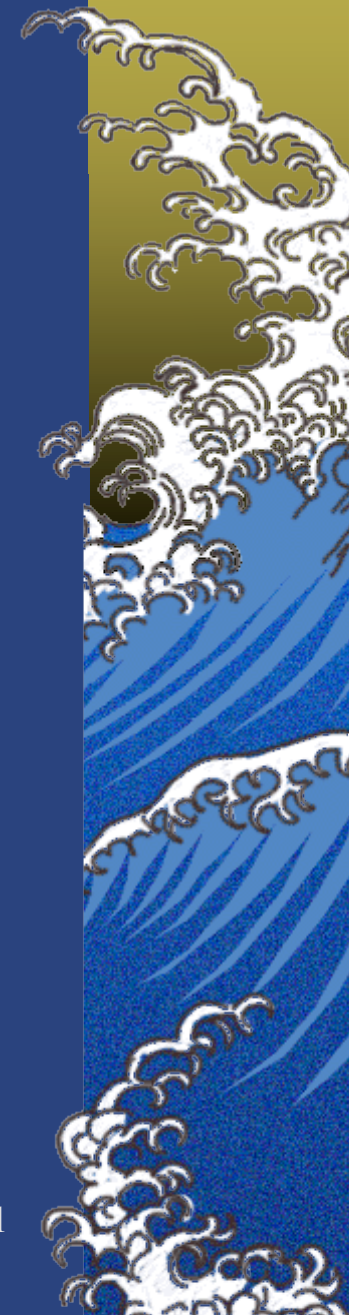


# God as I Understand Him

*Children of the Second Birth, 1927*

Sam Shoemaker

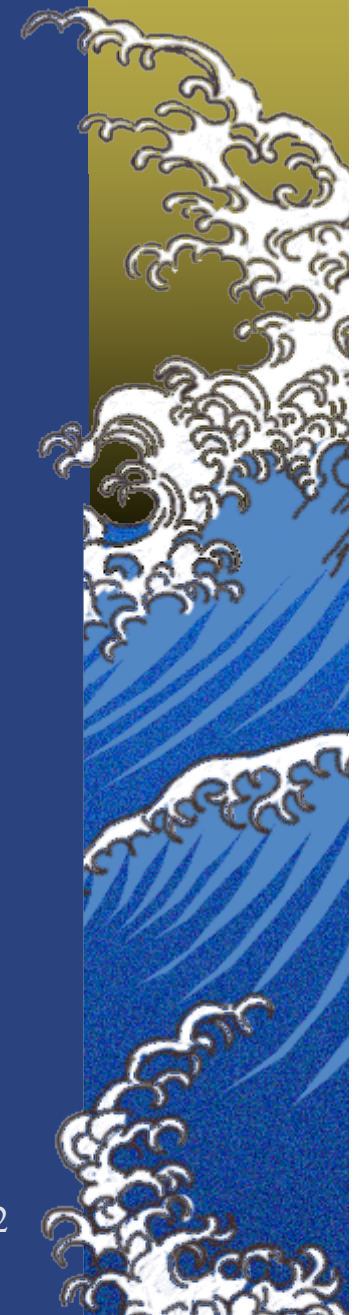
*To God as you understand him: So they  
prayed together, opening their minds to as  
much of God as he understood, removing  
first the hindrance of self will, surrender  
as much of himself as he could to as much  
of Christ as he understood.*



# Third Step

## ▲ What is the Oxford Group, *1933*

It is a simple decision, put into simple language, spoken aloud to God, in front of a witness, at any time and in any place, that we have decided to forget the past in God and to give our future into his keeping. Nothing more need be added; nothing can be taken away.

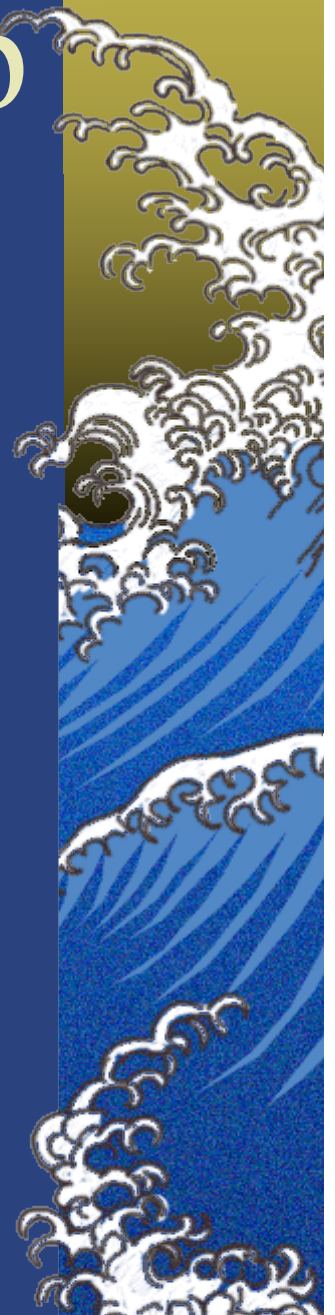


# Vic Kitchens 3rd Step

*I Was A Pagan, 1932*

*I surrender Thee my entire life, O God.*

*I have made a mess of it, trying to run it  
myself. You take it – the whole thing –  
and run it for me, according to your will  
and plan.*

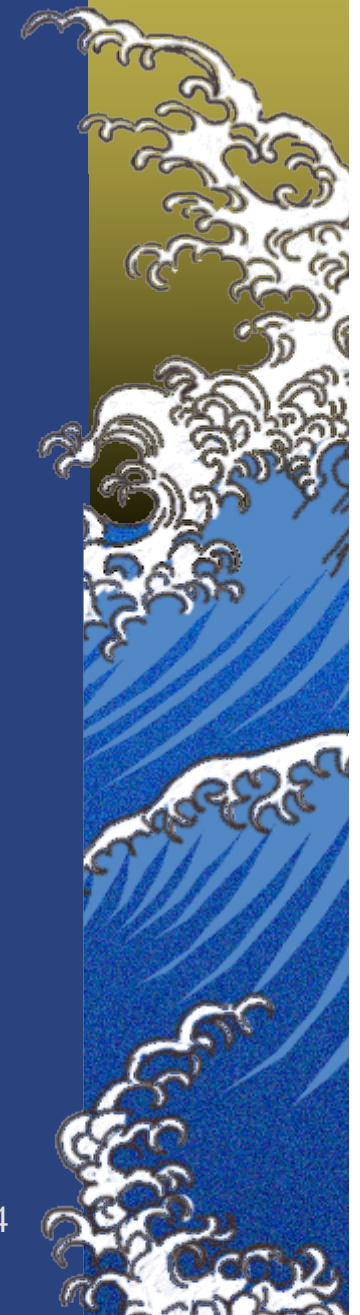


# Oxford Group

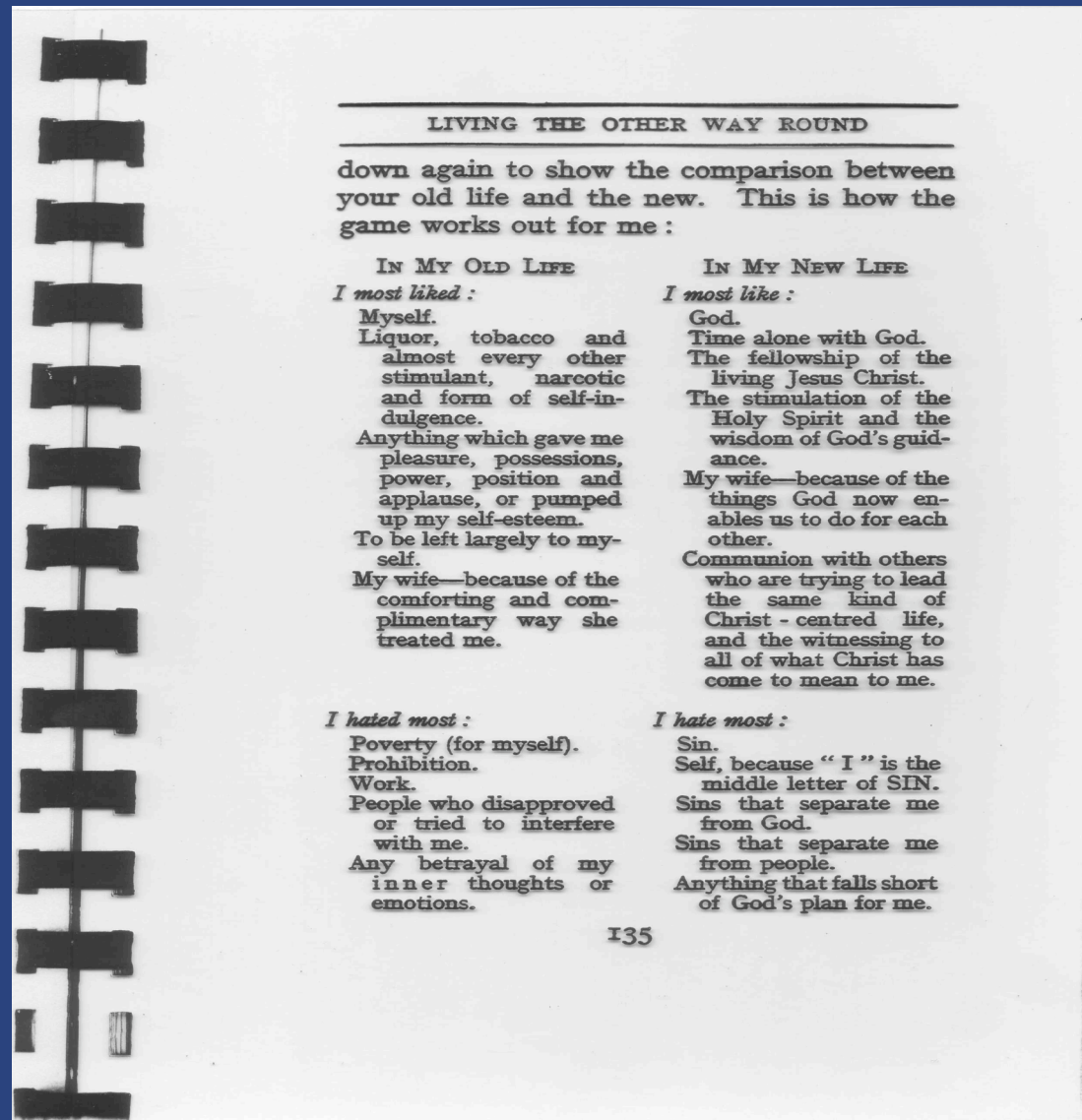
*I was a Pagan, 1934*

*V.C. Kitchen*

*I was able to supplement the all-important  
“Why” of life with the still more important  
“How” of living. I was able to begin really  
solving my own problems and, for the first  
time in my experience, was given the power  
to begin helping others.*



# I Was A Pagan -1934



## LIVING THE OTHER WAY ROUND

down again to show the comparison between your old life and the new. This is how the game works out for me :

### IN MY OLD LIFE

#### *I most liked :*

Myself.

Liquor, tobacco and almost every other stimulant, narcotic and form of self-indulgence.

Anything which gave me pleasure, possessions, power, position and applause, or pumped up my self-esteem.

To be left largely to myself.

My wife—because of the comforting and complimentary way she treated me.

#### *I hated most :*

Poverty (for myself).  
Prohibition.

Work.

People who disapproved or tried to interfere with me.

Any betrayal of my inner thoughts or emotions.

### IN MY NEW LIFE

#### *I most like :*

God.

Time alone with God.  
The fellowship of the living Jesus Christ.

The stimulation of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of God's guidance.

My wife—because of the things God now enables us to do for each other.

Communion with others who are trying to lead the same kind of Christ - centred life, and the witnessing to all of what Christ has come to mean to me.

#### *I hate most :*

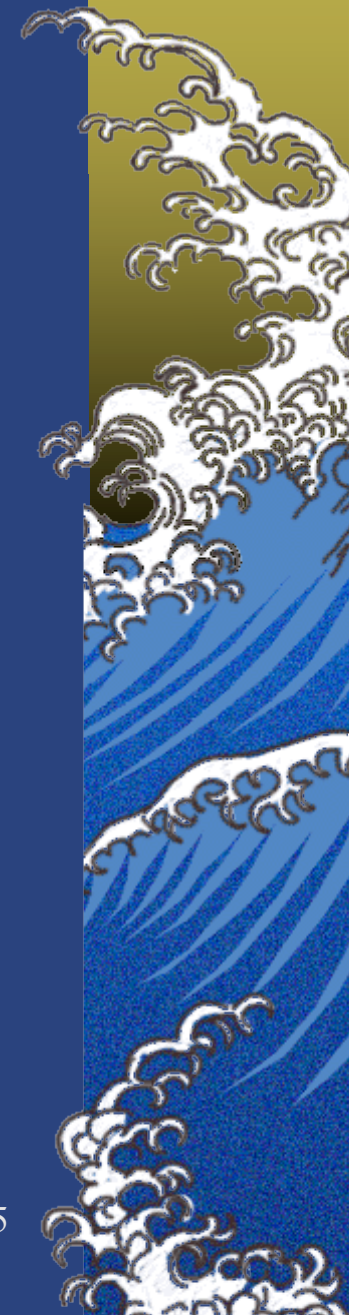
Sin.

Self, because " I " is the middle letter of SIN.

Sins that separate me from God.

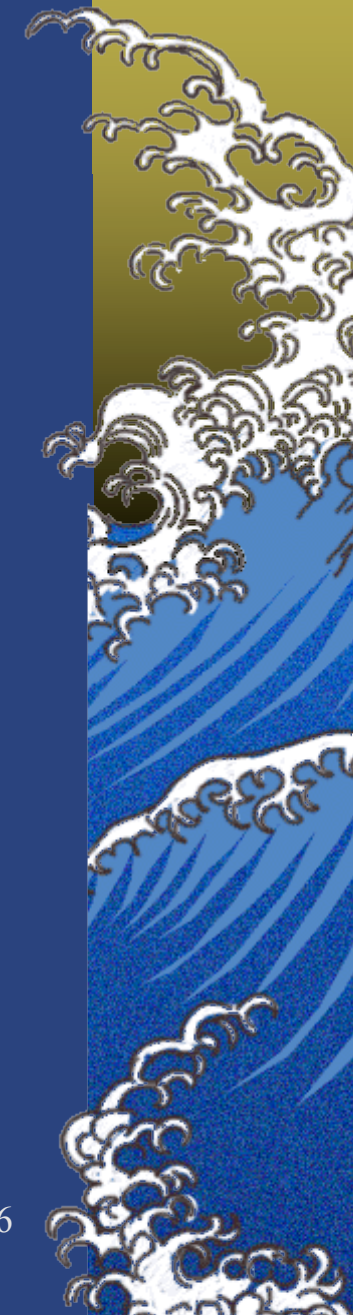
Sins that separate me from people.

Anything that falls short of God's plan for me.



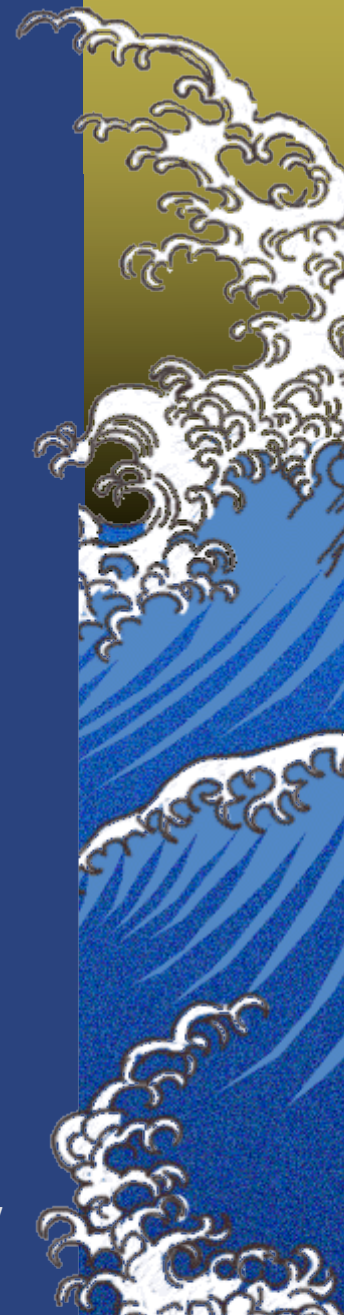
# Six Step Program

1. Admitted hopelessness
2. Got honest with self
3. Got honest with another
4. Made amends
5. Helped others without demand
6. Prayed to God as you understand Him

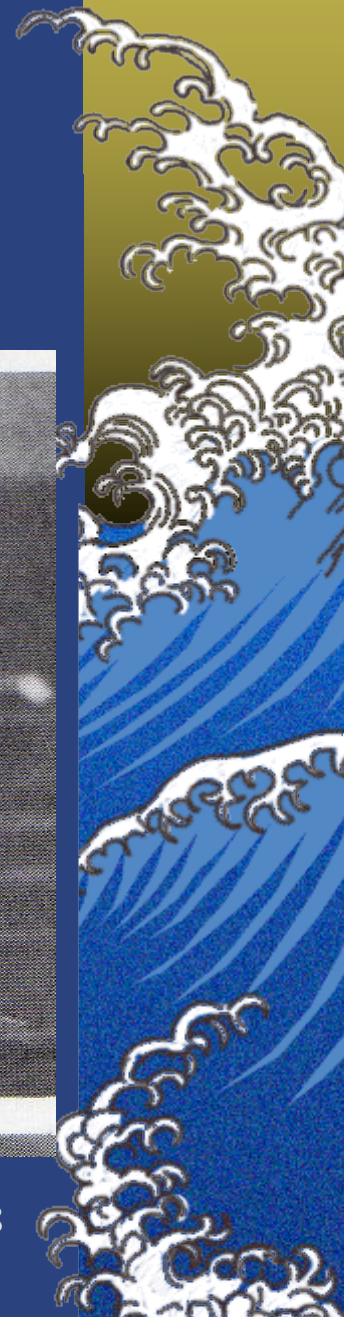


It only looked like a  
chance encounter...

HOW AA  
REALLY  
STARTED



# Frank Buchman Founder of the Oxford Group



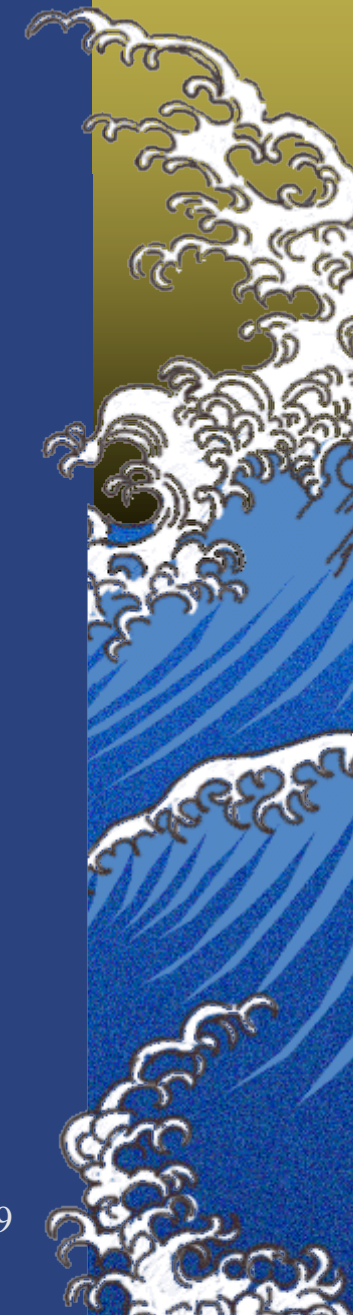
# Chapel in Keswick



10/26/07

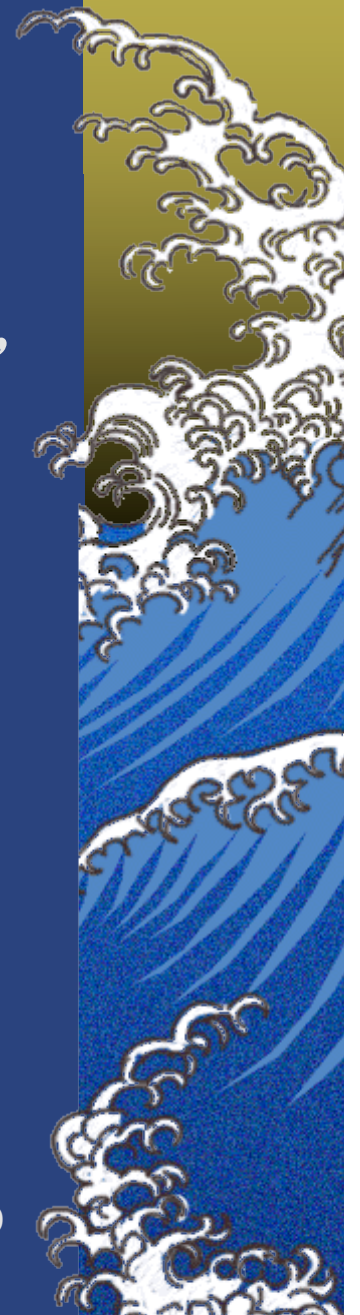
Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# Frank Buchman

- *Nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize*
- *Decorated by the governments of France, Germany, Greece, Japan and the Philippines for his work after World War II.*
- *Founded Oxford Group at Oxford University 1921*
- *Initiated Moral Rearmament 1938*
- *Equally vilified by hawks and doves; labor and management; liberals and conservatives; fascists and communists worldwide.*



# Frank and Blair Buck



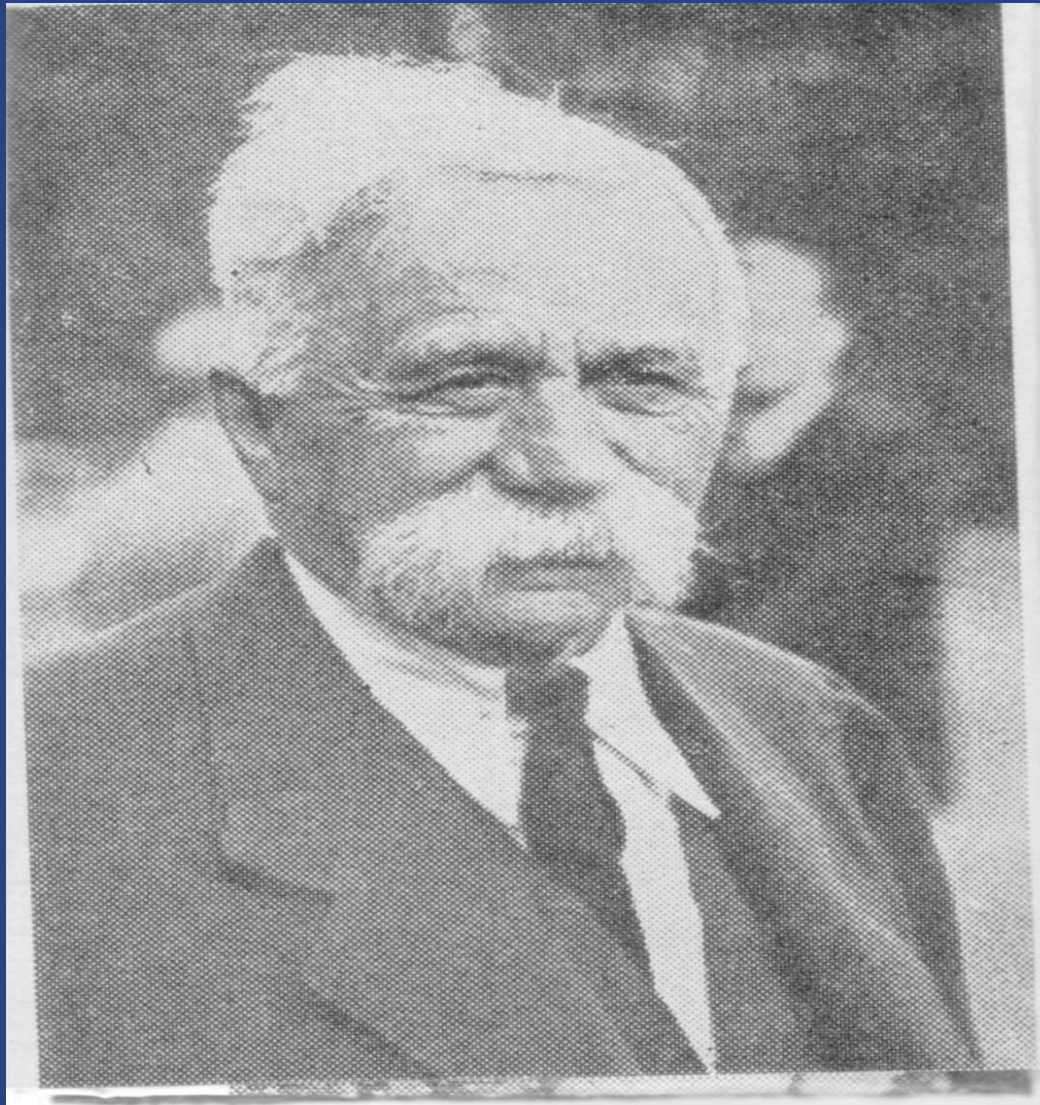
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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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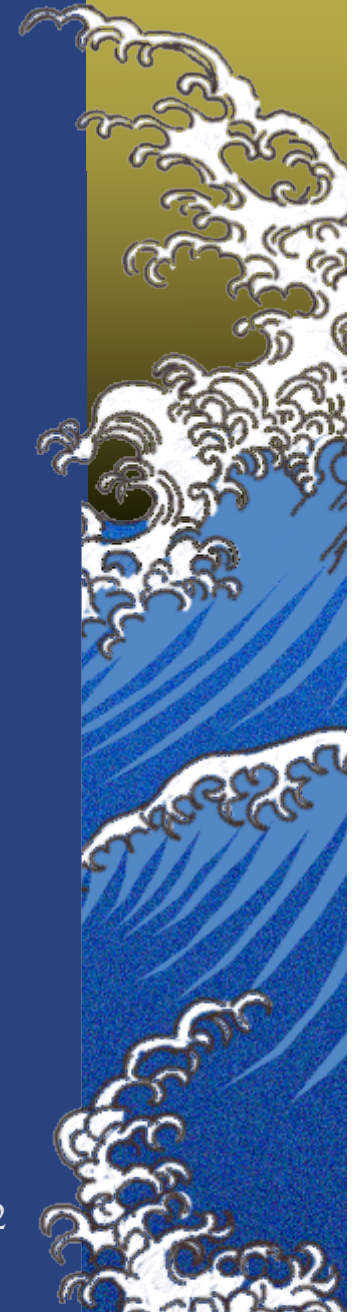
# Alcoholic #1



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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# Blair Buck's Prayer

*Oh God*

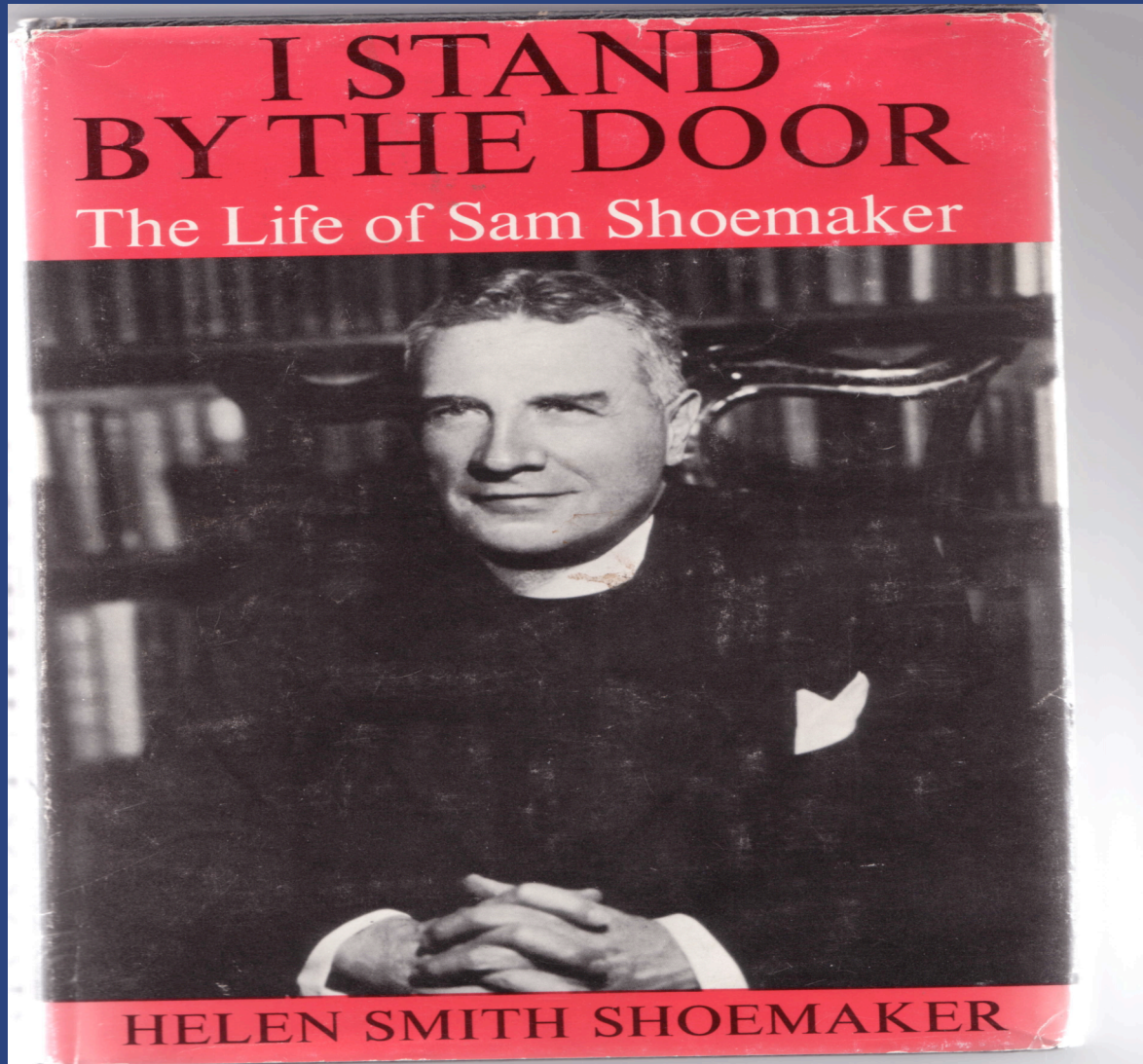
*If there be a God*

*Please help Bill Pickle*

*And all the little Pickles*



# Bill Wilson called Sam Shoemaker the Cofounder of AA



10/26/07

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# Sam Shoemaker

- *Close associate of Frank Buchman 1918-1941*
- *Rector of Calvary Church, New York , founder of Calvary Mission*
- *Bill Wilson referred to him as a cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous*
- *Confessor and spiritual mentor to Rowland Hazard Shep Cornell, Cebra Gravis, Bill Wilson*
- *Prolific Oxford Group author*



# Buchman & Shoemaker

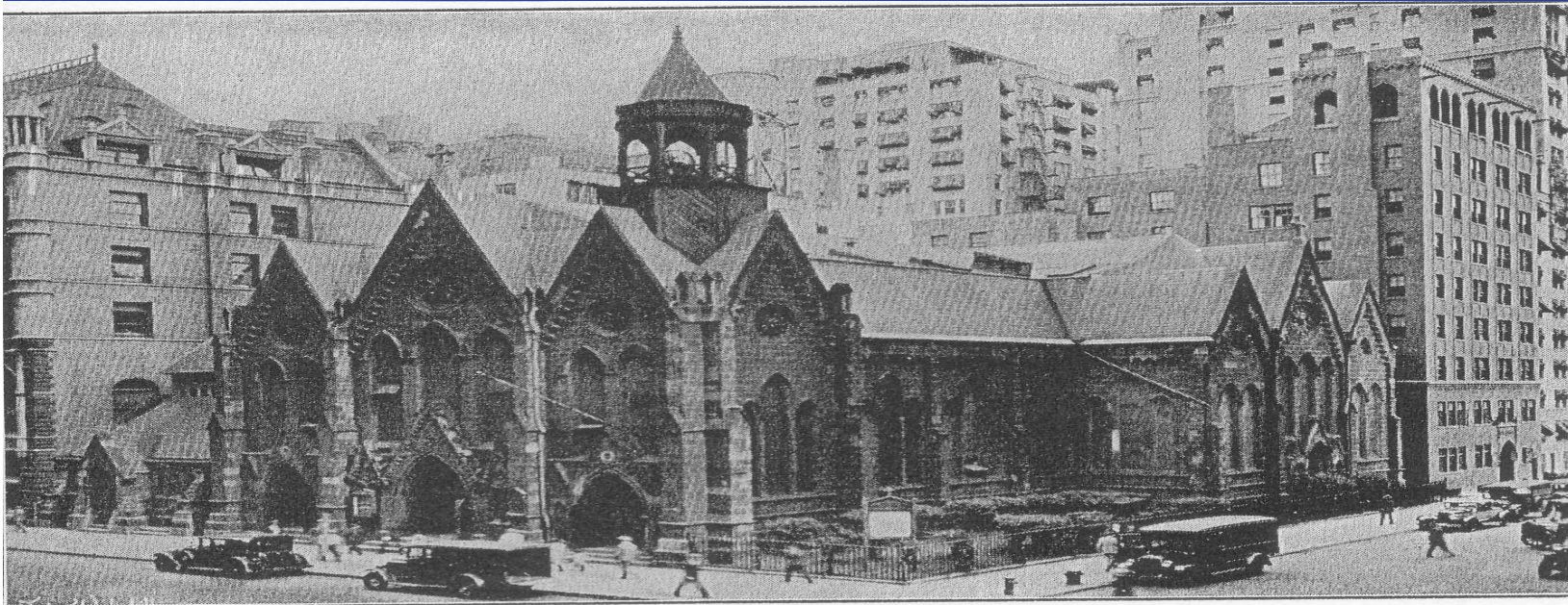


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# Calvary Church



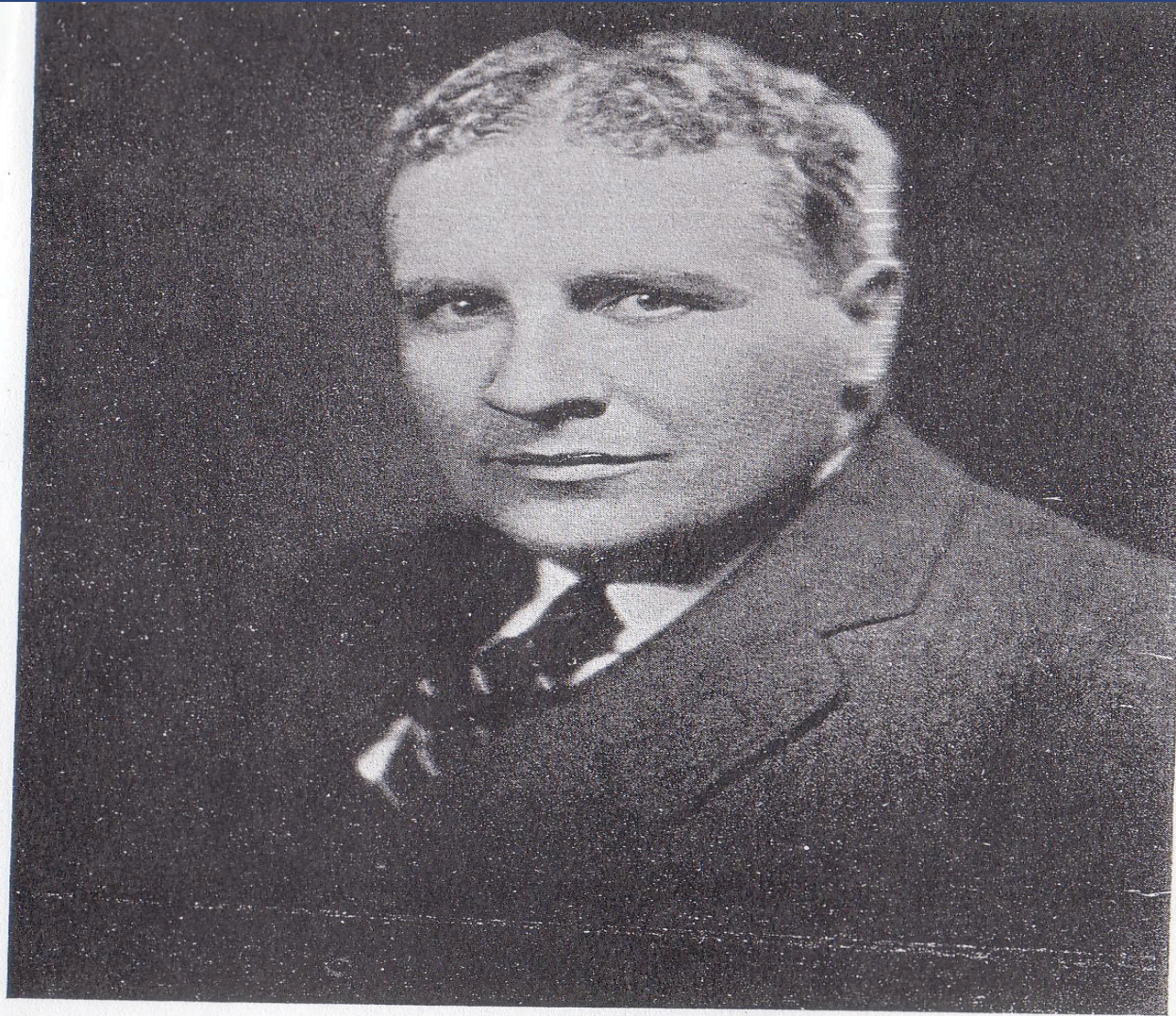
CALVARY CHURCH AND HOUSE FROM FOURTH AVENUE.

# Thursday Night Meeting November 1932



A THURSDAY NIGHT MEETING, NOVEMBER 1932

# Sam Shoemaker



THE RECTOR, THE REV. S. M. SHOEMAKER.



# Calvary Mission

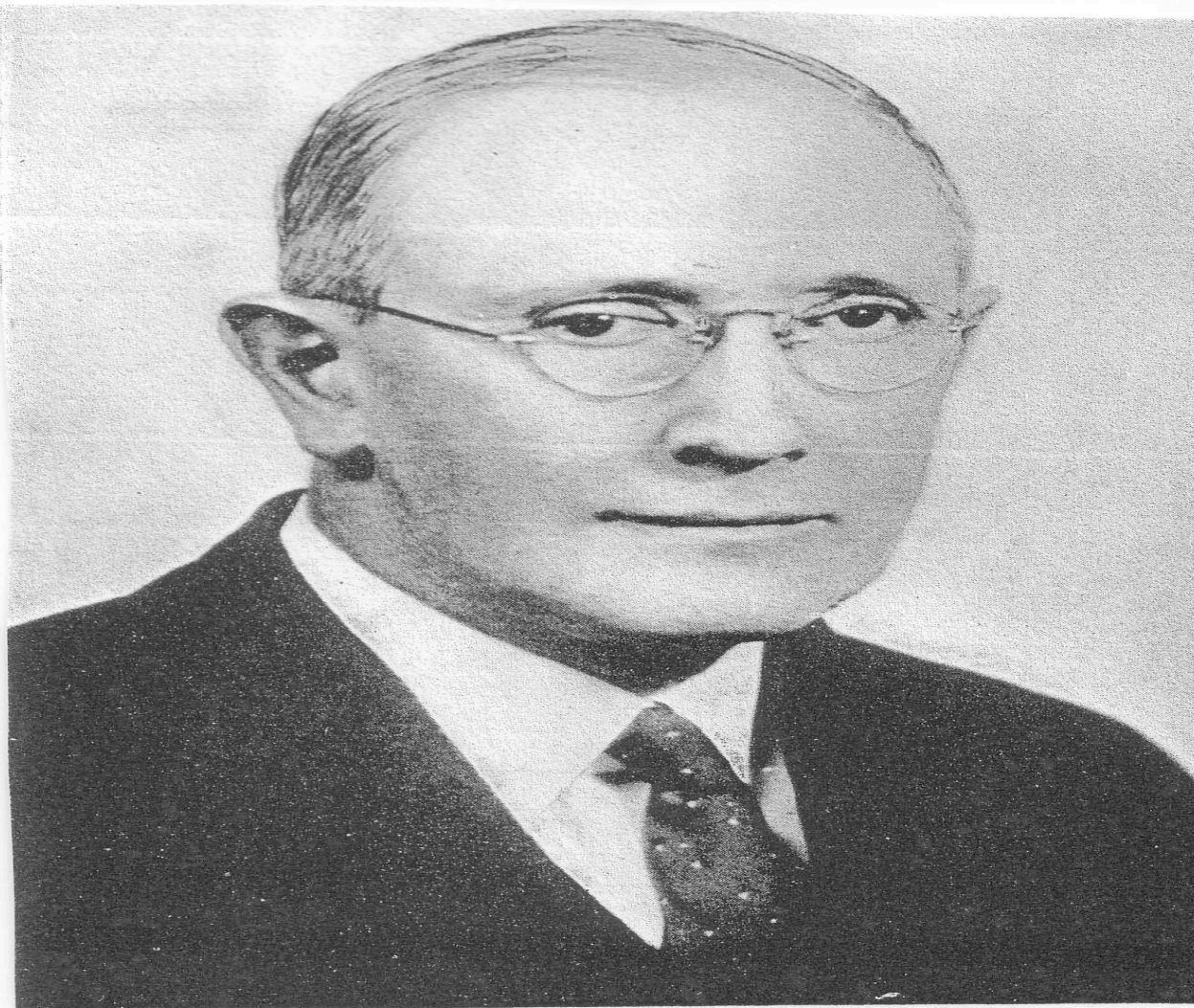


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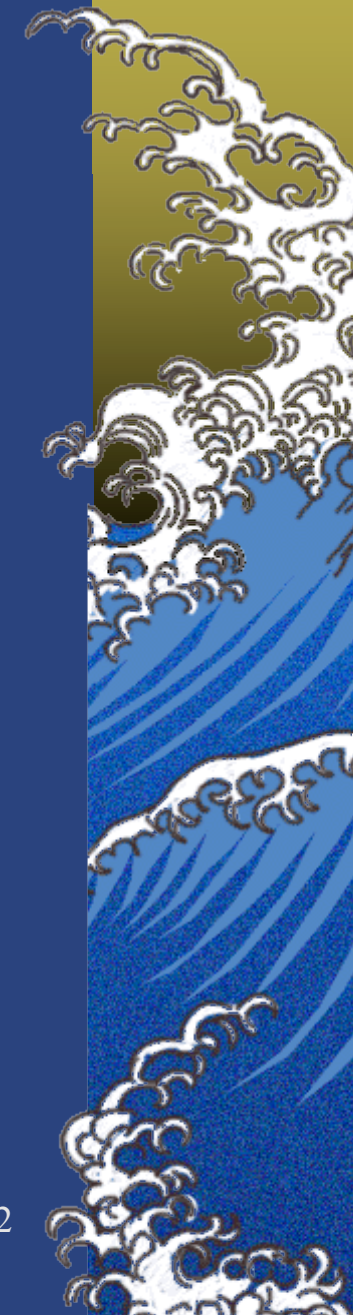
# H.R. Hadley Jr.



THE LATE HENRY HARRISON HADLEY, II.  
Superintendent of Calvary Mission, 1926-1933.

10/26

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# Jim Newton

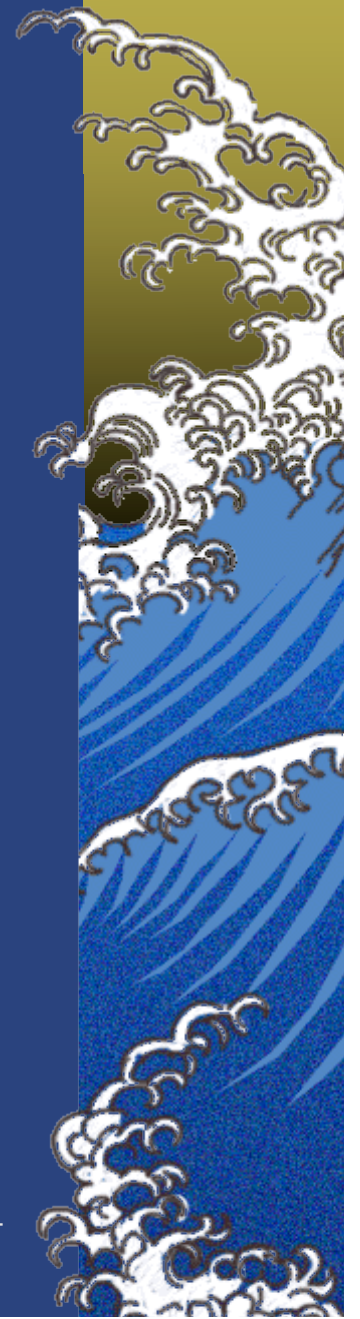
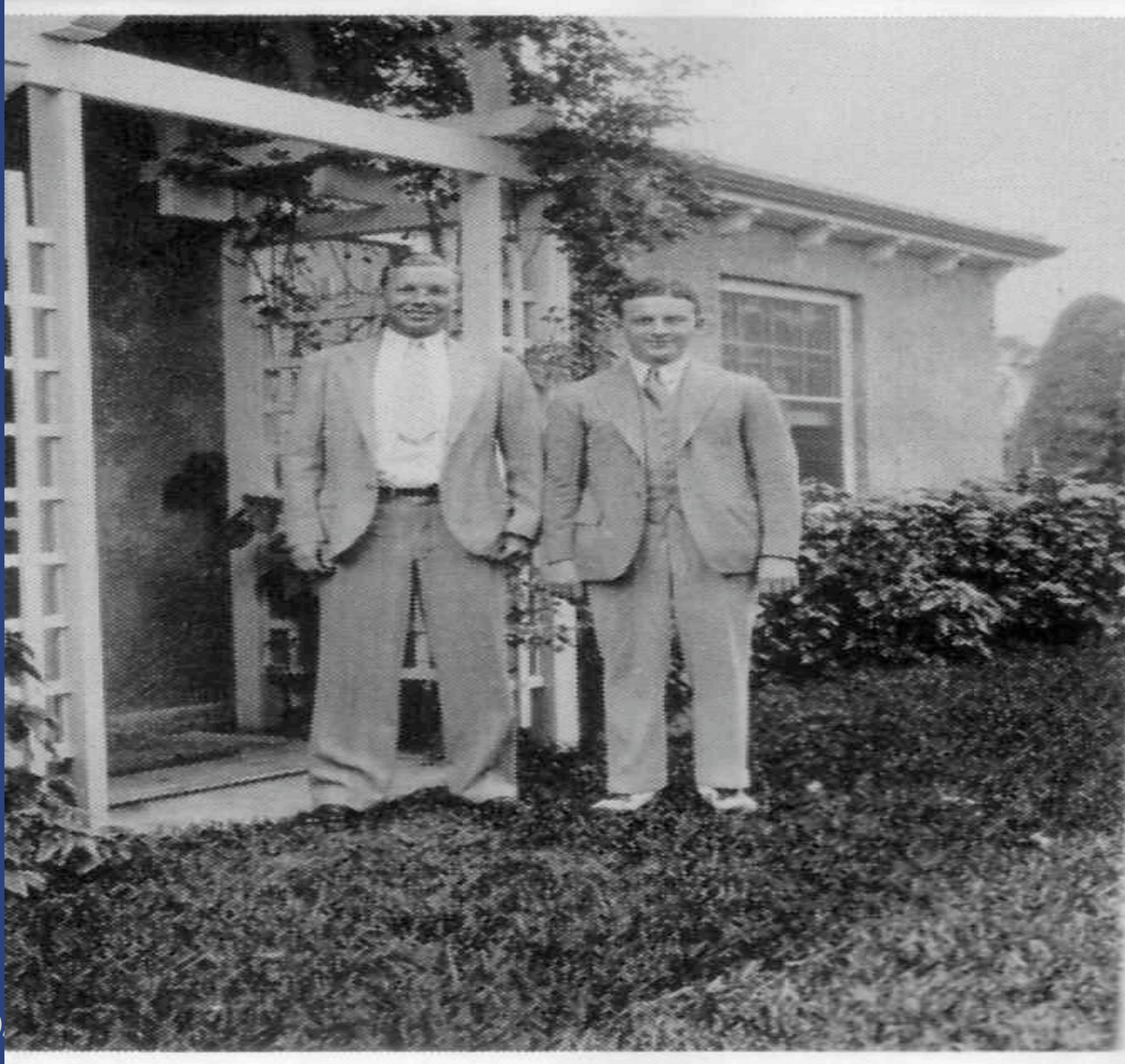


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# Newton & Firestone

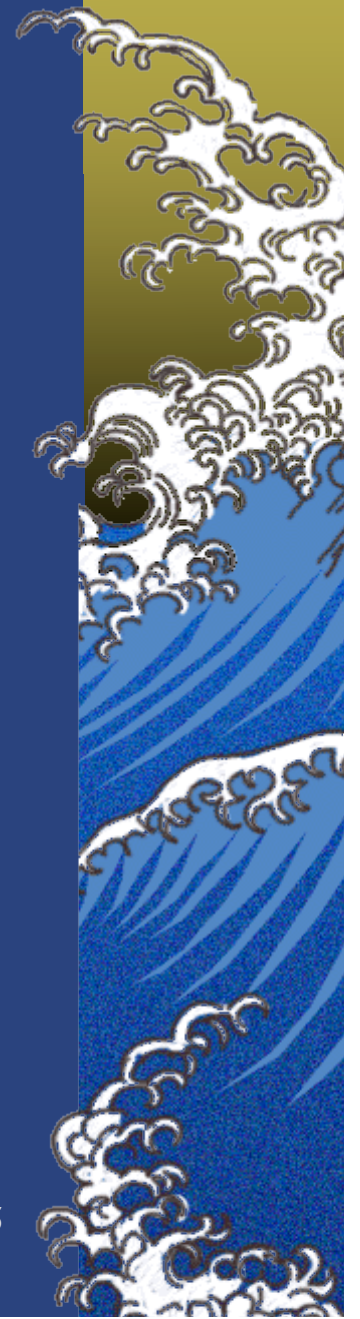


# Rowland Hazard

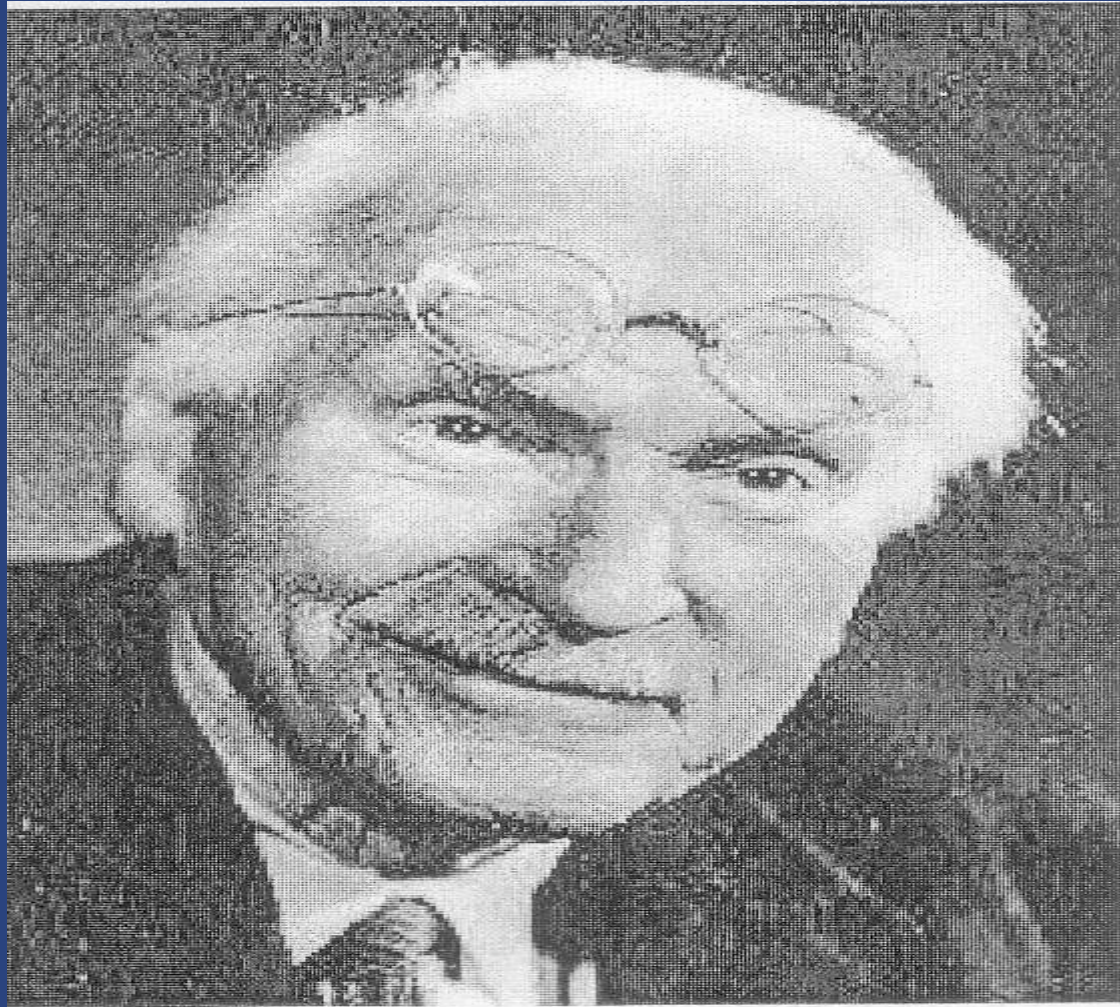


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# Dr. Carl Jung



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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# Soul Surgeons Akron 1934

AKRON'S 'DINNER JACKET REVIVAL' WAS BEGUN AT HOTEL MAYFLOWER LAST NIGHT




—Times-Press Photo

Russell Firestone, left, and Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, before the meeting, at the left. At the right a scene as the dinner jacket revival meeting got under way. Mr. Firestone is speaking. Left to right are, Reginald A. E. Holme, Oxford; Sir Walter Windham, London; Rev. Walter F. Tunks, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church, and Mr. Firestone.

## Oxford Group Hits Stride In Akron Modern Revival

Buchman and Followers Begin Personal Meetings Today in New-Style Evangelism; Score Will Fill Pulpits Sunday; Hundreds Throng First Session to Hear Converts

By DON STROUSE

The Oxford group of dinner jacket revivalists started about the serious business of winning Akron to Christ today after a whirlwind opening meeting last night that drew close to 3500 people to jam two improvised meeting houses.

"Personal evangelism"—one man talking to another or a woman discussing problems with another woman was the order of the day. The clergy of the city got together with Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, founder of the group, to talk over things that bothered them, and about 400 women gathered in Hotel Mayflower ballroom for the first women's meeting.

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# Bill & Ebby



Bill W. & Ebby

# Calvary Mission



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# Towns Hospital

8 PHYSICIANS DRUG NEWS



The  
Charles B. Towns  
Treatment for  
Drug Addicts  
Alcoholics and  
Neurasthenics

Administered at  
**The Charles B. Towns Hospital,  
NEW YORK**

successfully and completely removes the poison from the system and  
obliterates all craving for drugs and alcohol.

Because of its efficiency and thoroughness, its disclosure, freely and  
voluntarily, to the medical profession, and the consistent adherence by the  
principals to ethical standards in its application and advancement, the  
Charles B. Towns Hospital, together with its parent institution, enjoys the  
confidence, cooperation and support of clinicians of national prominence.

And because it has withstood the searchlight of critical and discrimin-  
ating investigation and the sure test of fourteen years' practical application,  
it commands your confidence.

There is nothing, therefore, about this treatment that is secret, it has  
been revealed thoroughly in articles which have appeared in the Journal  
A. M. A. and elsewhere.

The coupon below will make it convenient for you to ask  
for reprints of these articles and descriptive booklet.

**The Charles B. Towns Hospital**  
293 Central Park West, NEW YORK

Please send me Reprints and Booklet.

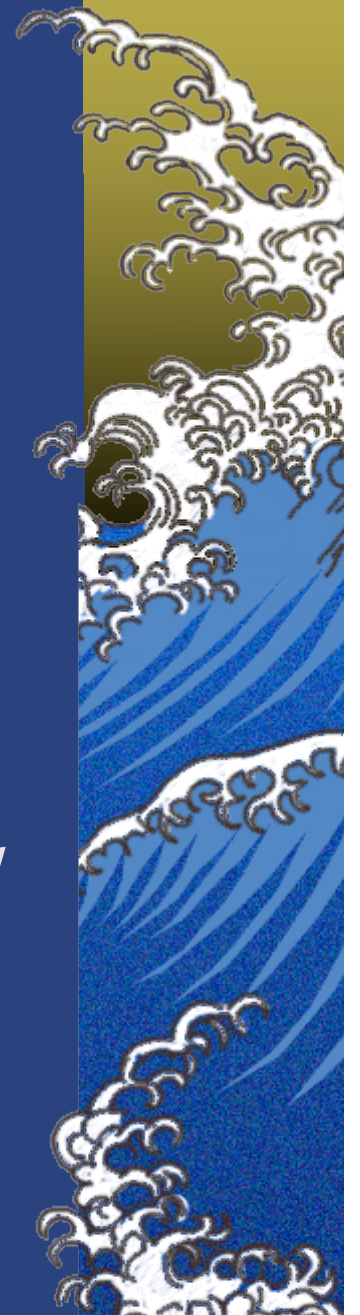
P.D.N.  
M.D.

# Varieties of Religious Experience

## S.H. Hadley

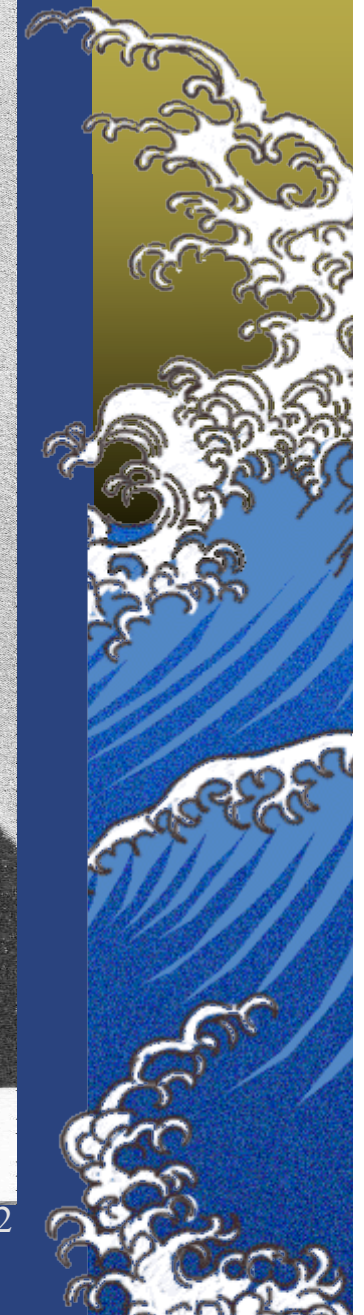
✦ *Although up to that moment my soul had been filled with indescribable gloom, I felt the glorious feeling of the noonday sun shine into my heart. I felt I was a free man.....*

*From that moment till this I have never wanted a drink of whiskey, nor seen enough money to make me take one.*

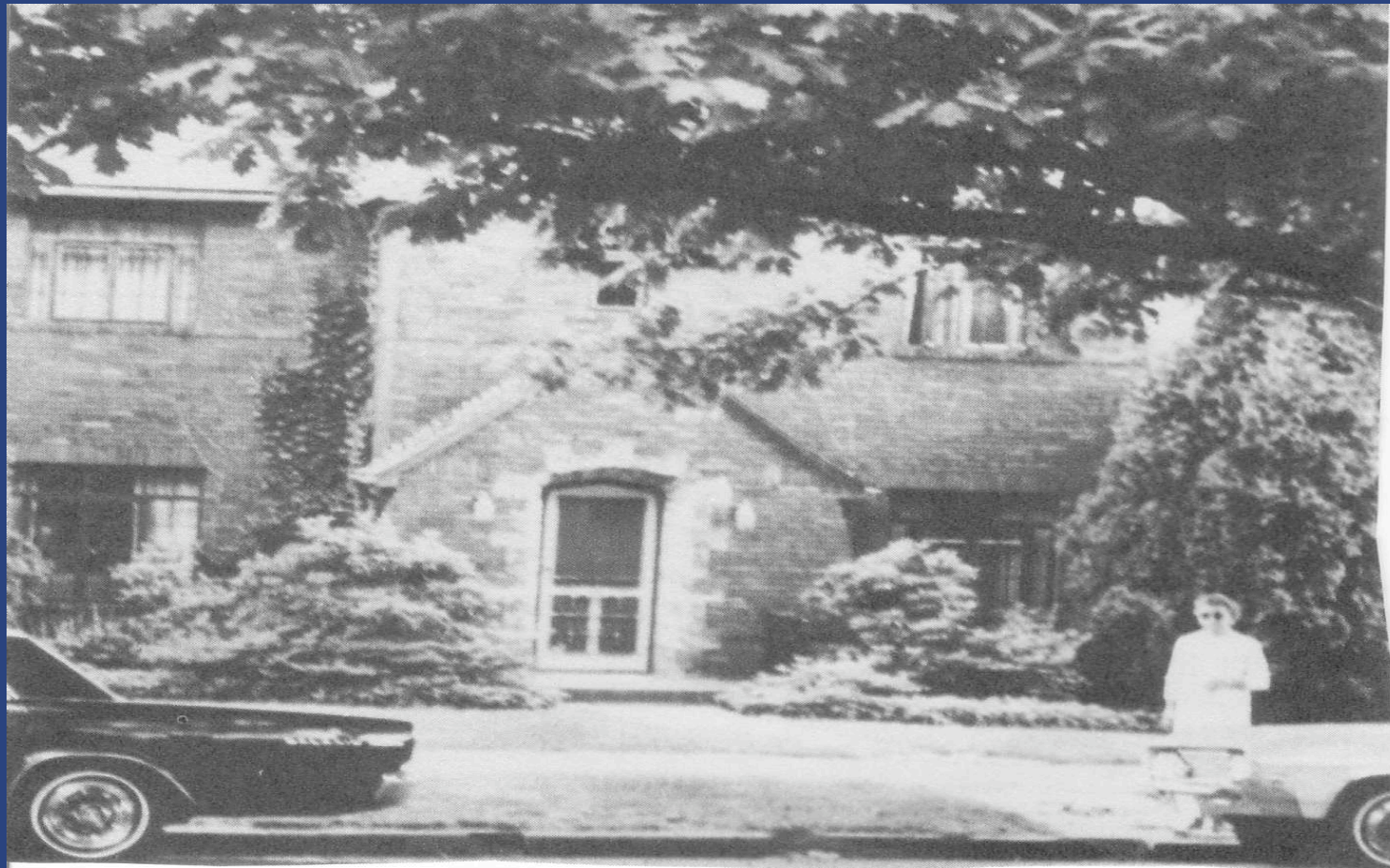




THE LATE HENRY HARRISON HADLEY, II.  
Superintendent of Calvary Mission, 1926-1933.



# Williams House – Home of the “West Hills” Oxford Group



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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# Henrietta Seiberling



10/26/07

Why Our Lives Were Saved

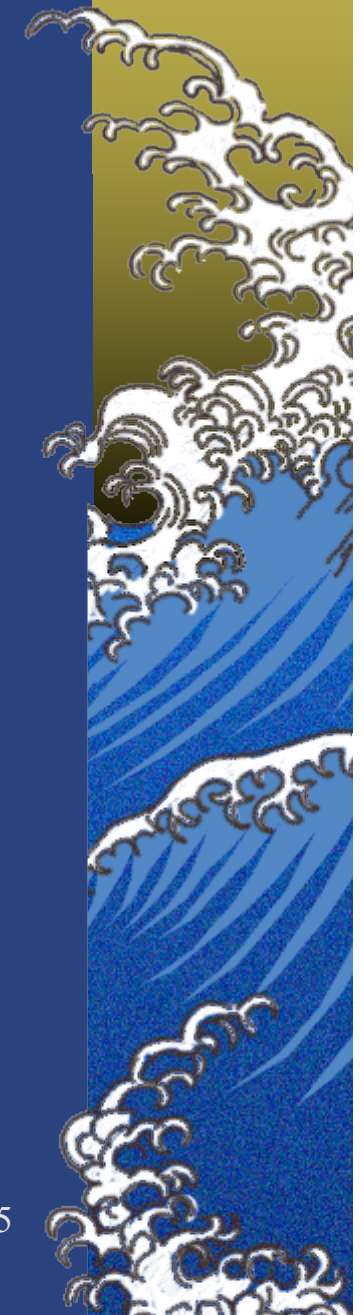
44



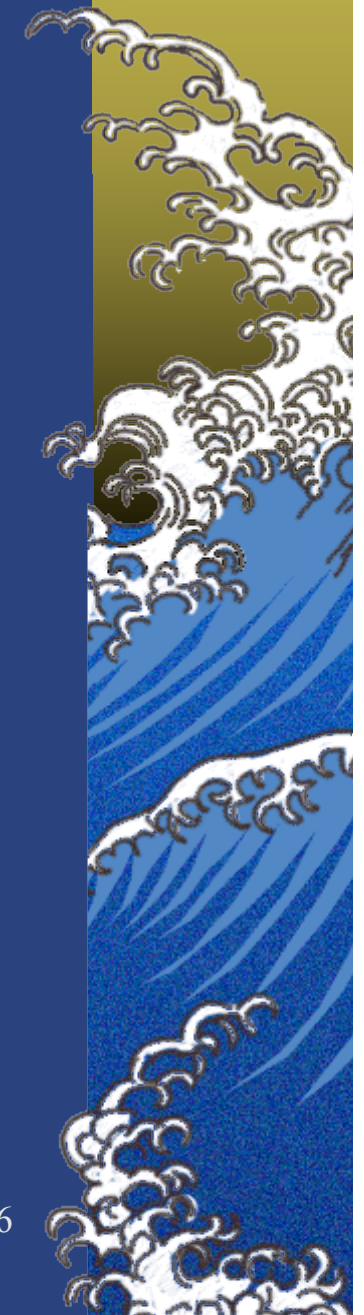
# Mayflower Hotel Church Directory



10/26/07



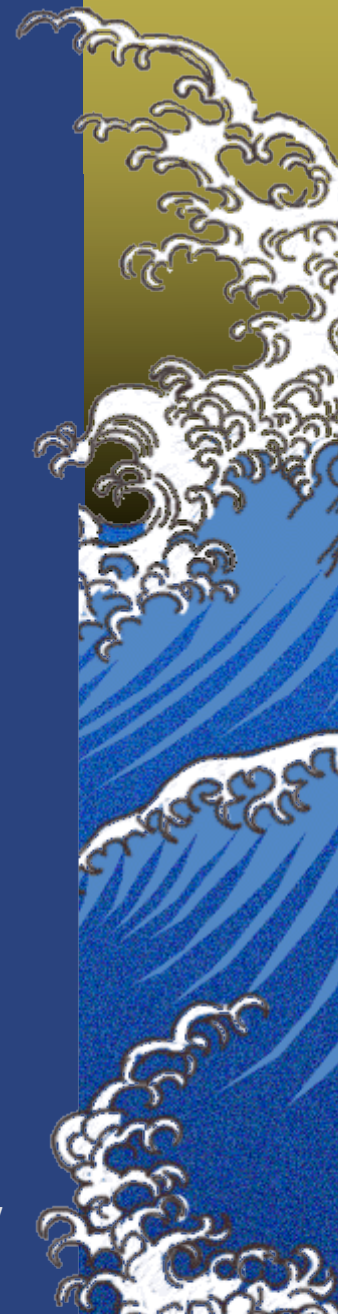
# The Coach House



10/26/07



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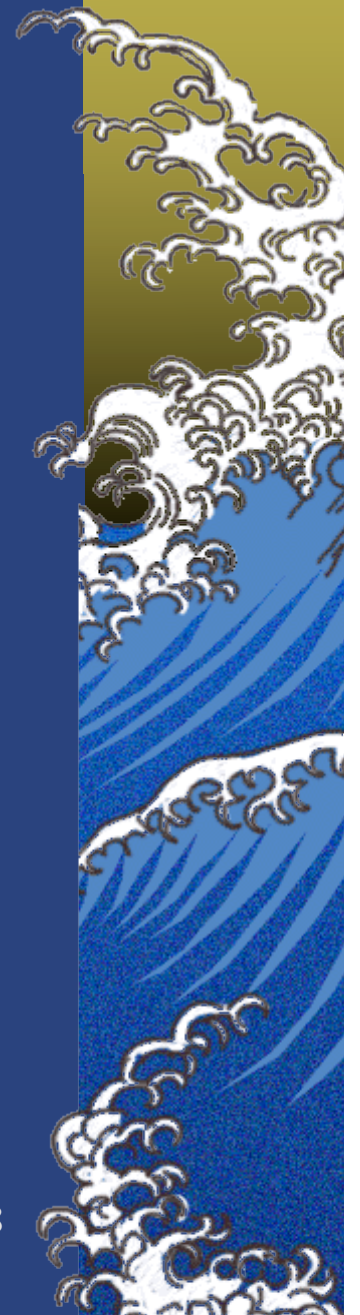


# *Spiritus Contra Spiritus*

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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# God Calling – AA Timeline

July 27, 1908 Keswick, England

Frank Buchman has his spiritual awakening.

τ

January, 1909 Vermont

Buchman goes to Penn State.

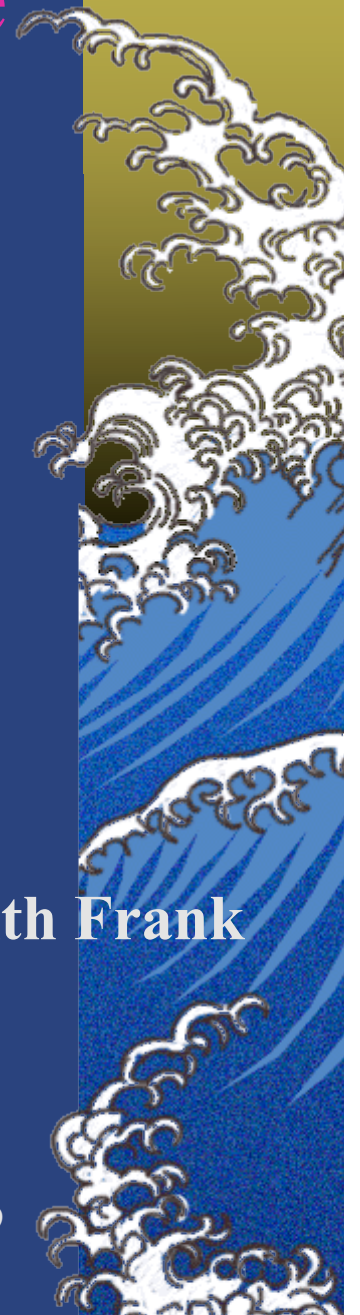
τ

January 19, 1918, China

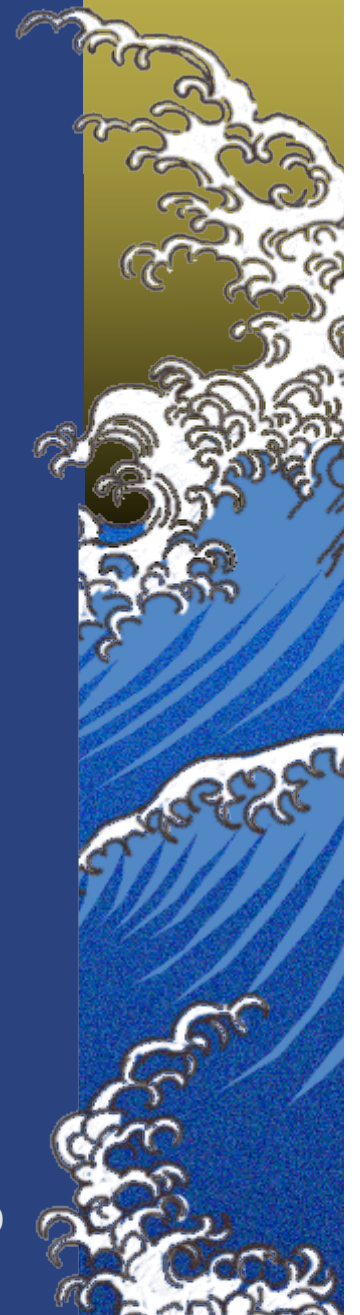
Sam Shoemaker is “twice born” through contact with Frank Buchman.

τ

10/26/07 June 1925, New York Why Our Lives Were Saved



To be  
continued by  
you



τ

## September 1931, New York

Jim Newton accompanies Bud Firestone to a drying out farm in New York. Bud continues to drink.

τ

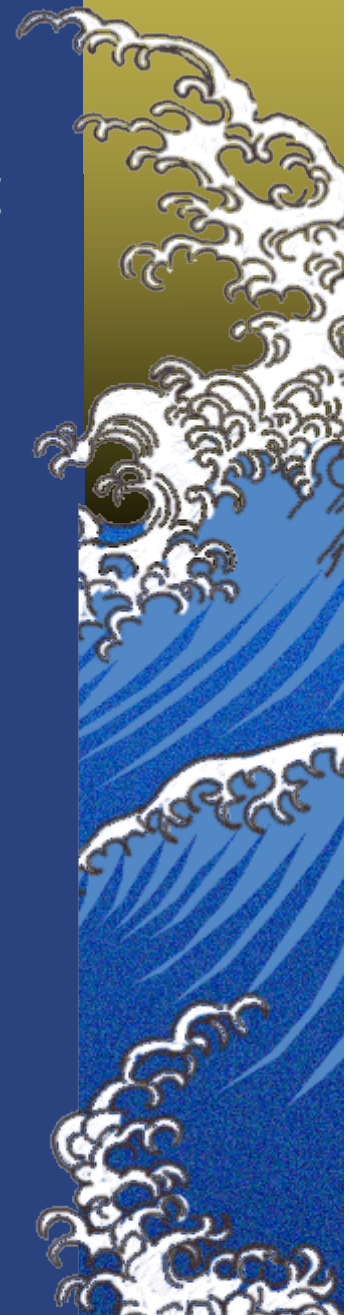
## October 1931, Denver

Bud and Jim attend an Episcopal Bishops' Conference in Denver. Bud meets with Sam Shoemaker and gives his life to God. He is relieved of the obsession to drink.

τ

## June 1932, Akron

Harvey Firestone invites the Oxford Group to bring a team to Akron.



## 1932 Switzerland

Dr. Carl Jung pronounces Rowland Hazard hopeless.

τ

## 1932 New York

Rowland returns and joins the Calvary Church, studies with the Rev. Sam Shoemaker, and gives his life to Christ. His obsession to drink is removed.

τ

## January 19<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 1933, Akron

Oxford Group team led by Frank Buchman holds a House Party at the Mayflower Hotel. More than 1600 people attend.



τ

## February 1933, Akron

West Hills Oxford Group Meeting started in the home of T. Henry and Clarace Williams. Bob and Anne Smith and Henrietta Seiberling are regular attendees.

τ

## 1933 New York

Oxford Businessmen's Team includes (sober members) Rowland Hazard, Cebra Graves, Shep Cornell, and Bud Firestone; (non-alcoholics) Jim Newton, T. Henry Williams.

τ

## January 19 – February 10, 1934, Akron

10/26/07 Oxford Group's Businessmen's Team from Calvary Chapel descends upon Akron. Team members include



τ

### August 1934, Vermont

Rowland Hazard, Cebra Graves and Shep Cornell rescue Ebby Thacher from certain imprisonment.

τ

### September 1934, New York

Ebby Thacher makes a decision for Christ at Calvary Mission and his drink obsession is removed.

τ

### November 1934, New York

Ebby receives “guidance” to visit Bill Wilson.

τ

10/26/07

Why Our Lives Were Saved

### December 8, 1934, New York



τ

**February 1, 1926, New York**

**Sam Shoemaker and Harry Hadley found the Calvary Mission.**

τ

**1927 New York**

**Jim Newton is introduced to Sam Shoemaker by Frank Buchman.**

τ

**1928 Akron**

**Jim Newton goes to work for Harvey Firestone of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.**



τ

**December 11, 1934, New York**

**Bill enters Towns Hospital for the last time.**

τ

**December 18, 1934, New York**

**Bill is released from Towns Hospital. He and Lois join the Oxford Group at Calvary Church where Sam Shoemaker is Rector.**

**τ April 1935, Akron**

**Henrietta receives guidance that Dr. Bob should not touch any liquor whatsoever.**

**“Do not fear I will send someone”**

10/26/07

Why Our Lives Were Saved

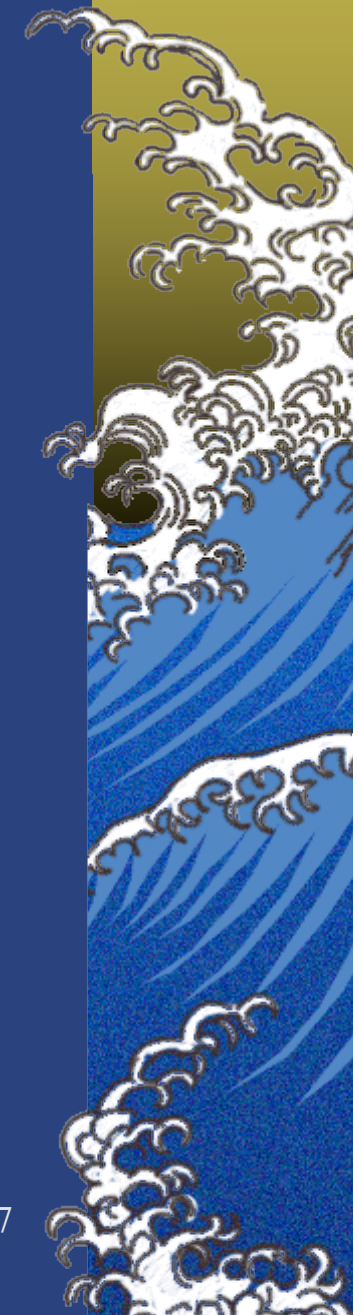
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τ

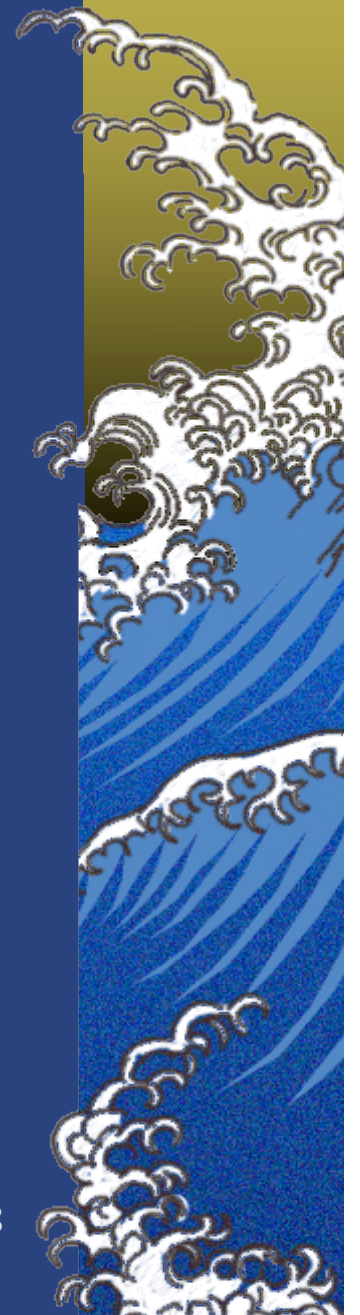
## May 1935, Akron

- Henrietta tells everyone that next week they will have to share something “costly.”
- Bill travels to Akron on business.
- Dr. Bob shares something costly to him: “I’m a closet drinker.” The group prays for him and asks God’s help.
- Bill Wilson calls Rev. Walter Tunks seeking help finding an alcoholic.
- Bill is put in contact with Henrietta and the West Hills Group. “Manna from heaven.” Bill meets with Henrietta.



# MRA's Mission 1938

*We must bridge seemingly impossible and humanly hopeless situations. We must have justice, whereby each sees not only his difficulties, but the difficulties of others also. We must find that answer that is above party, that is above class, that is above faction, that is above nations.*



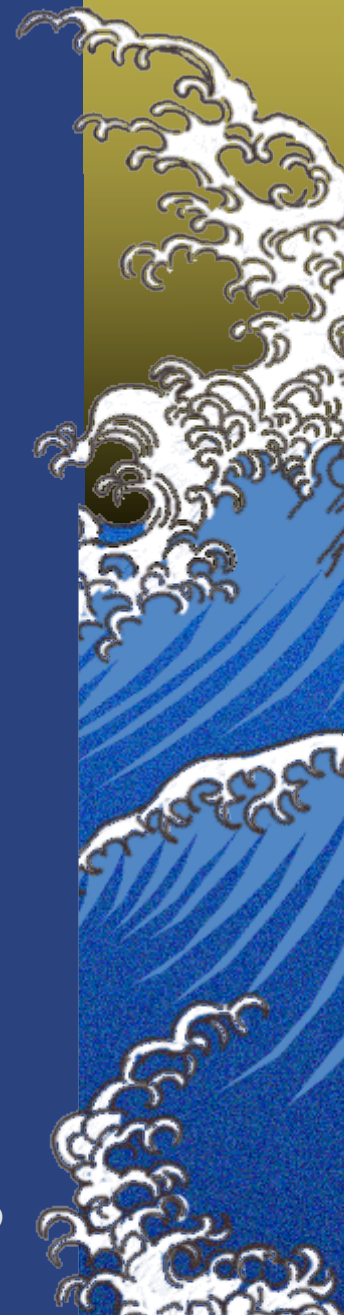
# Thank God for Hitler

*New York World Telegram*

*August 25, 1936*

*“ I thank God for a man like Adolph Hitler  
who built a front line defense against  
Communism.....*

*But think what it would mean to the world  
if Hitler surrendered to the control of  
God.”*



# Hitler on Christianity

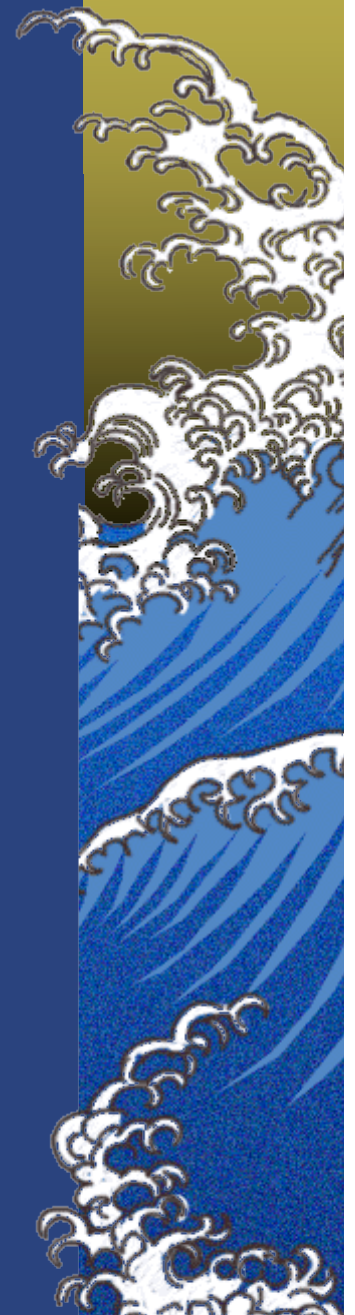
*“People set us down as the enemies of the Spirit. But in a much deeper sense than the conceited bourgeois dolts ever thought of. What should I care for the Christian doctrine of the infinite significance of the individual spirit and of personal moral responsibility?”*



# Hitler's Vision

*“I oppose it in icy clarity with the saving doctrine of the nothingness and total insignificance of the individual and his continued existence only in the visible mortality of the blood of the race...”*

*I am liberating man from the demands of spiritual freedom and personal independence which only few can bear. German Christianity is a distortion. One is either German or Christian.”*

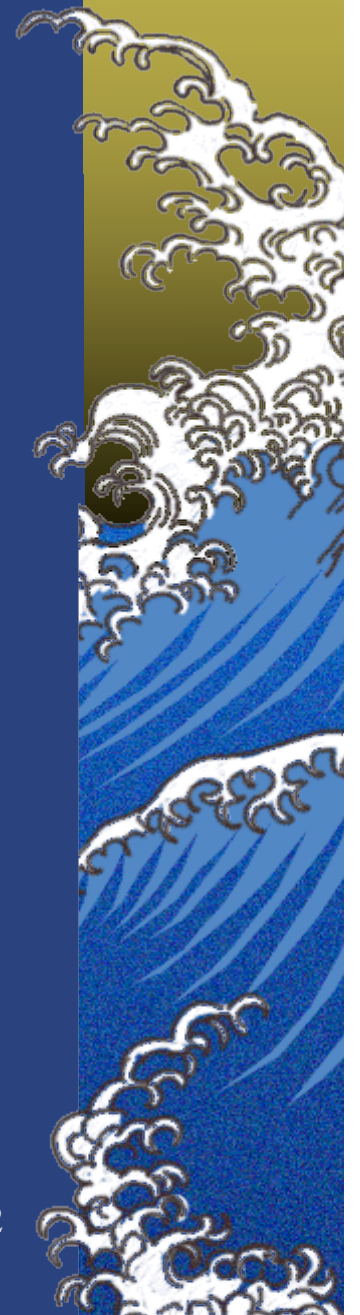


# The True Enemy- 1943

*“We have Communism and Fascism-two world forces.*

*Where do they come from?*

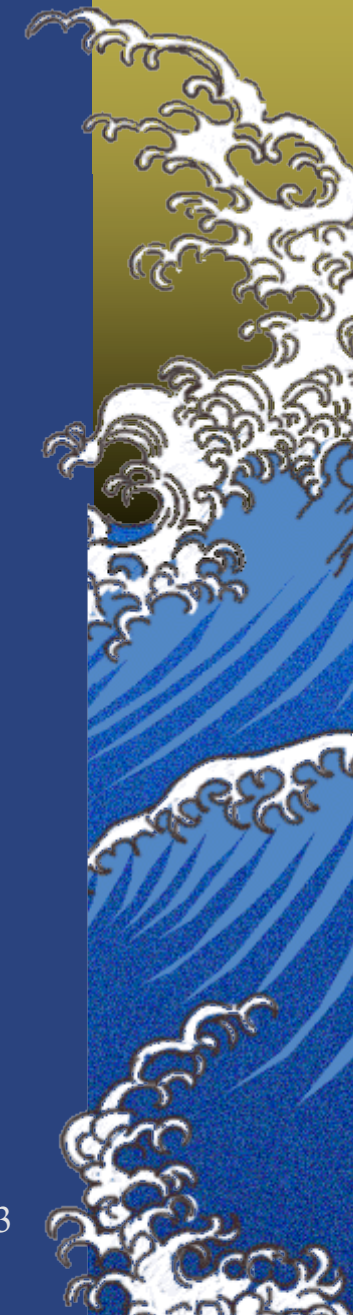
*From Materialism, which is the mother of all “isms”.It is the spirit of Anti-Christ which breeds corruption, anarchy and revolution. It undermines our homes,it sets class against class, it divide the nation. Materialism is democracy’s greatest enemy. “*



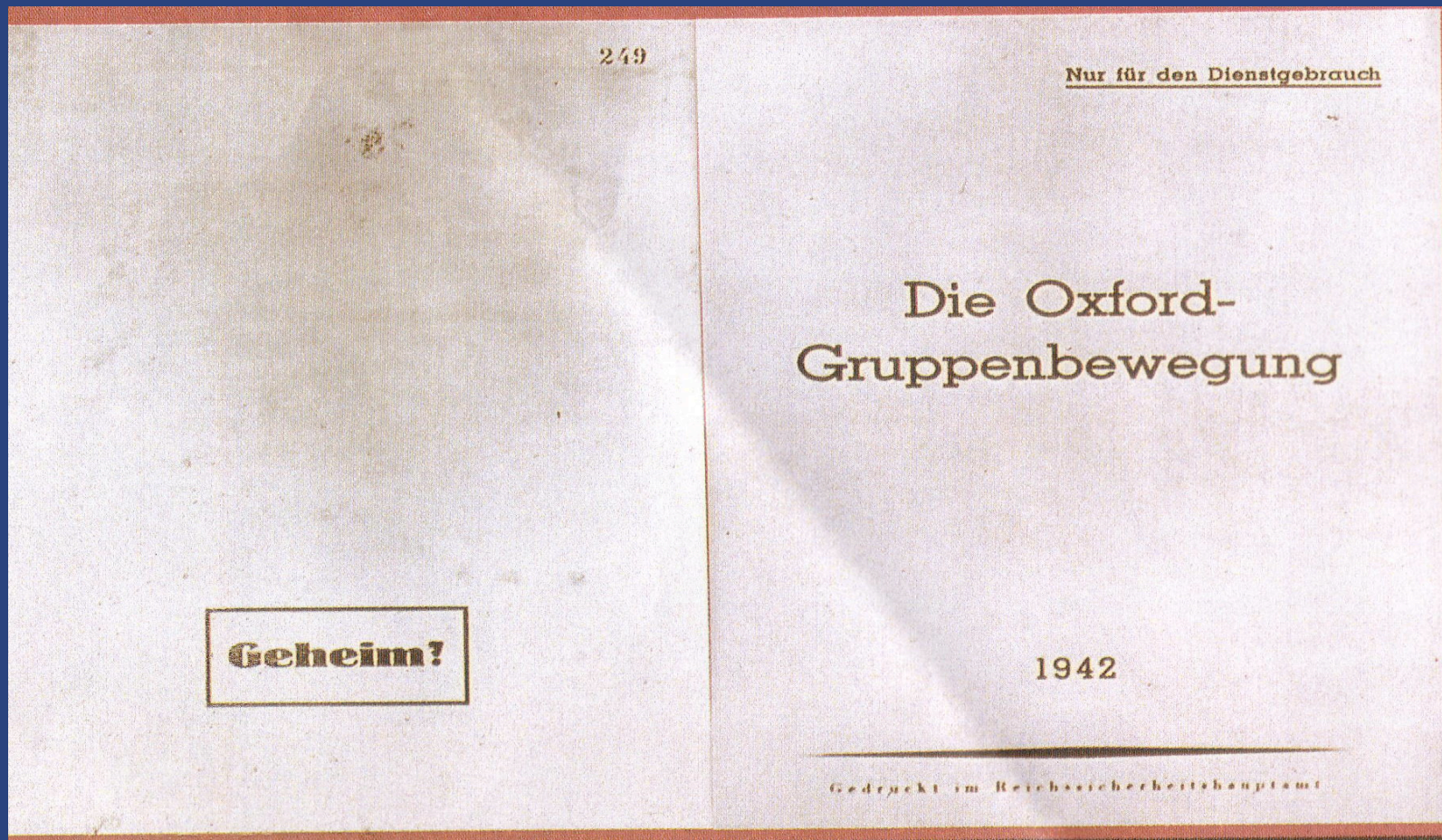
# Selective Service Investigation- 1941

*MRA draws fire equally of Nazis and Communists, of the extreme right and extreme left in politics, of aggressive atheists and narrow ecclesiastics...*

*Nothing but a potentially vast moral and spiritual reformation of global proportions could possibly be honored by antagonisms so venomous and contradictory in character, so worldwide in scope.*



# Gestapo Report on The Enemy of the State



# Gestapo Reports

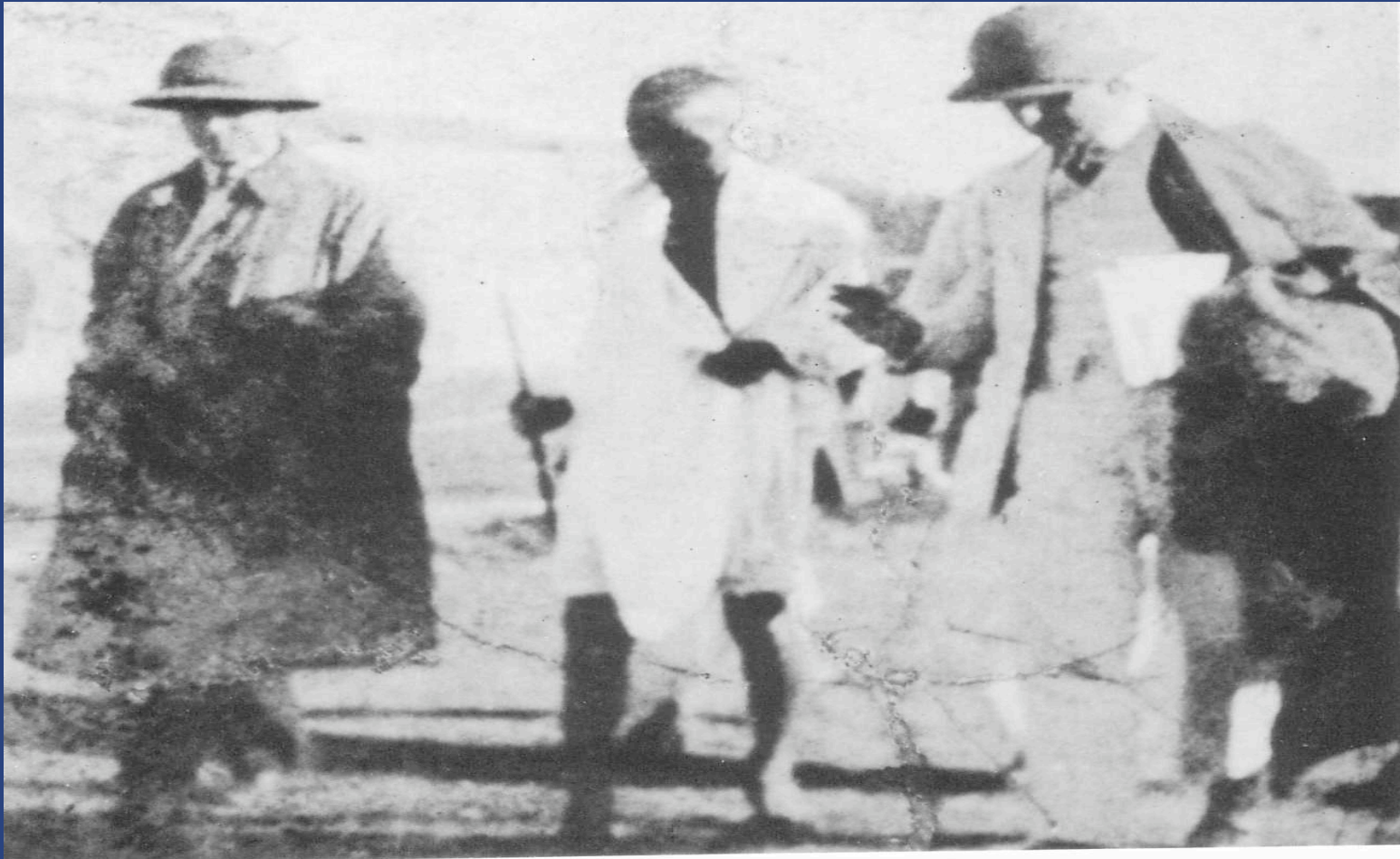
*The Group preaches revolution against the state and quite evidently has become its Christian opponent.*

*No other Christian Movement sees Christianity as being super national and independent of all racial barriers.... It tries to make all men brothers.*

*We all remember the disgusting un-Germanic Oxford demonstrations held in our country a few years ago.*



# Gandhi & Buchman 1915



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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# Blocks to Guidance

There was a person who had wronged me  
who I would not forgive.

There was restitution that I would not  
make.

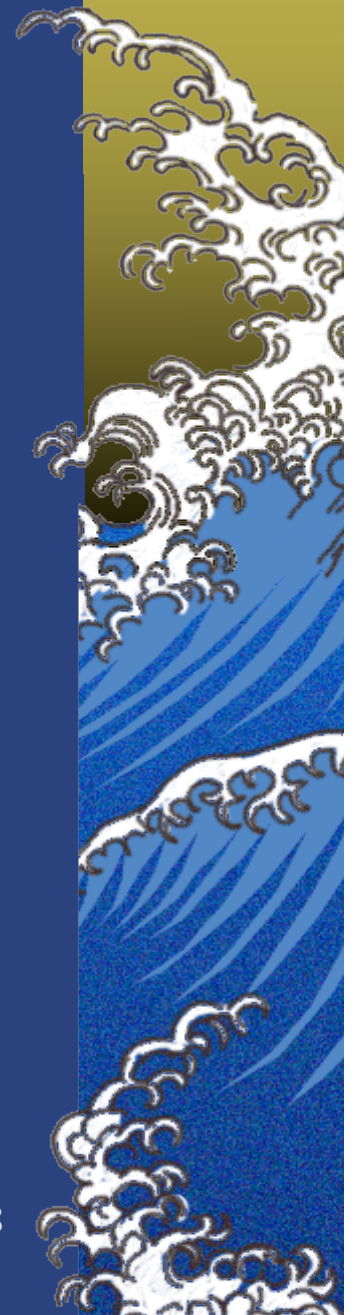
There was a doubtful pleasure which I  
would not give up.

There was a sin in the long past which I  
would not confess.



# New Power

When these were straightened out, I not only came into new power and release, but for the first time I began to get daily guidance which I knew could be relied and acted upon.



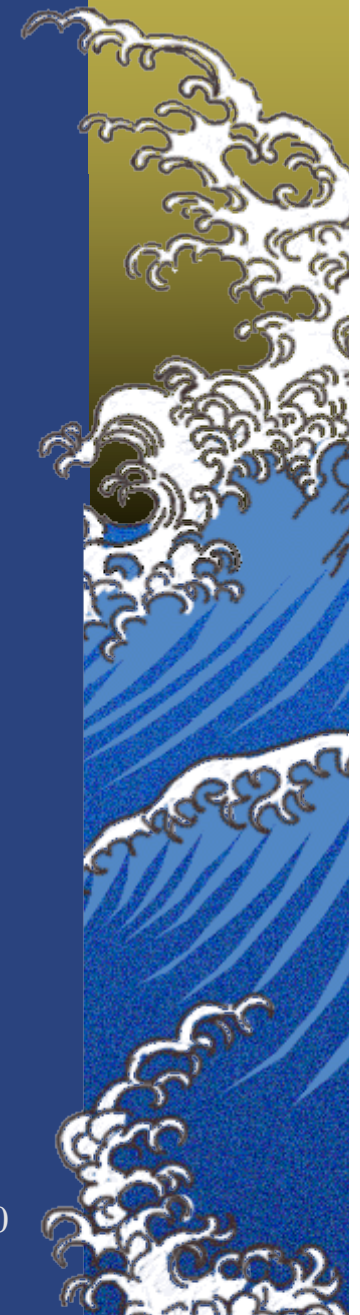
# The STEPS as I UNDERSTAND THEM

A pile of Wisdom and experience is packed into the Twelve Steps. I have even compared the inspired forty minutes during which those steps were given to the Founder, to the Ten Tables of Law that were given to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

-- **Sam Shoemaker**



God,  
give us grace  
to accept with Serenity  
The things that cannot be  
changed,  
Courage to change the  
things  
that should be changed,  
and the wisdom to  
distinguish the one  
from the other



# Kitchen Table AA

Sponsorship Workshop

Bill C. & Jay S.

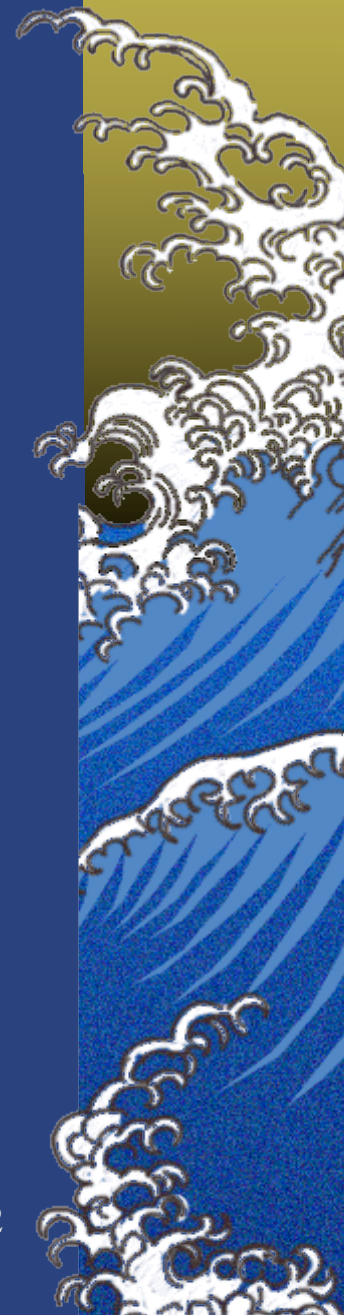
Carlsbad, California

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007



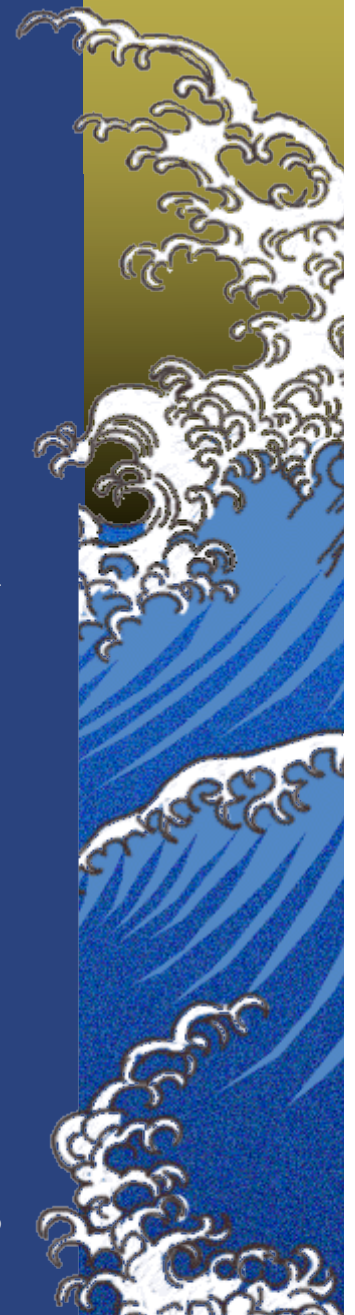
# Akron Manual 1940

- ▶ We are not in the business of sobering up drunks so they can go on another bender
- ▶ Our aim is total and permanent sobriety



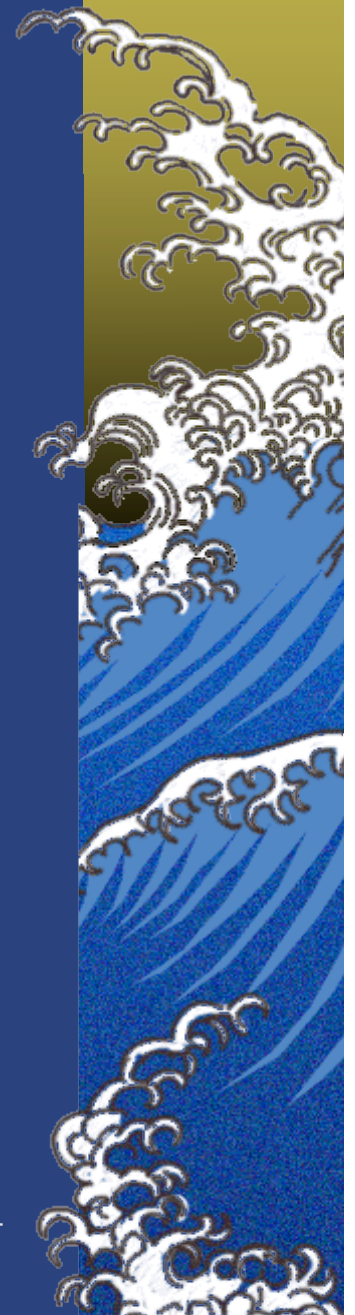
# An Alcoholics Anonymous is

- ▶ An alcoholic who through application of and adherence to the rules laid down by the organization, has completely forsworn the use of any and all alcoholic beverages



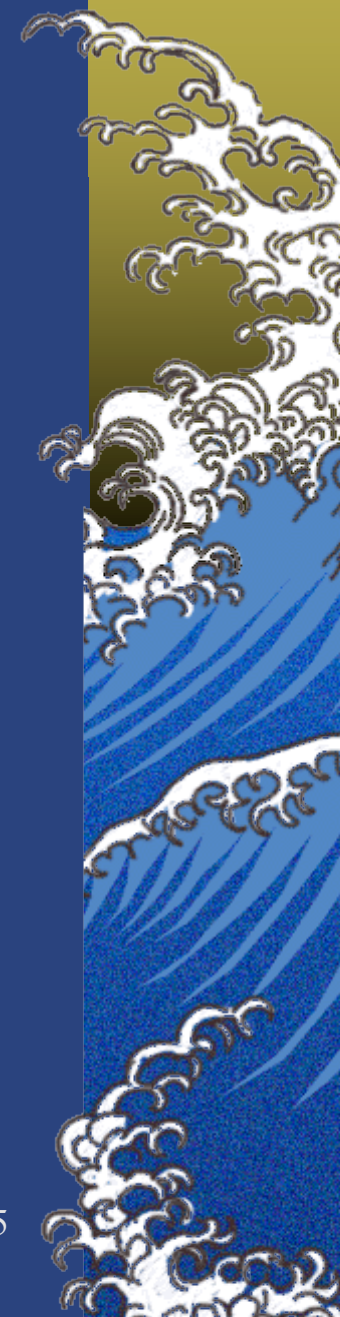
# A.A. Membership

- ▶ The moment he wittingly takes even a drop of beer, wine ..... He automatically loses all status as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous
- ▶ AA is not interested in sobering up drunks who are not sincere in their desire to remain completely sober for all time.



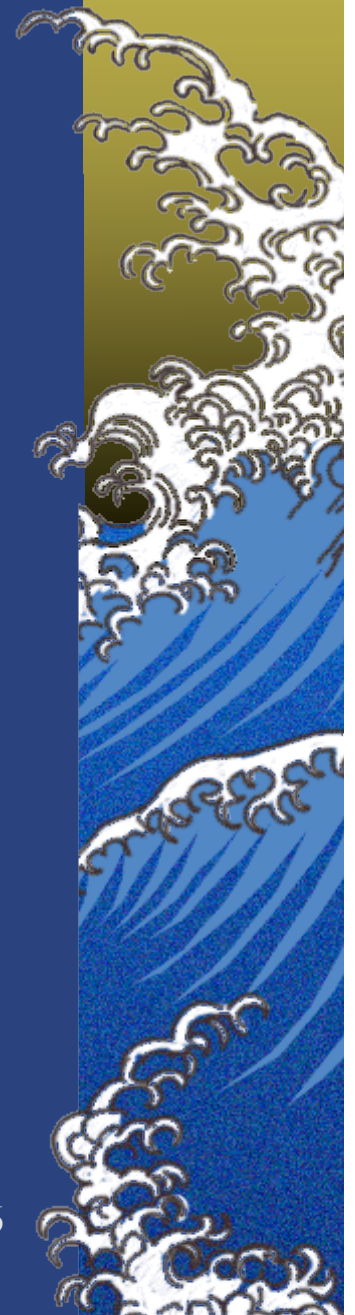
# To the Newcomer

- ▲ If you are not ready to part with alcohol forever, it would be better for all concerned if you discontinue reading this and give up the idea of becoming a member of Alcoholics Anonymous



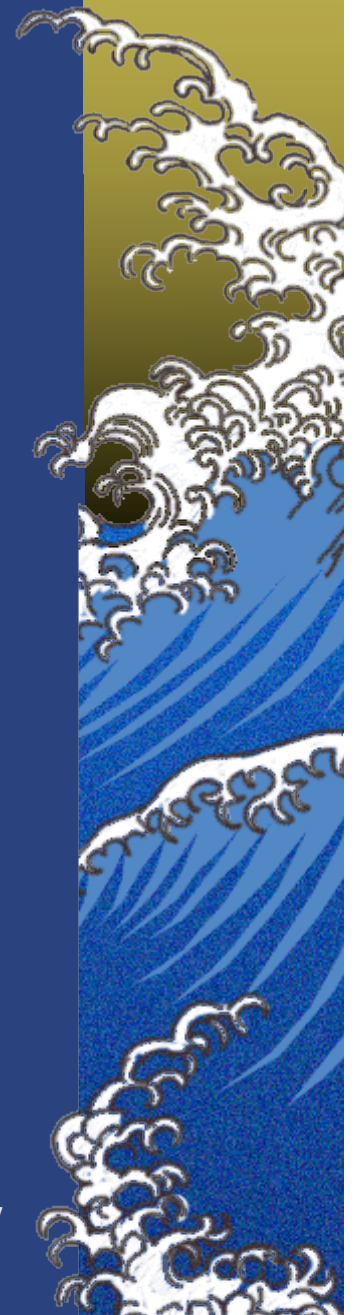
# To the Sponsor

- ▲ You have in your hands the most valuable property in the world – the future of a fellow man. Treat his life as carefully as you would treat your own. You are literally responsible for his life.



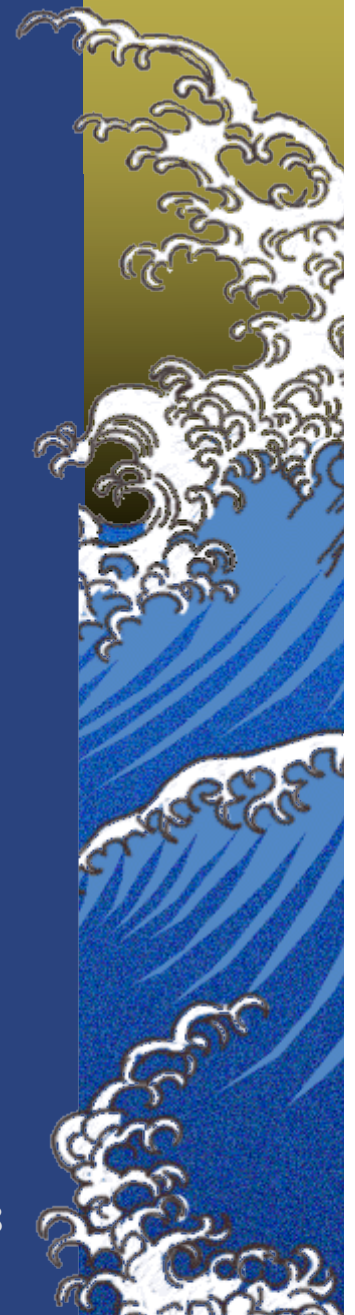
# Success Rate

- Alcoholics Anonymous is one hundred percent effective for those who follow the rules. It is those who try to cut corners who find themselves in their old drunken state.



# The Results

- ▲ There is no satisfaction in the world like watching the progress of a new Alcoholics Anonymous.....No whiskey in the world can give you this thrill.



# Pink Cloud 1940's Style

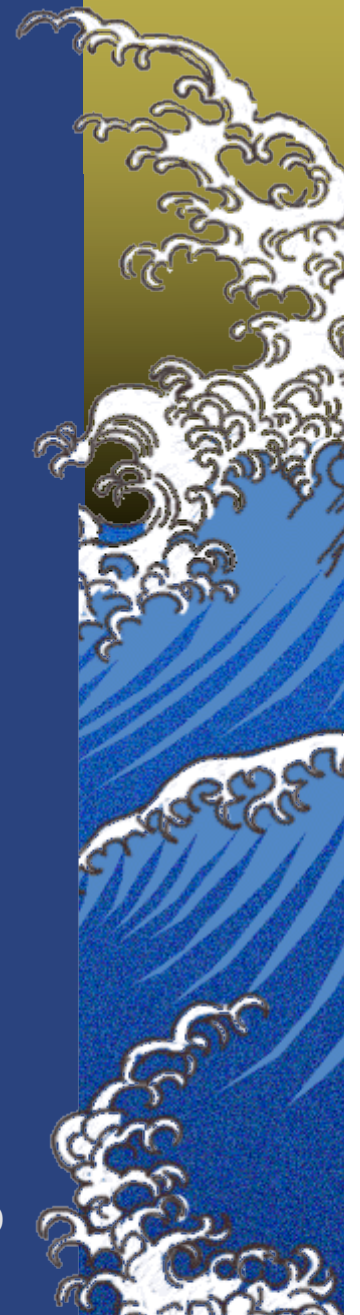
- ▲ You will be tireless in your efforts to help others. It is a splendid enthusiasm! Cherish it for as long as you can.



# The Jumping Off Point

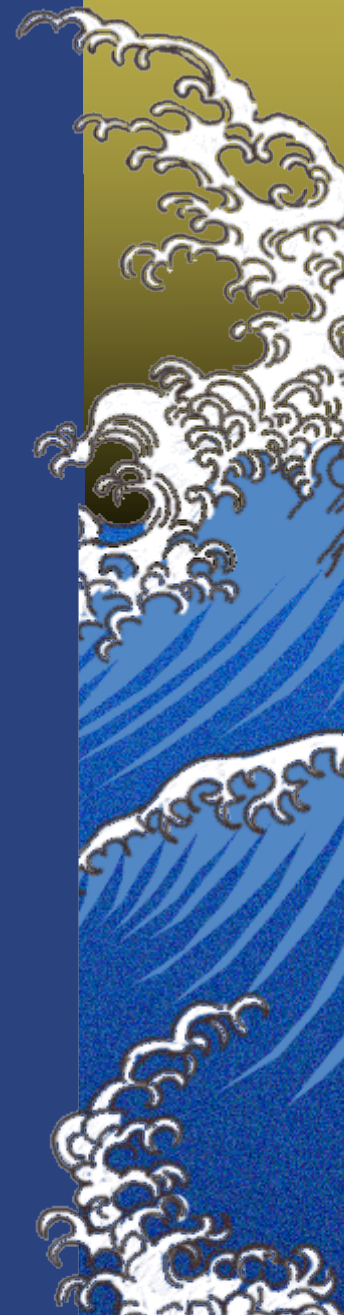
- ▲ For you are ready to sponsor some other poor alcoholic who is desperately in need of help, both human and Divine.

So God bless and keep you both!



# Cultivate Humility

- ▲ You aren't very important in this world. If you lose your job someone better will replace you. If you die your wife will mourn you briefly, and then remarry..... in the last analysis, you are the only one who benefits by your sobriety. Seek to cultivate humility. Remember that cockiness leads to a speedy fall.



# Medical Opinion

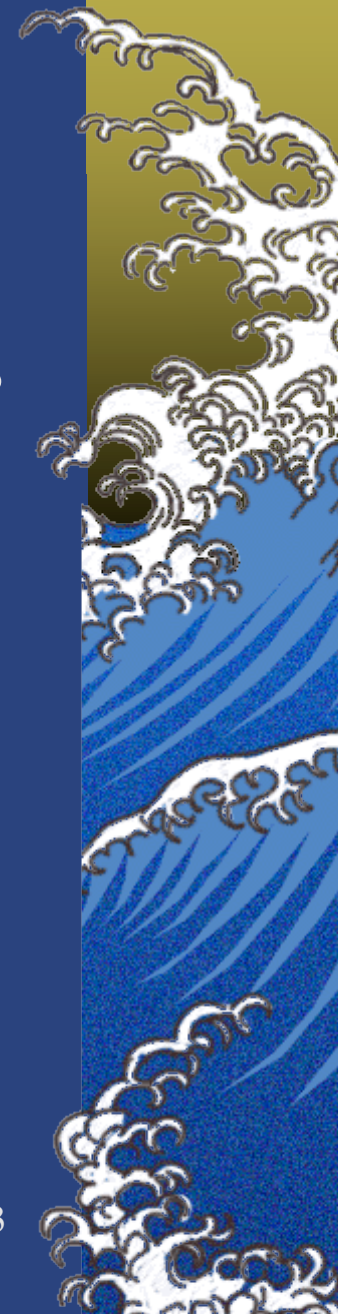
- ▶ Medical men will tell you that all alcoholics are alike at least in one respect: they are emotionally immature.

In other words alcoholics have not learned to think like adults



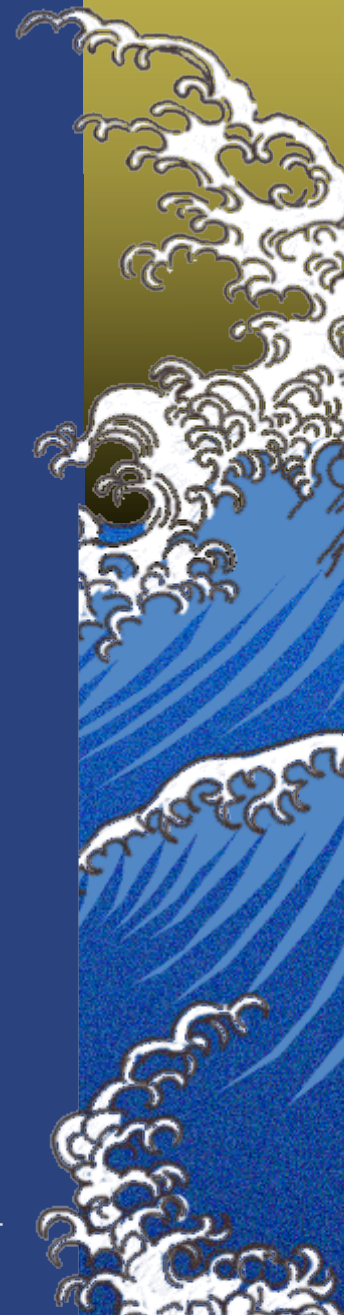
# Don't Criticize

- ▲ The methods of others, strangely enough, you may change your own ideas as you grow older in sobriety. Remember there are dozens of roads from New York to Chicago but they all land in Chicago.



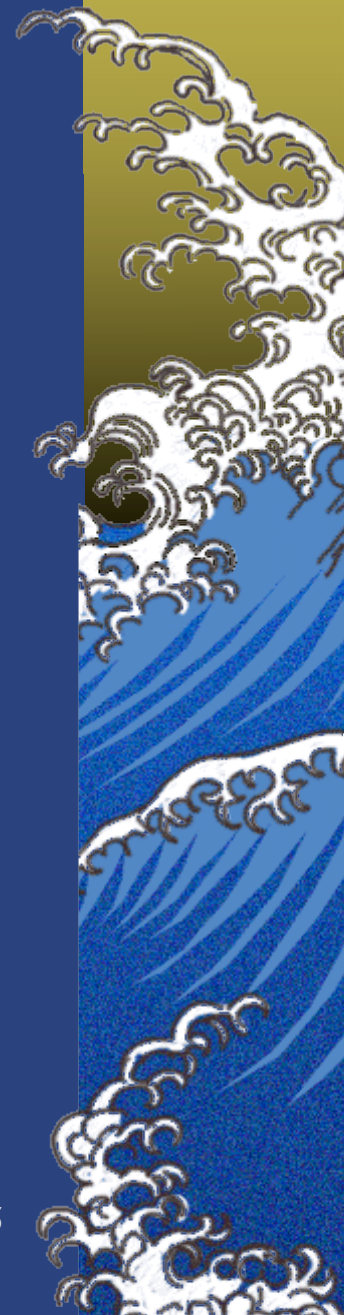
# When will I be cured?

- ▶ That depends entirely upon how quickly you can succeed in changing your entire outlook upon life. It may take weeks or it may take months. Your sincerity and capacity for working with others in the AA program will determine the length of time.



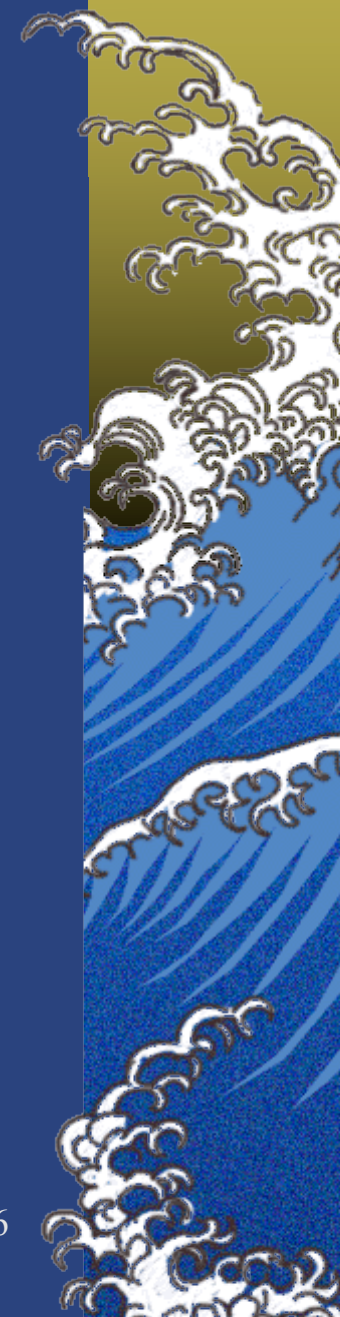
# Alcoholics Anonymous is

- Based on a set of laws known as the Twelve Steps.....those who live up to these rules stay sober.
- Those who gloss over or ignore any one rule are in constant danger of returning to a life of drunkenness.
- Thousands of words could be written on each rule



# What a Sponsor Does

- ▲ Lack of space prevents..... So it is suggested that they be explained by the sponsor. If he cannot explain them he should provide someone who could.



# Tom P. Bill's editor



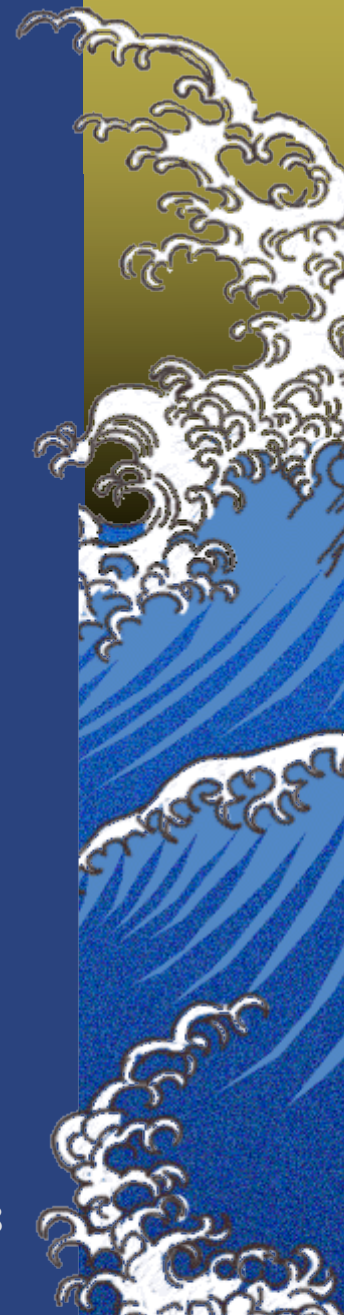
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Why Our Lives Were Saved

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# Gresham's Law in Alcoholic's Anonymous

- ▶ That bad currency tends to drive out good- has been operative in Alcoholics Anonymous. Weak AA is tending to drive out the strong.



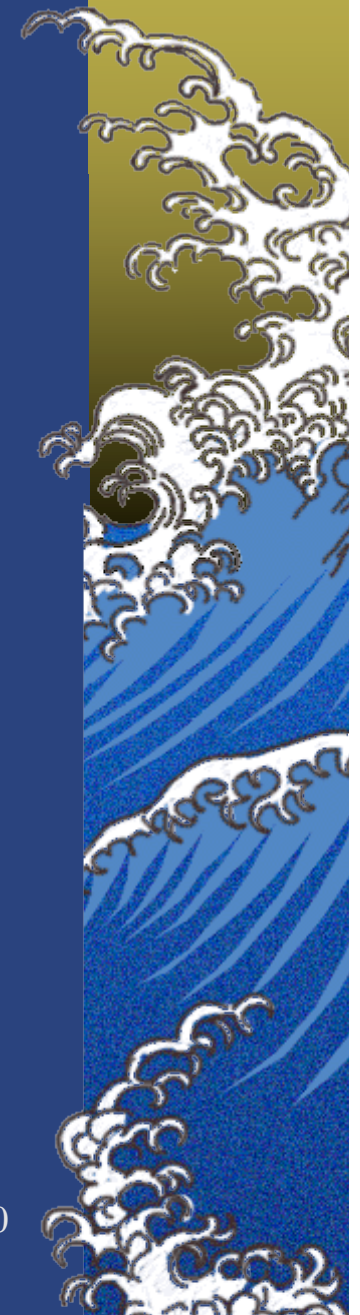
# Three Ways of Working Steps

- ▶ Strong, original way, proved powerfully and reliably effective for over 70 years
- ▶ Medium way, not so strong, not so safe, not so sure, not so good, still effective.
- ▶ Weak way, no way at all but literally a false teaching. A corruption of the stated program.



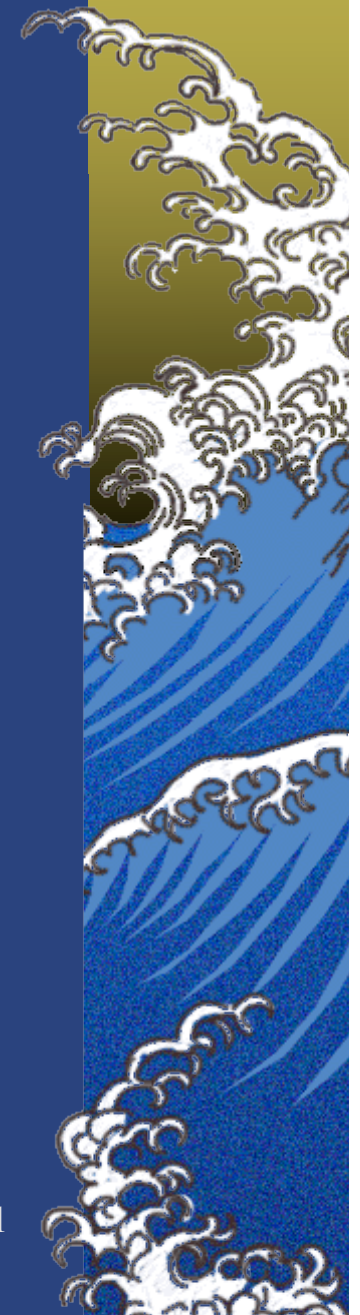
# Strong AA

- ✦ Does all 12 Steps and keeps on taking them
- ✦ Practices rigorous honesty
- ✦ Takes and continues to make restitution
- ✦ Admits faults
- ✦ Prays and meditates daily
- ✦ Goes to two or more AA meetings weekly
- ✦ Actively works the 12<sup>th</sup> Step



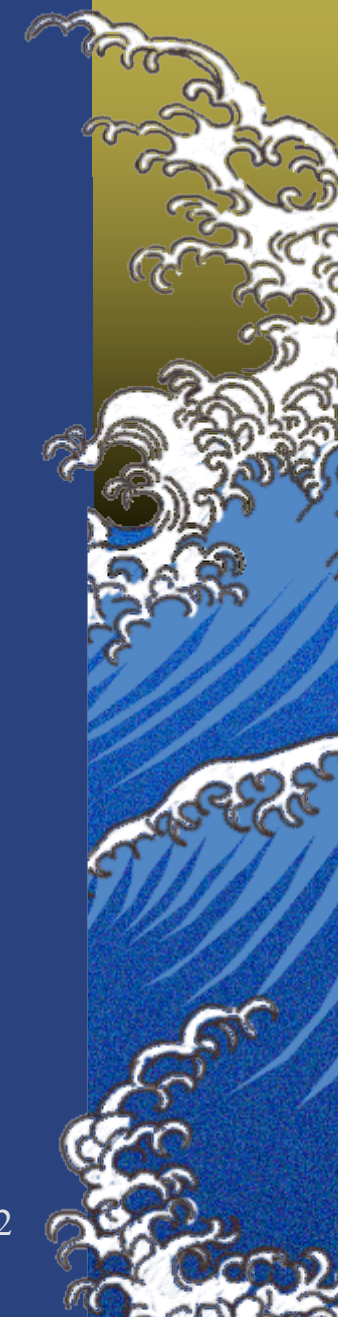
# Medium AA

- ✦ Starts off with a bang, stays sober
- ✦ Procrastinates on parts they don't like  
God steps or inventory steps
- ✦ One meeting a week
- ✦ Less and less self examination
- ✦ No effective sponsorship
- ✦ Service at a group level



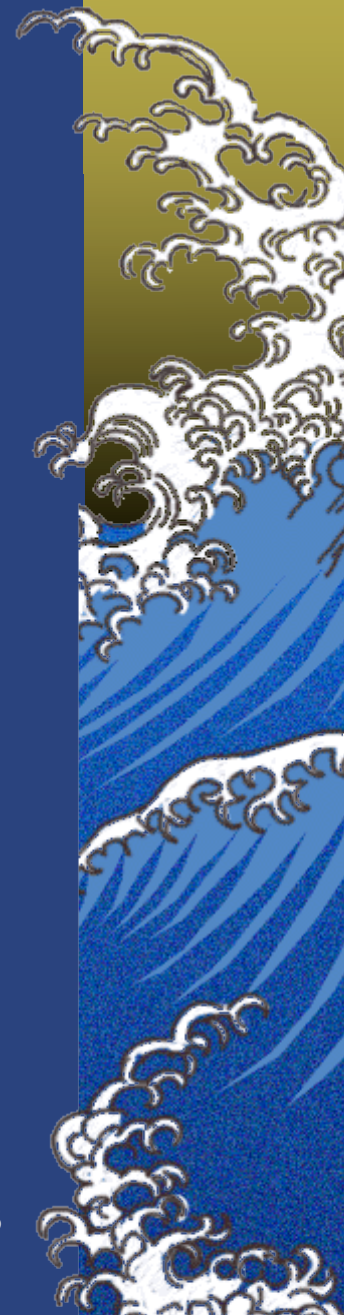
# Weak AA

- ▶ Unlike medium, big chunks left out of program
- ▶ Attends lots of meetings
- ▶ Stays away from the first drink



**If they are sick enough to  
ask you for help.....**

**You can't hurt them**



# The Oxford Group

## ▲ *Soul Surgery, 1932*

*H.A. Walter,*

Following conversion, the new convert must be set to work to win others. He should understand that his prayer and Bible study will ultimately become burdensome. If he regards them only as fundamentally and inevitably the means to his own spiritual empowerment and not to the means of his successfully serving others,

