

Winter 2017

the GABRIEL

The Magazine for Christians in Recovery

In this Issue!

Let God - Article & Chat Discussion

What the church has to learn from Alcoholics Anonymous

Christian Classic - Begin Where You Can

The Gabriel

The Gabriel is a publication of Christians in Recovery® dedicated to the uplifting and inspiration of it's members and friends. It is published 4 times a year, once each quarter.

The Gabriel Staff

Clara T.— Editor

Kim B. — Assistant Editor

Obie — CIR Executive Director

CIR Membership—Contributors

Christians in Recovery®, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. We are a

group of recovering Christians dedicated to personal one-on-one sharing of faith, strength and hope as we live each day in recovery. We work to regain and maintain balance and order in our lives through active discussion of the 12 Steps, the Bible, and experiences in our own recovery from abuse, family dysfunction, depression, anxiety, grief, relationships and/or addictions to alcohol, drugs, food, pornography, sex, etc. CIR is comprised of people like you who become Members and/or Donate. CIR is governed by a Board of Directors that meets on a regular basis.

Our Vision

It is the vision of the Board and Supporting Members of CIR to continue to use the latest technology, in addition to conventional means, to reach those who would normally not seek help-- to catch those who fall through the cracks-- and to further spread Christian hope, healing and fellowship to those in need of recovery. Our vision is to go beyond general recovery assistance by providing comprehensive resources to help people fully discover, explore and magnify all possibilities that God intends for their lives.

Christians in Recovery® is NOT:

- A crises center or hotline
- A substitute for attending church
- A professional therapy group
- A substitute for professional help or assistance
- Geared to any one denomination
- Intended to replace secular recovery groups or meetings
- Intended to replace or undermine any other Christian organization or group.

<http://www.christians-in-recovery.org>

IN JUST A MOMENT

Our lives can change in just a moment. The wrong turn on the highway or in life. We can end up in a strange neighborhood far away from our destination. Our lives have changed in just a moment of time. This issue's editorial is dedicated to two beings that I loved with all my heart... they were oh so different but that didn't change the love I felt for them.

I awoke in the middle of the night to find my little PomChi, Bear, missing from his place next to me in the bed. I still haven't found him and the sorrow Goldie, my other chihuahua, and I feel is hard to describe unless you've been there too. I still hope, but don't expect him to be found. I think Bear went out like he lived... as a little SuperHero protecting me and the house.

The other loss was someone that many of you know as well. It was just as unexpected. Jim Aquila, long-time Co-Editor and friend passed away this fall. He was not able to contribute in the past few years because of declining health but I will continue to miss him and his wisdom. May you be gloriously happy, Jim.

His memoriam as posted on the CIR Forums:

Jim Aquila was the Co-Editor of The Gabriel for many years and wrote a column called "Jim's Table" as well as many Articles for the CIR Website. I just got news from his daughter that he passed away this past week. He has been in decreasing health the past few years. We know that he is safe in the arms of the Lord now and receiving his reward!



Thank you Jim for all you did for CIR and The Gabriel!! We will miss you.

You can read his articles here:

<http://christians-in-recovery.org/search/node/Aquila>

Let us remember in this Winter of 2017 to tell those we love that we love them. For in just a moment of time - they can be gone. I love you. I've never met many, if not most of you. That doesn't change a thing. For as a friend says in every meeting: "If no one told you today that they love you, I do! "

Blessings, ClaraT
Gabriel Editor



The Truth Shall Set You Free

Part 4 of a 10 part series

by Michael the Penguin



John 8:31 is certainly not the only verse where Jesus speaks to what the character of a disciple of His ought to be. He addresses this character in many parts of the Gospels, and the rest of the New Testament "fleshes out" what He taught. Naturally, the character of a Christian is the main "sermon fodder" in our Churches. Much is expected of us. We are saved by the free gift of His grace. We did nothing to earn that grace (Ephesians 2:8,9). But, the next step, which some call sanctification, takes up the rest of our lives.

Jesus tells these new "converts" who believe in Him: "If you continue in My word, then you will be disciples of Mine." (John 8:31)

I looked up the word "continue" in the Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. Some of you know this book. It is on the Internet, I believe. It basically cross references every verse in the Bible. If you go through all of these links, you might discover how the Bible can comment on itself.

Consider one of these links: the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:18-23). My Ryrie Study Bible interprets these four people this way: "there would be four different responses to the Word: no response; emotional response; worldly response and fruitful response." I think that Matthew

8:20-21 is an example of not continuing in the word. A person hears the word and responds to it with great joy (emotion). But, he has no firm root in himself. Soon he falls away. Maybe that could be some of those Jews who came to believe in Jesus: they responded emotionally and it did not "stick." Also see Luke 8:13.



To continue in His word is to abide in His word. Jesus describes Himself as the Vine. We, the branches, abide in Him (John 15:5-7). If we are rooted in Jesus, we will know that His love will fill us (Ephesians 3:17-19). Jesus has caused a reconciliation in our relationship with God if we continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast (Colossians 1:22-23).

We are told in Colossians 2:6,7: "Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude."

In many respects, that verse sums up what is expected of us. Normally we view expectations as "work." This is true here. Sanctification is hard work. It is never an easy path. One reason is that God intervenes in that path with life lessons. It is almost as if "school" is in session in our lives every day. A day that goes by without having learned something is a wasted day, I believe. God would certainly view this to be true in terms of the learning tree called sanctification.

Sometimes people can hear the word but because that hearing was not united in faith by the hearer, it did not profit them (Hebrews 4:2). Perhaps this might describe some of the people Jesus spoke to in John 8:31.

To continue in His word is to live in it, abide in it, imbibe it, seek it, spend time with it, and to let it become us. I firmly believe that when you open His word, you see yourself. I see myself in Adam, Jacob, David, Jonah, and Peter. That is just for starters. Often when I read His word I wonder how the heck He ever knew that was me he was talking about. Reading His word can be pretty disconcerting at times. It forces you to look at yourself.

So, we need to continue in His word, and if we do, we will

continued on next page

become disciples of His, and we will know the truth and the truth will make us free.

So, what is this "truth that will make us free"? This is pretty much going to be the "meat" of what Dr. Stanley taught in that sermon set I mentioned.

But, before I do that, I want to explore, in the fifth installment, my own impressions of His Word -- Scripture.

My name is Michael the Penguin and I am a Christian in recovery.

This series will continue with Part 5 in the next edition of The Gabriel. If you would like to read more on the CIR website see:

http://christians-in-recovery.org/BibleStudies_Truth_The-Truth-Shall-Set-You-Free-4

*Copyright by Christians in Recovery,
All Rights Reserved.*


<http://christians-in-recovery.org/>

*This entire site is protected by
international copyright laws.*

*You may not duplicate any of this
content on other web sites.*

Feel free to LINK to pages on the CIR web site.

[Complete Copyright Information](#)



As some of you are aware, Penguin has been working on a personal Bible Study system ever since he stopped drinking back in 1994. Eighteen years of study have produced a great deal of information and sharing. He is willing to share this with any of you who might be interested. It is now a large file, in toto, 473 MB. It covers all 66 books of the Bible in considerable detail... using many different resources. It might be a good resource for teachers.

If you want a copy please send your snail mail address to this email address: cirpenguin@yahoo.com.

It will be a CD. It would help of you have MS Word on your Computer...or something that would convert. The more recent study effort is in PDF file format.

There is no charge for any of this. It is a personal ministry of CIR's Michael the Penguin.

Thanks Penguin!

Want to find more articles on CIR by Michael or any of the other Gabriel authors? Just do a search of CIR's Archives. Here's how: Go to

www.christians-in-recovery.org.

Using the **Search Site** link, enter the author's name or subject of interest.

Also look for the Daily Articles Link (Free!) at the right side of the CIR Homepage as well as other links on CIR's Facebook Page. Easy!



FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Live Workshops & Discussions

On a regular basis CIR has live workshops with an expert in Christian recovery and/or a published author. The sessions are 1 to 1 1/2 hours long and are held online.

[Workshop Schedule](#)

[Transcripts of Past Workshops](#)



is now on



Post your testimony about CIR on YouTube!

There is an official CIR Youtube page where you can post:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CIRObie>

This really touched my spirit today. I hope it touches yours too. --Sail

And did the Holy and the Just,
The Sovereign of the skies,
Stoop down to wretchedness and dust,
That guilty worms might rise?

Yes, the Redeemer left His throne,
His radiant throne on high,
(Surprising mercy! love unknown!)
To suffer, bleed, and die!
He took the dying traitor's place,

And suffered in his stead;
For man (O miracle of grace!)
For man the Savior bled!

Dear Lord, what heavenly wonders dwell
In Your atoning blood!
By this are sinners snatched from Hell,
And rebels brought to God!

What glad return can I impart
For favors so divine?
O take my all, this worthless heart,
And make it wholly Thine!

Anne Steele, 1859

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"
2 Corinthians 9:15



The Creator has a sense of humor also!

Creation Corner



Watercolor by "Molly" (friend of Clara's);
Bookmark by Clara

SOUL LAND

We must notice
When the things
We say are
Not what you do.
Integrity means,
To thine own
Spirit be true.

For as above
Is so below,
There is no place
Else to go.
I don't know,
How I know,
But I know...

...We're supposed
To mean something.

If the boundaries
Seem unclear
Un-real or muddy,
Experiment with
Not owning a
Physical body.

Every moment is
An anniversary
Of the previous;
So, should give up
Being mischievous;
In human
interactions,
Elicit the retirement
Of unhelpful
reactions.

Not to hide;
Simply to retire
And to turn aside,
From being mean,
To see, without
Being seen.

Until the self
Disowns itself,
Must give nothing
Negative away,
For demons to prey.

But keep that door
Firmly shut,
Padlocking the lot,
Like ideas left behind
For the punch line
And cellars stored
Full, with maturing
Red wine...

Against,
Stormy weather,
Let's all simply
Be unique together.
Until we realize
That we are really
All the same,
And no one person
Is entirely to blame.

Poetry by Rev.Bola
Copyright 30.Jan.2017

**Thinking about MLK
by RoadRunner**

a single drop of water
multiplied
is a trickle
a brook
a pond
an ocean

a solitary photon
multiplied
is a twinkle
a rainbow
dawn
scorching heat

the tiniest idea
multiplied
is an inkling
a thought
a conviction
a cause
a movement

all three
from inauspicious beginnings
can change the landscape

*"Any patch of sunlight in a wood
will show you something about the
sun which you could never get
from reading books on astronomy.
These pure and spontaneous
pleasures are 'patches of Godlight'
in the woods of our experience."*

*White as Snow
by RoadRunner*

*If you live in Antarctica
Freezing is part of your
Penguiny, polar bear scene,*

*And odds are quite likely,
While snoozing there nightly,
White Christmas will not
be your dream.*

*If found on Sahara
Where sand and bright
Glare of the Sun are
Your only surround,*

*Logic would tell us
And camels embellish
That sleigh bells will never
resound.*

*What color your Christmas,
Green, brown or bisque-ness,
Really, who cares what the
tint,*

*While long winter napping
Rest deep in your trappings
Once crimson... 'til Savior was
sent.*

CIR NEWS

Archives of Past Issues

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you benefit from the work the ministry of CIR, [please donate today](#)

ANSWERS

- [Addiction: Hope, Anger & Courage](#)
- [Are You a Slave of Fear?](#)
- [17 Ways To Wear Yourself Out](#)

TIP FOR SUPPORTING MEMBERS

Our Audio and Video meetings have been updated:

New phone number and access code.
FREE calling from 58 different countries.
Please go [here](#) to learn more.

Not a CIR member yet? [Learn the Benefits of Membership](#) Join us: [Click Here](#)

HELP FOR RECOVERY

Do you want to do something really good for yourself in 2017?

CIR meetings help you on your recovery journey. Release pent up stress in a safe and confidential environment. Unburden yourself and learn new strategies for solving issues in life. Reduce negative thinking, which is a good way to avoid relapsing.

You don't have to face recovery alone. Please come and join us. [Click Here for the schedule](#) so you can pick the meeting(s) that suit your individual needs.

TOOLS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE **QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

- [Sobriety Calculator](#)
Calculate how many days, hours and minutes you have been in recovery.
- [A Prayer for the New Year](#)

WISDOM FROM A CIR MEMBER

God has been gracious to give me his mercy and merciful to give me his grace. ~Bob

FOUND ON THE NET

- [FREE, Excellent Videos produced by Grace Gems](#)
- [Are You Helping or Enabling the Alcoholic in Your Life?](#)

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- [Letting God](#)
- [Whose Are We?](#)
- [What Do You Want To Do With Your Addiction?](#)

RECOVERY EVENTS, COURSES & CONFERENCES

- **[Become a Professional Recovery Coach](#)**
RISE is the Premier Online Certificate Program for Professional Addiction Recovery Coaching. A 90 hour, self-paced, online training program. You will be certified to provide Professional Recovery & Life Coach Services.
- **[NET Institute Center for Addiction Recovery & Education](#)**
Certified online courses and training DVDs. Get certified to help others.
[Complete Course Listing](#)
Courses for: Support Group Leaders, Addiction Counselors, People in Recovery, Recovery Coaches, Pastoral & Ministry Leaders, Outreach Workers. All courses include CEUs for PRE & RE certification. Recognized by leading 1C&RC and NAADAC certification boards.

- **City Vision College**
Get accredited bachelor's degrees in Urban Missions and/or Addiction Studies.

[Enroll Now](#) || [Download Course Catalog](#)

City Vision University has just launched our new Business program, which is the Most Affordable Online Christian Business Degree in America. This program is available as:

- Course 306 - Manage Residential Recovery Prog.
- Course 401 - Counseling in the City
- Course 412 - Counseling Foundations
- Course 417 - Group Counseling Practices
- Course 419 - Family Issues and Recovery

Students can choose concentrations in

- Technology & Entrepreneurship,
- Nonprofit Management,
- Accounting & Operations, and
- General Management.

Tuition is only \$6,000/year. Qualifying students can get their tuition fully covered by Pell grants. Students may also use Federal loans or GI Bill benefits. 40% discount to students in developing countries, a 25% discount to military/veterans, and a 40% discount to ministry interns.

Contact: City Vision University
3101 Troost Ave. Suite 200
Kansas City MO 64109-1845
816-960-2008
<http://web.cityvision.edu/>

To find out more, please call us at +1-816-960-2008 or visit <http://web.cityvision.edu/business-degree-program-online-bachelors/>

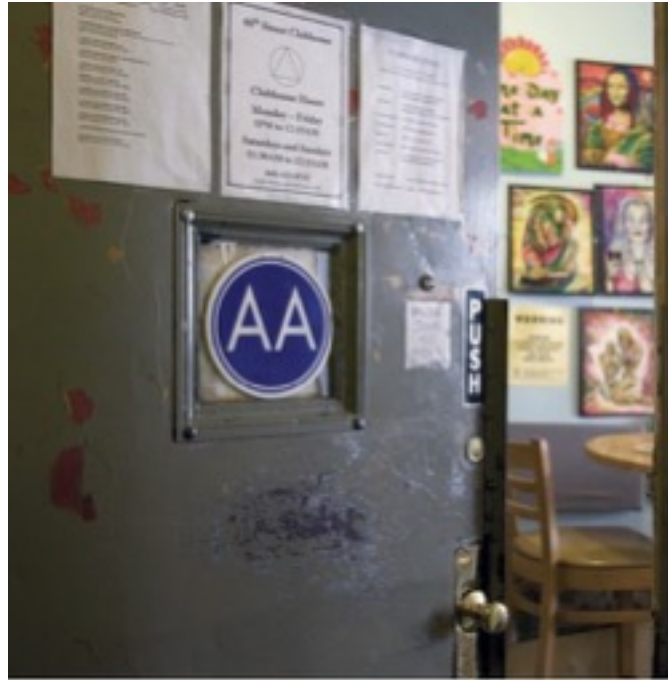


What The Church Has To Learn From Alcoholics Anonymous

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.. I Corinthians 1:26

During the weekend of the Fourth of July last, I attended one of the most remarkable conventions I ever expect to attend. It was a gathering in St. Louis of about five thousand members of the movement called Alcoholics Anonymous. The occasion was the celebration of their twentieth anniversary, and the turning over freely and voluntarily of the management and destiny of that great movement by the founders and "old timers" to a board which represents the fellowship as a whole.



As I lived and moved among these men and women for three days, I was moved as I have seldom been moved in my life. It happens that I have watched the unfolding of this movement with more than usual interest, for its real founder and guiding spirit, Bill found his initial spiritual answer at Calvary Church in New York, when I was rector there in 1935. Having met two men unmistakable alcoholics, who had found release from their difficulty, he was moved to seek out the same answer for himself. But he went further. Being of a foraging and inquiring mind, he began to think there was some general law operating here, which could be made to work, not in two men's lives only, but in two thousand or two million. He set to work to find out what it was. He consulted psychiatrists, doctors, clergy, and recovered alcoholics to discover what it was.

The First Alcoholics Anonymous Group

The first actual group was not in New York, but in Akron, Ohio. Bill was spending a weekend there in a hotel. The crowd was moving towards the bar. He

was lonely and felt danger assailing him. He consulted the church directory in the hotel lobby and found the name of a local clergyman and his church. He called him on the telephone and said, "I am an alcoholic down here at the hotel. The going is a little hard just now. Have you anybody you think I might meet and talk to?" He gave him the name of a woman who belonged to one of the great tire manufacturing families. He called her, she invited him out at once and said she had a man she wanted to have

meet him while he was on his way, she called Dr. Bob S. and his wife, Anne. Dr. Bob said he'd give her five minutes. He stayed five hours and told Bill, "You're the only man I've ever seen with the answer to alcoholism." They invited Bill over from the hotel to stay at their house. And there was begun, twenty years ago, the first actual Alcoholics Anonymous group.

The number of them now is beyond count. Some say there are 160,000 to 200,000 recovered alcoholics, but nobody knows how many extend beyond this into the fringes of the unknown. They say that each alcoholic holds within the orbit of his problem an average of fourteen persons who are affected by it. This means that conservatively two and a half million people's lives are different because of the existence of Alcoholics Anonymous. There is hardly a city or town or even hamlet now where you cannot find a group, strong and well-knit, or struggling in its infancy. Prof. Austin MacCormick of Berkeley, California, former Commissioner of

continued on next page

(Church & AA continued)

Correction in the city of New York, who was also with us at the St. Louis Convention said once in my hearing that AA may "prove to be one of the greatest movements of all time." That was years ago. Subsequent facts support his prophecy.

On the Sunday morning of the convention, I was asked to talk to them, together with Fr. Edward Dowling S.J., a wonderful Roman Catholic priest who has done notable service for AA in interpreting it to his people, and Dr. Jim S., a most remarkable colored physician of Washington, on the spiritual aspects of the AA program. They are very generous to non-alcoholics, but I should have preferred that it be a bona fide alcoholic that did the speaking.

In the course of what I said to them, I remarked that I thought it had been wise for AA to confine its activity to alcoholics. But, I added, "I think we may see an effect of AA on medicine, on psychiatry, on correction, on the ever-present problem of human nature; and not least on the Church. AA indirectly derived much of its inspiration from the Church. Now perhaps the time has come for the church to be re-awakened and re-vitalized by those insights and practices found in AA."

The Church ... Re-awakened and Re-vitalized

I think some of you may be a little horrified at this suggestion. I fear you will be saying to yourself, "What have we, who have always been decent people, to learn from a lot of reconstructed drunks?" And perhaps you may thereby reveal to yourself how very far you are from the spirit of Christ and the Gospel, and how very much in need of precisely the kind of check-up that may come to us from AA.

If I need a text for what I say to you, there is one ready to hand in I Corinthians 1:26, "... God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise. God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong." I need not remind you that there is a good deal of sarcasm in that verse; because it must be evident that anything God can use is neither foolish nor weak, and that if we consider ourselves wise and strong, we may need to go to school to (learn from) those we have called foolish and weak.

1. Recognition of Need

The first thing I think the Church needs to learn from AA is that nobody gets anywhere till he recognizes a clearly-defined need. These people do not come to AA to get made a little better. They do not come because the best people are doing it. They come

because they are desperate. They are not ladies and gentlemen looking for a religion, they are utterly desperate men and women in search of redemption. Without what AA gives, death stares them in the face. With what AA gives them, there is life and hope. There are not a dozen ways, there are not two ways, there is one way; and they find it, or perish. AA's each and all have a definite, desperate need. They have the need, and they are ready to tell somebody what it is if they see the least chance that it can be met.

Is there anything as definite for you or me, who may happen not to be alcoholics? If there is, I am sure that it lies in the realm of our conscious withholding of the truth about ourselves from God and from one another by pretending that we are already good Christians. Let me here quote a member of AA who has written a most amazing book: his name is Jerome Ellison, and the book is "Report to the Creator". In this (p .210) he says,

The relief of being accepted can never be known by one who never thought himself unaccepted. I hear of 'good Christian men and women' belonging to 'fine old church families.' There were no good Christians in the first church, only sinners. Peter never let himself or his hearers forget his betrayal in the hour the cock crowed. James, stung by the memory of his years of stubborn resistance, warned the church members: 'Confess your faults to one another.' That was before there were fine old church families. Today, the last place where one can be candid about one's faults is in church. In a bar, yes; in a church, no. I know; I've tried both places.

Let that sting you and me just as it should, and make us miserable with our church Pharisaism till we see it is just as definite and just as hideous as anybody's drunkenness can ever be, and a great deal more really dangerous.

2. Redeemed in Life-Changing Fellowship

The second thing the Church needs to learn from AA is that men are redeemed in a life changing fellowship. AA does not expect to let anybody who comes in stay as he is. They know he is in need and must have help. They live for nothing else but to extend and keep extending that help. Like the Church, they did not begin in glorious Gothic structures, but in houses or caves in the earth, wherever they could get a foot-hold, meet people, and gather. It never occurs to an AA that it is enough for him to sit down and polish his spiritual nails all by himself, or dust off his soul all by himself, or spend a

continued on next page

(Church & AA continued)

couple of minutes praying each day all by himself. His soul gets kept in order by trying to help other people get their souls in order with the help of God. At once a new person takes his place in this redeeming, life-changing fellowship. He may be changed today and out working tomorrow. No long, senseless delays about giving away what he has got. He's ready to give the little he has the moment it comes to him. The fellowship that redeemed him will wither and die unless he and others like him get in and keep that fellowship moving and growing by reaching others. Recently I heard an AA say that he could stay away from his Veteran's meeting, his Legion, or his Church, and nobody would notice it. But if he stayed away from his AA meeting, his telephone would begin to ring the next day.

"A life-changing fellowship" sounds like a description of the Church. It is of the ideal Church. But the actual? Not one in a hundred is like this. The laymen say this is the minister's job, and the ministers say it is the evangelist's job, and everybody finds a rationalized excuse for not doing what every Christian ought to be doing, i.e. bringing other people into the redeeming, life-changing fellowship.

3. Definite Personal Dealing with People

The third thing the Church needs to learn from AA is the necessity for definite personal dealing with people. AA's know all the stock excuses - they've used them themselves and heard them a hundred times. All the blame put on someone else - my temperament is different - I've tried it and it doesn't work for me - I'm not really so bad, I just slip a little sometimes. They've heard them all and know them for the rationalized pack of lies they are. They constitute, taken together, the Gospel of Hell and Failure. I've heard them laboring with one another, now patient as a mother, now savage as a prizefighter, now careful in explanation, now pounding in a heavy personal challenge, but always knowing the desperate need and the sure answer.

Are we in the Church like that? Have you ever been drastically dealt with by anybody? Have you ever dared to be drastic in love with anybody? We are so official, so polite, so ready to accept ourselves and each other at face value. I went for years before ever I met a man that dared get at my real needs, create a situation in which I could be honest with him, and hold me to a specific Christian commitment and decision. One can find kindness and even good advice in the Church. That is not all men need. They need to be helped to face themselves as they really are. The AA people see themselves just as they are.

I think many of us in the Church see ourselves as we should like to appear to others, not as we are before God. We need drastic personal dealing and challenge. Who is ready and trained to give it to us? How many of us have ever taken a "fearless moral inventory" of ourselves, and dared make the depth of our need known to any other human being? This gets at the pride which is the hindrance and sticking-point for so many of us, and which, for most of us in the Church, has never even been recognized, let alone faced or dealt with.

4. Necessity for a Real Change of Heart

The fourth thing the Church needs to learn from AA is the necessity for a real change of heart, a true conversion. As we come Sunday after Sunday, year after year, we are supposed to be in a process of transformation. Are we? The AA's are. At each meeting there are people seeking and in conscious need. Everybody is pulling for the people who speak, and looking for more insight and help. They are pushed by their need. They are pulled by the inspiration of others who are growing. They are a society of the "before and after," with a clear line between the old life and the new. This is not the difference between sinfulness and perfection, but it is the difference between accepted wrongdoing and the genuine beginning of a new way of life.

How about us? Again, I quote Jerome Ellison, in his "Report to God" (p .205): "...I began to see that many of the parishioners did not really want to find You, because finding You would change them from their habitual ways, and they did not want to endure the pain of change... For our churchman-like crimes of bland, impenetrable pose, I offer shame..." I suppose that the sheer visibility of the alcoholic problem creates a kind of enforced honesty; but surely if we are exposed again and again to God, to Christ, to the Cross, there should be a breaking down of our pride and unwillingness to change. We should know by now that this unwillingness, multiplied by thousands and tens of thousands, is what is the matter with the Church, and what keeps it from being what God means it to be on earth. The change must begin somewhere. We know it ought to begin in us.

One of the greatest things the Church should learn from AA is the need people have for an exposure to living Christian experience. In thousands of places, alcoholics (and others) can go and hear recovered alcoholics speak about their experiences and watch the process of new life and outlook take place

continued on next page

(Church & AA continued)

before their eyes. There you have it, the need and the answer to the need, right before your eyes. They say that their public relations are based, not on promotion, but on attraction. This attraction begins when you see people with problems like your own, hear them speaking freely of the answers they are finding, and realize that such honesty and such change is exactly what you need yourself.

No ordinary service of worship in the Church can possibly do this. We need to supplement what we do now by the establishment of informal companies where people who are spiritually seeking can see how faith takes hold in other lives, how the characteristically Christian experience comes to them. Some churches are doing this, but not nearly enough of them. One I know where on Sunday evenings laymen and women speak simply about what has happened to them spiritually; it is drawing many more by attraction. This needs to be multiplied by the tens of thousands, and the Church itself awakened.

As I looked out over that crowd of five thousand in Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis, I said to myself, "Would that the Church were like this - ordinary men and women with great need who have found a great Answer, and do not hesitate to make it known wherever they can - a trained army of enthusiastic, humble, human workers whose efforts make life a different thing for other people!"

Let us ask God to forgive our blindness and laziness and complacency, and through these re-made people to learn our need for honesty, for conversion, for fellowship and for honest witness!

From a speech given by Rev. Shoemaker at the 20th anniversary convention of A.A. in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Reverend Samuel M. Shoemaker, Rector of Calvary Church and spiritual leader of the Oxford Group, provided the early inspiration for the spiritual aspects of twelve-step programs.

~ * ~

Copyright by Christians in Recovery,
All Rights Reserved.

<http://christians-in-recovery.org/>

This entire site is protected by
international copyright laws.

You may not duplicate any of this content
on other web sites.

Feel free to [link to pages](#) on the CIR web site.
[Complete Copyright Information](#)

NEED AN EMAIL MEETING?

For those who have crazy schedules but still need the support and encouragement of a meeting, you now have the option of using the CIR Email Meeting. Email and the CIR Message Boards will be employed for the discussion.

This is how it works:

Once per week a topic will be posted on the Message Boards **and** emailed to you. When someone replies, you will be sent an email and you can post back using the CIR Message Boards with your own thoughts. Your thoughts will in turn be emailed to everyone in the group.

What you need to do:

1) In the menu near the top of the FORUMS page follow these directions:
Control Panel | Forum List | My Stuff | User List
| Calendar | Active Topics | Search | Forum Help

Click on "My Stuff" > "Edit Preferences"
Scroll down the page and make sure the settings are as follows:

- Accept private messages from other users?
- **Yes**
- By default should anything added to your Watch Lists be emailed to you?
- **Yes**
- Do you want to be notified via email when you receive a private message?
- **Yes**

2) In the menu bar below the one you just used:
***New Topic | Forum Options

Click on "Forum Options" > "Add Forum to Watched Forums"

If you want to leave the meeting, remove it from your Watched List.

If you have questions or need assistance
[Contact Us.](#)



SereneScene

Magazine for Long-Term Healthy Lifestyles of Recovery

FREE Subscription

SereneSceneMagazine.com/subscribe

A monthly magazine
dedicated to those
helping people to help
themselves to a better
quality of life.

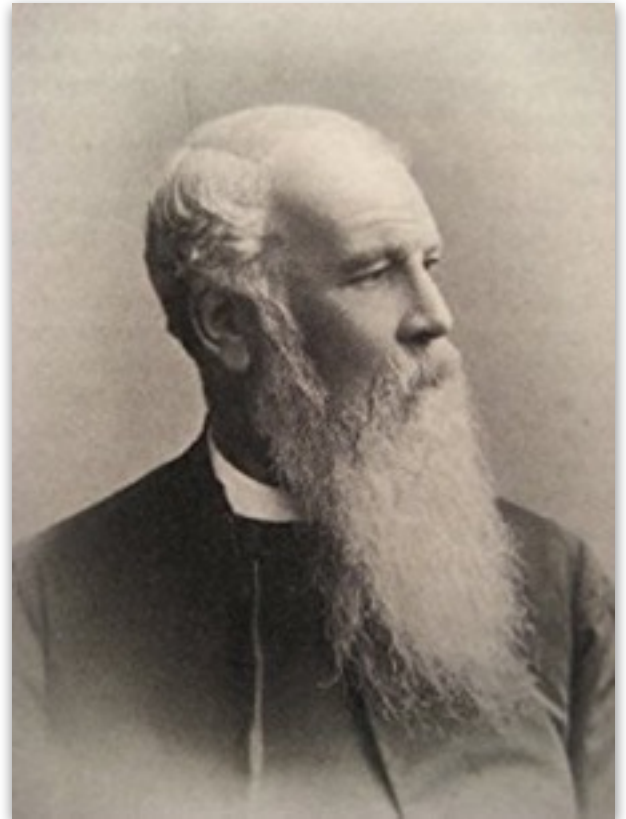
SereneSceneMagazine.com

A CALL TO PRAYER

by J.C. Ryle (1816-1900)

Contents

1. Prayer is Needful to a Man's Salvation
2. The Habit of Prayer: Mark of a True Christian
3. Prayer: The Most Neglected Duty
4. Prayer Produces Great Encouragement
5. Diligence in Prayer: The Secret of Holiness
6. Prayer and Backsliding
7. Prayer and Contentment
8. Advice to the Unsaved
9. Counsel to the Saints



In this issue we begin a new series. We will be publishing 1-2 Chapters each issue from the Christian Classic, A Call To Prayer by J.C. Ryle. We encourage feedback from our members, either directly or via the Forum pages sharing your thoughts about this book. ClaraT (ed)

The series begins on next page with

Chapter 1: Prayer is Needful to a Man's Salvation

A CALL TO PRAYER

"I will that men pray everywhere." —1 Timothy 2:1

1. Prayer is Needful to a Man's Salvation

I have a question to offer you. It is contained in three words: Do you pray?

The question is one that none but you can answer. Whether you attend public worship or not, your minister knows. Whether you have family prayers in your house or not, your relations know. But whether you pray in private or not, is a matter between yourself and God.

I beseech you in all affection to attend to the subject I bring before you. Do not say that my question is too close. If your heart is right in the sight of God, there is nothing in it to make you afraid. Do not turn off my question by replying that you say your prayers. It is one thing to say your prayers and another to pray. Do not tell me that my question is unnecessary. Listen to me for a few minutes, and I will show you good reasons for asking it.

Needful for salvation

I ask whether you pray, because prayer is absolutely needful to a man's salvation.

I say, absolutely needful, and I say so advisedly. I am not speaking now of infants or idiots. I am not settling the state of the heathen. I know that where little is given, there little will be required. I speak especially of those who call themselves Christians, in a land like our own. And of such I say, no man or woman can expect to be saved who does not pray.

I hold salvation by grace as strongly as any one. I would gladly offer a free and full pardon to the greatest sinner that ever lived. I would not hesitate to

stand by his dying bed and say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ even now, and you shall be saved." But that a man can have salvation without asking for it, I cannot see in the Bible. That a man will receive pardon of his sins, who will not so much as lift up his heart inwardly, and say, "Lord Jesus, give it to me," this I cannot find. I can find that nobody will be saved by his prayers, but I cannot find that without prayer anybody will be saved.

It is not absolutely needful to salvation that a man should read the Bible. A man may have no learning, or be blind, and yet have Christ in his heart. It is not absolutely needful that a man should hear public preaching of the gospel. He may live where the gospel is not preached, or he may be bedridden, or deaf. But the same thing cannot be said about prayer. It is absolutely needful to salvation that a man should pray.



Personal responsibility

There is no royal road either to health or learning. Princes and kings, poor men and peasants, all alike must attend to the wants of their own bodies and their own minds. No man can eat, drink, or sleep by proxy. No man can get the alphabet learned for him by another. All these are things which a person must do for himself, or they will not be done at all.

Just as it is with the mind and body, so it is with the soul. There are certain things absolutely needful to the soul's health and well-being. Each must attend to these things for himself. Each must repent for himself. Each must apply to Christ for himself. And for himself each must speak to God and pray. You must do it for yourself, for by nobody else can it be done.

To be prayerless is to be without God, without Christ, without grace, without hope, and without heaven. It is to be on the road to hell. Now can you wonder that I ask the question, Do you pray?



Official Alcoholics Victorious Headquarters Website
Serving Your Needs for 64 Years!

Founded in 1948, Alcoholics Victorious support groups offer a safe environment where recovering people who recognize Jesus Christ as their "Higher Power" gather together and share their experience, strength and hope. AV meetings use both the [12 Steps](#) and the [Alcoholics Victorious Creed](#).

[Find an AV Group](#)

[Alcoholics Victorious FAQ](#)

[Doctrinal Statement](#)

[Suggested Reading](#)

[Christian Recovery FAQ](#)

[Daily Blog](#) |

[Daily Article](#)
by Christians in Recovery

[Philosophy of Addiction](#)

[See Our Video!](#)

[Start an AV Group
\(Info & Application\)](#)

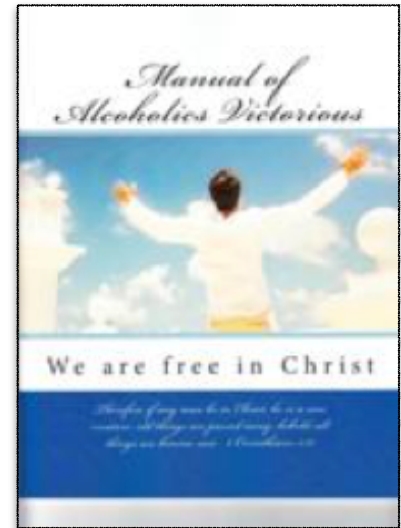
[Group Materials Order Form](#)
see: [Manual](#), [Chips](#), [Key Rings](#),
[Pins](#)
["Alcoholic Victorious" by Jerry Dunn](#)

[Recovery Library](#)

[About Support Groups](#)

[Bible Verses for Recovery](#)

[Subscribe to Recovery
News](#)



[Alcoholics Victorious](#) is a program of Christians in Recovery. Founded in 1948, Alcoholics Victorious support groups offer a safe environment for people recovering from the effects of alcoholism or drug addiction. We recognize Jesus Christ as our "Higher Power" and gather together to share our experience, faith, strength and hope. AV meetings use the 12 Steps, the Bible and the Alcoholics Victorious Creed.



 [Find a local group.](#)

 [How to Start a Group](#)

ARTICLES!

 [Beyond Victimization -
Adult Children](#)

 [Quick Fixes](#)



a program of
Christians in Recovery
<http://christians-in-recovery.org>



PLACE YOUR OWN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE GABRIEL!!

Click [here](#) for more info



Begin Where You Can

*"I am God Almighty; walk before Me
and be perfect." Genesis 17:1*



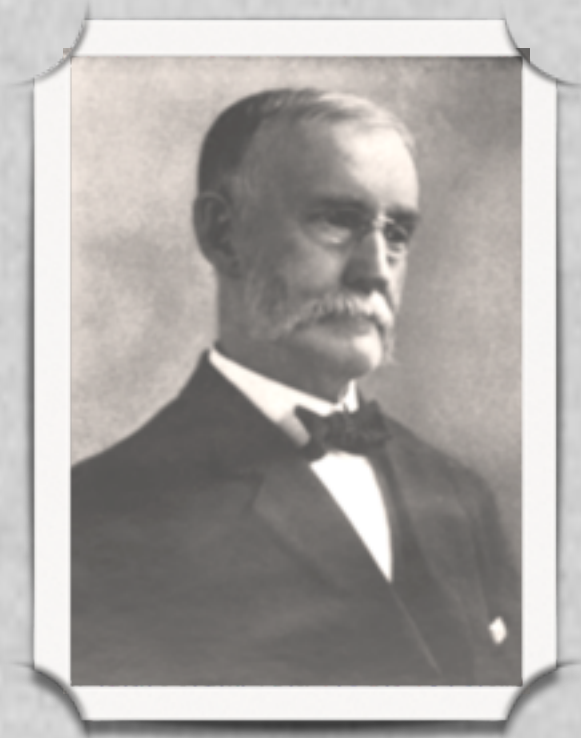
"Perfection is impossible!" we are in the habit of saying; and therefore we do not try to reach perfection. But it is better for us always to keep our aim high, although we cannot hope to reach it. If we have low ideals and aims--our attainments will be low. We cannot look with approval upon anything lower than the perfect beauty of God Himself--and not have the beauty of our own life dimmed thereby. We should always keep perfection before us--as our aim. We should keep our eyes ever fixed upon the perfect model, Jesus Christ!

He Himself taught, "Be perfect, therefore--as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:48. We are always to seek to model our life upon the divine pattern. Of course we cannot reach this lofty standard in a day--but the way to Christlikeness, is to strive

toward it.

When a child begins to write, his scrawling lines fall far short of the beauty of the original at the top of the page. Book after book he fills with his scribble--but if he is diligent, each new page shows a little improvement, and by and by--his writing rivals the original. We can learn to live holy and sweetly, only in the same way. Begin where you can, no matter how imperfect or faulty your life--but strive always toward perfection, and at last you shall be like Christ! That is the hope which shines before us: when we shall see Him as He is--and shall be like Him!

from (J. R. Miller, "Miller's Year Book--a Year's Daily Readings")



James Russell Miller (March 20, 1840 – July 2, 1912)
was a popular and prolific Christian author.



Self-helpSoftware.com

Give the gift of recovery

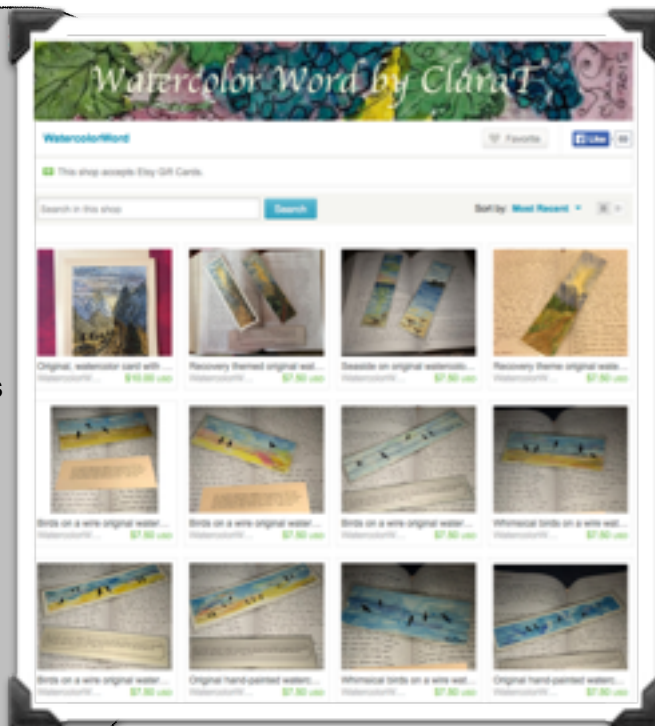
Many of the images used in this issue, including the cover art, are available as hand-painted, watercolor bookmarks and cards. ClaraT also welcomes suggestions and commissioned items.

Send your favorite Bible verse or quote with an idea of the design and she will attempt it!

They make wonderful gifts for sponsors, sponsees and special friends in recovery. Surprise someone you love with a special bookmark with scripture on the back or a framable watercolor card.

To see more just go to:

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/WatercolorWord>



Christians in Recovery® is a group of men and women who are dedicated to personal one-on-one sharing of faith, strength and hope as we live each day in recovery. We work to regain and maintain balance and order in our lives through active discussion of the 12 Steps, the Bible, and experiences in our own recovery from abuse, family dysfunction, depression, anxiety, grief, relationships and/or addictions to alcohol, drugs, food, pornography, sex, etc. CIR is comprised of people just like you who become Members and/or Donate Christians in Recovery® is a program of TechMission

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors that meets on a regular basis. CIR does not receive any funding from TechMission. Donations given go directly to CIR and they are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

It is an honor for us to be able to show you that we are good stewards with the funds that God, through you, has provided to this ministry. We work continually to function with transparency, accountability and excellence. We are excited by the continual growth we are seeing throughout the ministry of CIR. Without your partnership, participation and prayers none of this would be possible.

For more information click the "How We Serve" link on the About CIR tab on the CIR Website.

"Letting Go" is another wonderful article from the CIR Articles Database. This issue we have added an extra feature. On the following page are excerpts from one of our Chat Meetings which used this text as a topic. Be sure to check out both!

Letting God testifies to the release of tension, the surrender to trust, and being at ease instead of in "dis-ease." What is offered in each day's meditation is relaxation and peace in Christ. You will be called to turn over control of your steering wheel. You will be urged to relax your power and control and open your door to the priceless gift of serenity in our Lord and Savior. You will be presented with scripture, stories, short essays, and even humor as ways to let God take over.

I have learned in forty years of experience with alcoholics and other addicts, that living the Gospel truth AND Twelve-Step recovery creates a hallowed and holy life. This holiness is not sainthood but a serene state of being, achieved as we cease our striving, halt our stressful efforts, and fall into the arms of our Higher Power, Jesus Christ.

"Letting God" is the key to most all experiences of sacredness and spirituality. The surrender to the divine within and without, the acknowledgment of the humanity of the Holy and the holiness of the human is to "Let go and let God." As we allow God to be God, without trying to fix or manipulate his reality in heaven or earth, we welcome his healing love. We let love flow. We use no force, no struggle, no strain, no competition, no trying harder, no willpower. We admit and accept our weakness and God's strength. If we do not make this unconditional surrender to God, our own spirituality will lie dormant and lifeless. Our "selfish will" becomes our god, and we run rampant toward our own self-destruction, screaming to the end, "I can do it myself!"

But when we take that first step of surrender and admit our out-of-control powerlessness, we become open to God's own miracle in Christ. We learn how wonderful and blessed it is to receive and accept, to be vulnerable and defenseless before God. To become like softly turned soil, like good yielding dirt ready for the seed of life, is to encourage recovery to take root. We stop declaring our own independence. We become like little children; we abandon our own unmanageable control and allow love to manage and control us. When we let go and



let God, we give up our natural compulsion for power, to be right, to be managing directors, to be our own masters. We release the hurt little inner child deep within each of us, starving for affection and attention, and collapse into the everlasting arms of our Savior.

I believe firmly that by surrendering to God as he is known in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and at the same time surrendering to Twelve-Step recovery, we surrender to the same healing love of God. A Christian and a person in recovery are not in conflict; they are companions and friends. A recovering Christian works a program and lives a faith that produces and glorifies the same God of faith, hope and love. Going to meetings and going to church are the same pilgrim's road. When we "let God" we are already walking the "King's highway." As Christians, we know that such surrender is frightening as "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31) But it is only "into his hands we commit our spirits" (Luke 23:46) that we may live. Recovery and salvation are the same. Our life depends on God. May these pages draw you even closer to this truth.

Copyright by Rev. Dr. A. Philip Parham
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.



A. Philip Parham, is an Episcopal priest and counselor who serves on the board of directors of the National Episcopal Coalition on Alcohol. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

CHAT TOPIC: LETTING GOD

I have learned in forty years of experience with alcoholics and other addicts, that living the Gospel truth AND Twelve-Step recovery creates a hallowed and holy life. This holiness is not sainthood but a serene state of being, achieved as we cease our striving, halt our stressful efforts, and fall into the arms of our Higher Power, Jesus Christ.

VERSE: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest". Matthew 11:28

1. How do you know when you have surrendered?
2. Why is it so hard to do?
3. What kind of things do you hold on to that keep your self-will resisting?

Four Member's Shares

MEMBER #1: Okay... what particularly intrigued me about this was the questions...we've talked about surrender. Letting Go... a LOT in these chat rooms...but I can't remember so much talking about why it's so hard to do.// Why do we forget? What are the things that I'm holding on to that keep me from surrendering...keep me thinking I can control it.

Well...forgetting... that's something I don't control or do I?

Only by keeping my focus on Jesus and His Will do I not forget...

but the last one is what KEEPS me from focusing...the things I hold on to. What are they?

What others think of me that's a biggie; somehow I have it in my head that that's not part of God's purveyance. Like all the other stuff is but that one just has to do with "ME"

Also... the righteousness thing -

doing it right - which in my means doing it perfectly....which has nothing at all to do with God's will....

What is the saying?

**How do you avoid doing wrong?

**Experience

**How do you get experience?

**By doing wrong.

...something like that. the ego wants to be the perfect little baby doll without ever going through the hard part.

MEMBER #2: Maybe its according to the 12 steps if we have a dirty conscience we'll not allow the light of the spirit through that lens so repentance which is not something we can do either would be necessary and self examination prior to that but what comes in the way of so living out the 12 steps too also facing the harm I've done to others gets my

conscience clearer and Im more likely to want to be in the state of mind for God to be able to work with me to maybe in the cloudiness of sin either done privately or to other people. I can't be in a place for God to will in me, I need to surrender to change but he has to do it.

MEMBER #3: Even with praying, and understanding, and begging God, and berating myself - And others berating me - Were always some who loved me and cared for me, and talk to me with the strength and peace of God as much as humanly possible ...And sometimes those, were the hardest to hear Because of my shame, and my fear, and my choices, and my insecurities, and my rebellion. Any and all of those was easy to believe.

What was hard to believe and do, was that I could truly surrender. And I have.

How do I know I have? Not because I don't have temptations. Not because I don't think about some of the old things. Not because I don't feel some of those old ways. I know I've surrendered, because I don't talk like I used to. The past is in the past, and I don't need what I used to be anymore. My language is different. My heart is stronger

MEMBER #4: The task of being spiritually directed is not to make something happen, but to become aware of what God is already doing so that i can respond to it, participate in it, and take delight in it.

so many times i tried to make something happen that i thought God wanted, but it was me wanting to work to please Him.

My responding to the unconditional love He has for me brings freedom and peace. To me that is part of surrender

Participate in ...the same thing ..willingness to give Him the lead take delight in ... sometimes His work in me has been hard - can't say i took delight in it. I wanted the quick fix.

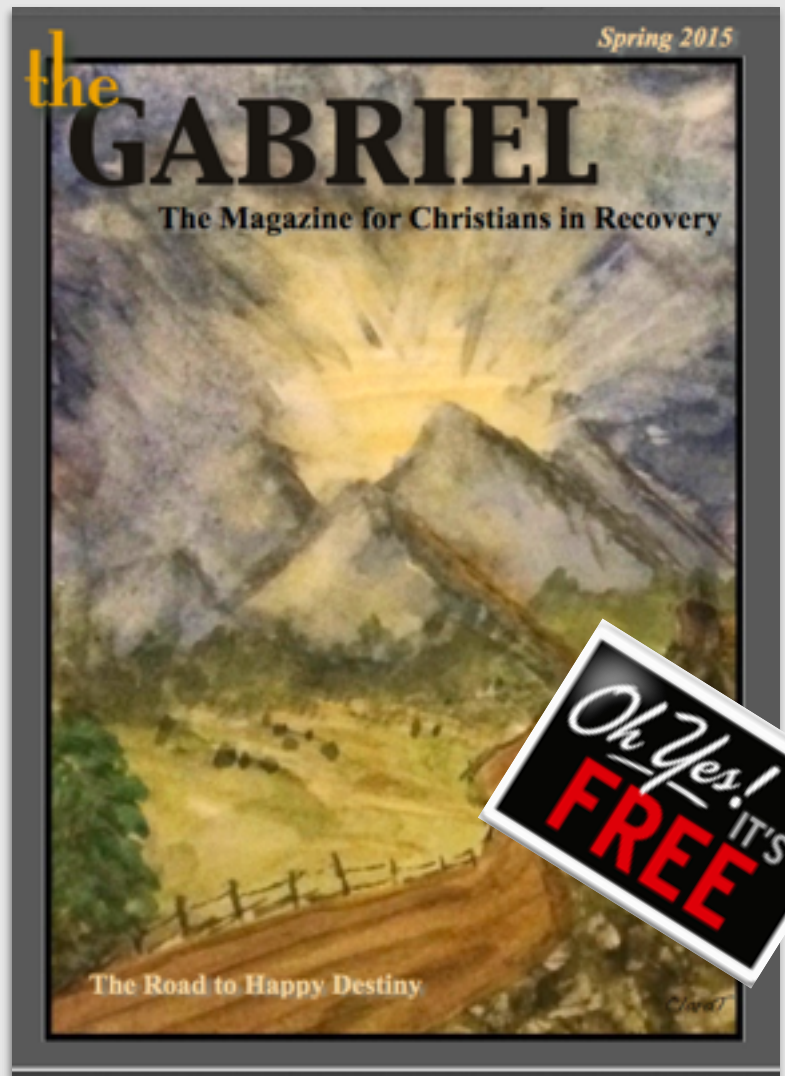
Hey! Did you know?

Christians in Recovery® is a group of men and women who are dedicated to personal one-on-one sharing of faith, strength and hope as we live each day in recovery.

Everyone is in recovery from something: abuse, family dysfunction, depression, anxiety, grief, illness, trauma, relationships and/or addictions to alcohol, drugs, food, pornography, gambling, sex, and more.

The Gabriel is CIR's online Magazine. Download it, print it out, or copy it to a disk/CD and share it with loved ones or your recovery group. It's FREE!

CIR Members can download all Past Issues. Anyone can get all past issues of The Gabriel from January 1999 though 2003 on CD: The Gabriel Archive CD. Save precious time and disk space!



| | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 3 | Musings by ClaraT Surprised by Joy <i>Clara continues her musings on the blessing given to her many years ago. "If you stay sober, things will happen beyond your wildest dreams." It's true!</i> | 14 | Special Article from CIR Author Sherde Cruse Each of Us is that 100th Sheep <i>...sheep are stubborn, stupid and always getting lost and into trouble. Sheep also don't have any natural defenses and are helpless. And we are sheep. Great.</i> |
| 4 | Bible Study The Truth Shall Set You Free <i>First of a 10-part series from Michael the Penguin</i> | 16 | Focus On CIR The Inspiration & Thoughts Forum <i>A small sample of articles and links posted by you in our forums.</i> |
| 6 | Poetry & Art Creation Corner <i>Poems and paintings from CIR members. Rev. Bola, ClaraT and Roadrunner</i> | 17 | Article What Does the Bible Say About Drinking Alcohol/Wine? <i>A member's response in one of our forum threads. Share your E...</i> |
| 8 | CIR News | 18 | Gleanings Snippets and images gleaned |
| 9 | Special Article from Pastor Ron Ross You Belong <i>CIR Author and Pastor, Ron Ross brings an inspirational study from the Word on why we can believe we belong.</i> | 20 | Humor In Recovery |
| 13 | Christian Recovery Reading | 22 | The Back Page <i>All about sharing and yes you can!</i> |

Experience Lasting Recovery
The Most Comprehensive
Recovery Site
<http://www.christians-in-recovery.org>
We are a 501(c)(3) not for profit ministry.



Christians in Recovery®
Your Internet Community for Recovery
Always Available. Always Caring

CLEANINGS

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

~Phil 4:6-7



Do Not Worry!
I just loved this and wanted to share.
Obie



OUR MEMBERS RECOMMEND:

Over the years I have tried and used extensively many Bible software packages. Hands down the best free Bible software for Android is: [MyBible](http://bible.cc)
[Link to post](#) (Obie)

I stumbled upon this today and am very impressed.

<http://bible.cc>

It has Parallel Bibles, Parallel Commentaries, Maps, Contextual Notes, Cross References, Chain References.... the list goes on. Check it out and spend some time there to see all that is offered. This is the most powerful Bible Study Tool we have found yet. And best of all, it is FREE!
(Jan Coates)

Irish Wedding Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon the fields.

May the light of friendship guide your paths together.
May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home.
May the joy of living for one another trip a smile from your lips, a twinkle from your eye.

And when eternity beckons,
at the end of a life heaped high with love,
May the good Lord embrace you
with the arms that have nurtured you
the whole length of your joy-filled days.

May the gracious God hold you both
in the palm of His hands.
And, today, may the Spirit of Love
find a dwelling place in your hearts.

Amen.

Submitted by Clara. It's not a new thing, or even a Gleaned thing but remembering that Spring and with it St. Patricks Day, is coming makes me think of this. The Winter does not last forever.

In daily life we must see that it is not happiness that makes us grateful, but gratefulness that makes us happy.

—Brother David Steindl-Rast
(via Jan Coates)

Kim's share in the chat meeting this morning was so heart touching I asked if i could pass it on to you in the Gabriel. She was talking about feeding the squirrels in her back yard and how this one little one with a lame leg kept getting beat up on by the others. (Editor)

God has always used animals to minister to me. As I found myself really pleading in prayer, with passion and compassion for this tiny young squirrel who had a lame back left leg and was skinny as a rail. I thought... gee.... where is this energy coming from?

Why do I not pray for my fellow Christians who are crippled or wounded with this kind of love and concern?? And then I realized something about myself. I've always run on pure instinct... just like animals do...as trust was not taught in my family. So it was all survival by animal instinct. Self protection.

I was asking the Lord to protect this little crippled baby squirrel from the others squirrels who seemed to attack it because it was crippled. And unlike them, I identified with that squirrel.

Whether I come across here as crippled or not, I do have a lameness in my soul, and that is in God's care. I've learned to compensate for it, hide it, disguise it from others so they will not reject me, and even deny it myself. But year after year of my life the layers come off and expose who I really am.

Getting back to the baby squirrel - my prayer was compelled by an intense energy - love coming from deep inside myself.

That energy of love coming from deep inside me, I was rooting for it... "Go for the food!" "Drink the water." Fight. Stay alive...and that's why I prayed...because I didn't know whether or not the squirrel had the will to live or how much courage it had to fend off the other

squirrels who would always chase it away from the food piles.

I saw myself in the baby squirrel with small courage, but GREAT need to survive. Just enough I guess that I'm willing to risk, and what I really understood is the grace and protection of God in my life. Even more, it's because of the Body praying for me - as I intervened for this tiny creature's survival - it's through your prayers God fuels me with courage to keep coming back, to stay connected, to find the encouragement I need in recovery.

The victory I am experiencing is through the Holy Spirit. The lesson—God using the crippled baby squirrel. Where does the power come from to live?

For me, it comes solely from

God, my maker. I have very little or weak "will to live"; left to myself, I self destruct.

LOVE — The core of Who He is. That love power is what keeps me breathing. So I was thinking as I listened to everyone's share what is it that I do that keeps the Holy Spirit outside of my heart instead of open wide? Maybe fear? But whatever it is, I know that to please God or be in His will is to be "led by the Spirit" because my good deeds are nothing. My kind of love does not transform me or others. Only God's unfathomable love - that I can only take inside. in teensy, weensy doses. His love for me gives me reason to try to love myself when I can only see the faults and failings and weaknesses in myself. share by Kim 7/20/16



**HAT'S OFF
TO KIM!**



**A note from
ClaraT, Editor:**

**Not only does
Kim have a
wonderful way
of expression,
she is an
extraordinary
assistant editor.
Kim gleans
(pun intended)
every copy of
the Gabriel for
errors in
punctuation,
spelling,
broken links,
left out words
and more!**

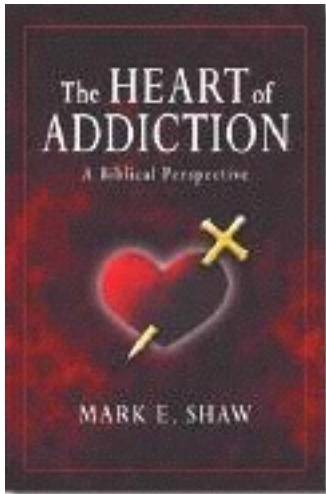
**The Gabriel
would not be
what it is
without her
eagle eye.
Thanks Kim!!**

I consider myself greatly blessed to be a member of this spirit-filled, marvelously supportive fellowship. The love you've all given me, with your acceptance, patience, kindness and constant encouragement, has, and continues to be life-sustaining to my broken heart as I focus on running my race to the finish in a God glorifying way. Each and every one of you faithful Prayer Warriors are impacting my life for good and helping fulfill God's eternal purposes. How like Jesus so many here are, when you've loved me with His love. Every CIR meeting gives my world-weary soul such comfort, and a bright glimpse of Heaven. You've taught me what it really means to be blessed, inspired me to grow in His grace, and to keep seeking the heart of God.

A CIR Member who speaks for all of us!



CHRISTIAN RECOVERY READING



The Heart of Addiction

You will find biblical tools to help you examine your heart's motives at the **root** of your addiction and/or dysfunctional behavior. Learn how you can experience true freedom.

This book is helpful for ANY type of addiction: drugs, alcohol, food, gambling, sex, shopping, lust, porn, etc.

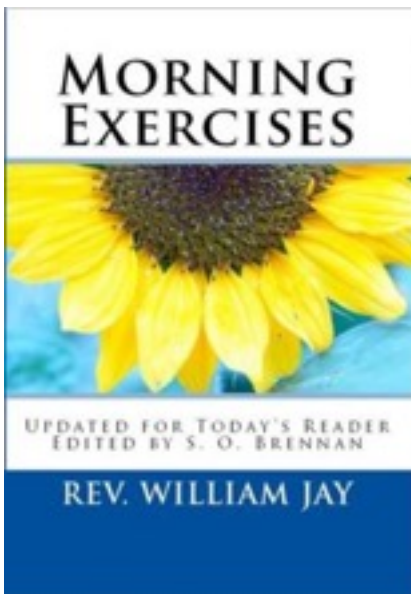


Christian & Recovery Gear

Custom Colors & Designs

Morning Exercises - Devotional by William Jay

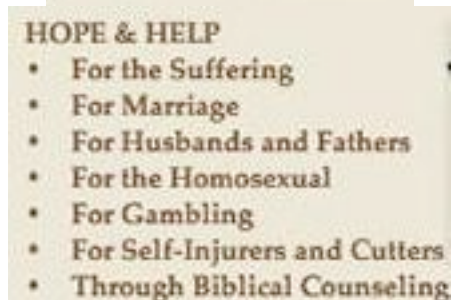
Updated for Today's Reader - edited by S.O. Brennan



This is not only a Devotional but also a valuable resource for Bible study.

Feed your soul, be inspired! Receive comfort, hope and guidance from the valuable perspectives of William Jay. Gain fresh insights into the Scriptures and learn how to apply them to your daily life. In addition, this devotional is also an essential reference

for Bible study. The Scripture Table and Subject Index enable you to easily locate topics and passages to meet your personal needs and make research a breeze. Are you concerned about relapse? Learn how to avoid the traps of failure. This workbook is for the Christian who has experienced God's grace and forgiveness but finds himself drawn back into the lure of sin. Here you will find valuable tools and insight into your temptation to return to any "addiction."



Hope and Help Booklets



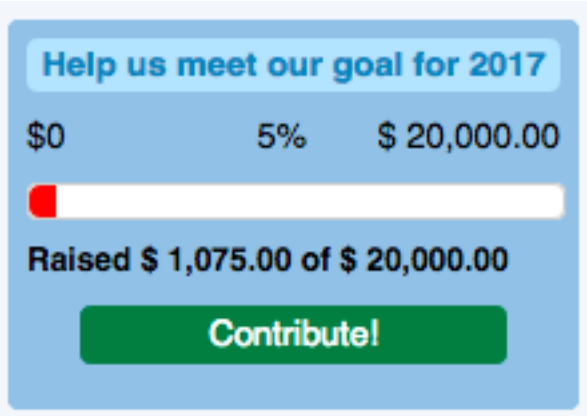
Advertise Here

[Click for info!](#)



We need more co-hosts for our meetings. Please pray about joining a great ministry arm of CIR. The team of hosts and co-hosts are a terrific group to work with. I guarantee you will be blessed by joining us

If you feel the Lord directing you to this ministry email fran@christians-in-recovery.org



Christians in Recovery® News

Anyone can [Subscribe for Free](#)

Make the CIR News possible.

Please [Donate](#) or [Sponsor](#). [See it online here.](#)



[Please Donate Now.](#)

CIR Handouts

Order handouts for your friends, church or recovery group. Give your friends, pastor, church and recovery professionals a CIR brochure.

CIR Brochures (Free)

Maximum 10: if more are needed, please donate or print your own.

Day One Pack of 20 \$8 or print your own.

This 24 Hours Pack of 20 \$8 or print your own.

Inspirational Cards 70¢ per set of 2

12 Step/Bible Guide Card 75¢ each

Bookmark/Ruler \$1.25 each

See also our selection of Medallions & Key Rings.

Shipments overseas must be post paid.

There truly is no joy like being involved in 12 Step work. If you have never 12 Stepped anyone, NOW is the time to learn about the blessings of seeing another person start on the path to recovery. Each One Reach One!

Humor In Recovery

After a rather lifeless Sunday morning service, the pastor noticed a young boy staring intensely at a large plaque mounted in the church's foyer. It was covered with names and flanked by American flags.

Recognizing the opportunity to connect, the pastor approached, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning young man." "Good morning," the boy replied, still looking intently at the plaque, he then asked, "Pastor, what's this?"

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service," Then, with a note of gravity in his voice, the boy asked, "Which service did they die in - the 9:30 or the 11:00 o'clock?"

We were making leaflets for a local church, and the client wanted a logo designed with Earth being shielded by the hand of God. I sent the client a proof. Shortly thereafter, I got a call.

Client: The hand looks too human. Please use a hand that looks more like God's.

A priest and a pastor are standing by the side of a road holding up a sign that reads "The end is near! Turn around now before it's too late!"

A passing driver yells, "You guys are nuts!" and speeds past them. From around the curve, they hear screeching tires—then a big splash.

The priest turns to the pastor and says, "Do you think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

A priest, a minister, and a rabbi want to see who's best at his job. So they each go into the woods, find a bear, and attempt to convert it.

Later they get together. The priest begins: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the Catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his first Communion."

"I found a bear by the stream," says the minister, "and preached God's holy word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him."

They both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on a gurney in a body cast. "Looking back," he says, "maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision."

A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, and as he reaches for them, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." Startled, the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, "Jesus is watching you." This time, he sees a parrot.

"Who are you?" the burglar asks.

"Moses," the bird replied.

"Who the heck would name a bird Moses?" the man laughed.

"I dunno," Moses answered, "I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."



Search and Support CIR for FREE !

GoodSearch is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charity you designate. Use it just like you would any search engine. It's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

** Go to [GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com)

** Indicate you are supporting Christians in Recovery.

** Use GoodSearch.com each time you search the Net instead of using Google, Bing, AOL etc.

If you do not want to install the toolbar, simply use this URL when you search: <http://www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=816075>

Free! - Get the GoodSearch Toolbar for Internet Explorer and FireFox.

Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word! The more people use GoodSearch, the more money will be directed towards CIR.



HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE [CIR FACEBOOK PAGE???](#)



The Back Page

The Gabriel is FREE!



The Gabriel is CIR's online Magazine. We encourage you to download it, print it out, save it to a disk or CD, and share it with your loved ones, church family and recovery group.

CIR Members can download all past issues free at http://christians-in-recovery.org/Tools_Gabriel_PastIssues.

Please be patient, these take a few moments to download.

Anyone can get all past issues of The Gabriel from January 1999 though 2003 on CD [here](#).

Copyright 1992-2015 by Christians in Recovery,
All Rights Reserved.

<http://christians-in-recovery.org/>

This entire site is protected by international copyright laws. You may not duplicate any of this content on other web sites. Feel free to LINK to pages on the CIR web site.

[Complete Copyright Information](#)



Did you like The Gabriel?
We have more!

Christians in Recovery® News

Anyone can Subscribe for Free
Make the CIR News possible.
Donate or Sponsor

