

# NHAA PIPELINE

A Publication of the NH Area 43 Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

August 2015

## God Of My Understanding



I think it's really important to talk about God. The Big Book "Alcoholics Anonymous" outlines the problem that we have very nicely, starting with The Doctor's Opinion, and continuing with Bill's Story and More About Alcoholism. We have a spiritual malady. Our dilemma is that we have this lack of power and therefore have no defense against the first drink. And once we put alcohol into our body, the craving and allergy take over, and we are likely to have serious difficulties. The three pertinent ideas in How it Works says it all – that we are alcoholics, that no human power can relieve our alcoholism, and that God could and would *if he were sought*.

*"Looking for God is like being in your truck and driving around looking for it. God is everything or God is nothing.*

*I prefer to think of God as being here, everywhere, always. Very accessible."*

That is the basis for true recovery. We need to establish a connection with this thing called God. That's the Power that we all need. For many of us though, that is a really big problem, because we have preconceived notions of what God is or isn't.

We have this "contempt prior to investigation". Many of us go running out the door as soon as we hear the word God at an AA meeting. The founders in AA tried to fix this. They have an entire chapter (We Agnostics) dedicated to helping the alcoholic to become more open minded about God. And we are told that willingness is the key to our recovery. The willingness to do what? Well, mostly, it is the willingness to believe that there is some power greater than ourselves – anything – a "God of our understanding" – that can restore us to sanity and that we can turn to for everything. And without this we are truly doomed.

I like to go one step further with this concept, because the phrase "God of our understanding" sort of implies that we actually understand God – that we have a definition, or picture, or truth about exactly

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what God is. I struggled with this for so long. I thought that I had to have a complete understanding of, and belief in, God before I could rely on him – before I could turn my will and my life over to his care. But the truth is that I didn't. I like to refer to a “God of my misunderstanding” instead. How can we understand that which is infinite, and invisible, and so confused with the image of a deity or a man? We can't really. It is a waste of time. However, we can turn our will and our lives over to something we don't understand. It's really simple. This happens in Step 3. Step 3 is simply a commitment to go ahead and do the rest of the steps, with complete commitment, discipline and abandon. Doing the rest of the steps allows us to deconstruct our egoic thought-riddled minds and leaves room for God to move in. The steps are simply a way for us to reprogram our thinking and our way of reacting to life from self and fear oriented to “connected”, or enlightened, awake, conscious, being, or whatever you want to call it.

Once again, the Book says “God could and would if he were sought”. God comes to those who seek him. This doesn't mean that we have to go out on some kind of God search, like taking magical mushrooms and roaming around in the desert. Looking for God is like being in your truck and driving around looking for it. God is everything or God is nothing. I prefer to think of God as being here, everywhere, always. Very accessible.

- George M., Concord

## Help Wanted at the NHAA Service Office

The Service Office is looking for part-time help. This person must have great people skills, have an understanding of how the AA program works, and possess decent computer skills. Call or email the Service Office for more information. To apply, pick up an application at the Service Office or send in your resume by email. We look forward to hearing from you.

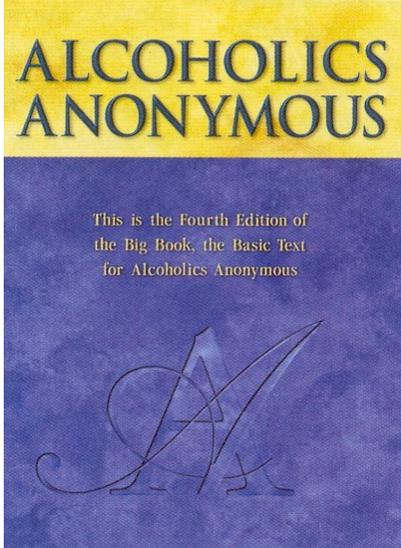
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Email the Pipeline at  
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*Statement of Purpose*

*The New Hampshire Area Pipeline will be the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to New Hampshire AA Area 43 as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Pipeline will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous within Area 43. Like the AA movement it mirrors, the primary purpose of the New Hampshire Pipeline will be to try to carry the AA message to alcoholics and practice the AA principles in all its affairs.*

**NH Area Hotline:**

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**Office Hours:**

**Mon-Fri: 10am—4pm**

**Sat: 10am—2pm**

## Group Changes, Updates and Disbandings

The Tilton Saturday Morning BB Group, which meets from 11 a.m.-noon at the Veteran's Home (1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room), 139 Winter Street, changed its end time from 12:15 p.m.

The Bedford Clean & Serene BB Meeting, which meets on Tuesdays, has a new start and end time. The meeting will now take place from 7-8:30 p.m. at Bethany Covenant Church, 1 Covenant Way.

The Concord Happy Hour Big Book Group, which meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the South Congregational Church, 27 Pleasant Street, changed its ending time. The meeting now takes place from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Franklin Thursday BYOBB Meeting takes place from 7-8:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 88 Franklin Street. It has relocated from the Baptist Church at 21 Church Street.

The Franklin Saturday Primary Purpose Group meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 88 Franklin Street. It has relocated from the Baptist Church at 21 Church Street.

The Salisbury Peace of Mind Group is on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Salisbury Congregational Church, Rte. 127/Rte. 4.

The Pittsfield Monday Nite 12 & 12 meets at the First Congregational Church, 24 Main Street, from 7:30-8:45 p.m. It is now an open meeting and handicapped accessible.

New Group! The Manchester Young People's BB Discussion Group meets Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Manch Recovery Community Center, 122 Market Street.

New Group! The Franklin Women's 12&12 Step Group meets Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Congregational Church/Thompson Hall, 25 South Main Street.

Disbanded: Derry's No Frills Group, which met at the Friendship Center, 6 RR Ave., on Saturdays from 2-3 p.m.

Disbanded: Nashua's Sunday Recovery group, which met from 10-11:30 a.m. at H.E.A.R.T.S., Pine St. Ext.

