



# a new leaf

a publication of marijuana anonymous

August 2013

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## As I Understood God

**W**hen I first came into MA and realized there was the “God” word in the Steps, I really thought about getting up and walking out. God? Are you kidding me? You mean the old, white fart, with the long grey beard, on the gold throne, who had been throwing big lightning bolts at me my whole life? No way!

It didn’t take long before I realized that a lot of other folks in the meetings had a problem with that too. It wasn’t *that* God. It was *God as I understand God*. It could be my own understanding! The words “Higher Power” were meaningful to me. I appreciated that concept. I also liked that the gender was taken out of God. It was not God- He. Maybe it was God- She. Maybe it was God- It. It

was *as I understood God*. It was a power greater than myself. It was a Higher Power, an HP. And so, for the first few years, the meetings and MA members were my Higher

**“You mean the old, white fart, with the long grey beard...”**

Power. We could do something together that I could not do alone. I’d tried too long.

As the years have gone by, my concept of God, Creator, Higher Power has had many definitions

and/or concepts. And a great realization has come to me. I don’t have to understand God! How could I? I am a small human on a small planet, in a small solar system, in an ordinary galaxy in a HUGE universe. So when I see pictures of our galaxy or nebulas or other galaxies, I say, “There. That’s God.” But some small part of that huge God is what I think of as a loving, caring, parental God, who wants me to be a loving, caring person. That part of God, my part of God, wants me to be happy, loving and serene. And that’s the God I pray to. What are my prayers? There are really only two: “Help me, Help me, Help me.” and “Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.”

**Carol McD.**

## Unoriginal Thoughts I’ve Had Today

**I** am amazed today at how my Higher Power has transformed my personal experience and suffering into “strength and hope for the addict who is still suffering.”

Alas, “I do not regret the past, for my experiences can BENEFIT others.” I recall what happened, because there I can put my finger on the ubiquitous Grace of God, which has echoed through every space and time I have occupied, until this very moment. And yes, I tell what it’s like today least I forget what it was like and take Grace for granted. Indeed I have faith in grace, but my work cannot stop there. There is action and more action. As James, the brother of Jesus, so poignantly said “faith without works is dead.” I

agree. Faith has to be lived. It’s not enough to simply think about it. One’s thoughts and actions have to be driven by it – faith in action.

**“Faith has to be lived. It’s not enough to simply think about it.”**

“We do not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.” It stands to reason that if one regrets the past then one would have to have a blanket of regret stretching back to farthest reaches of the past. One cannot pick and choose events to regret but would have to adopt a personality of regret; and since the present is constantly becoming and converting to the past, one would be in a continuum of regret. In other words, one would have to regret the formation of a galaxy, the birth of a star, all events in human history and thus all events in one’s life—past and present. Therefore I point to the solution: blanket acceptance.

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# a new leaf

The purpose of A New Leaf is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength and hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service.

The articles contained in A New Leaf are the sole opinions of the authors and do not reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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### IN SPIRIT OF SERVICE

*"We do not have any governing authority, but we do have informal rotating service committees" (and commitments). Give freely of what you have found. Choose service to A New Leaf.*

**D**eepen your program while being of service to the executive committee of A New Leaf Publications. ANLP is searching for qualified members of Marijuana Anonymous to step into three valuable service positions at A New Leaf Publications.

The current Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary have come to the end of their eligibility to serve. Rotation of service is such a valuable principle within MA that our fellowship has written service limits into the guidelines for ANLP. The current leadership must give up their positions. In short, they've "termed out." If you are still reading this far, it may be that you are exactly that person called to move into this leadership opportunity.

ANLP serves a mighty function by providing much needed recovery material worldwide, often to areas that have few to no meetings. *A New Leaf* and other ANLP literature may be the only recovery material some marijuana addicts seeking relief get to see. MA literature is also made available to outside entities under the auspices ANLP. A New Leaf Publication directors also handle all the business affairs related to MA conference approved materials.

ANLP oversees and administers the publication; distribution and business of Marijuana Anonymous World Services approved literature.

A New Leaf Publications and Marijuana Anonymous World Services does not seek to be "organized" yet there is a structure in place that keeps the publication arm of the fellowship working. Interested persons must be clean and sober for two years and must satisfy at least one of the three following requirements; has been a managing editor, been a MAWS Trustee; or a MAWS Conference Delegate.

Join the service structure that takes MA out to the world. Email [anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:anlp@marijuana-anonymous.org).

For more details on service pre-requisites and responsibilities refer to the MAWS Service Manual, Chapter 28.

## **Unoriginal Thoughts** cont'd from pg. 1

**Blanket acceptance of the past and all events thereof in; and, thus, blanket acceptance of the present, since one cannot talk of the past without the present.** What of the future, you ask? What of the future, I say! The future doesn't exist. Who can speak of something as uncertain as the future? The future only exists inasmuch as one takes it for granted. I say one shouldn't pick and choose events to regret, as one shouldn't pick and choose events to accept. **Acceptance does not mean approval; it just means that one is not in conflict with or denial of life anymore.** Indeed, "acceptance is the answer to all my problems today." One may wish to have done things differently, and that is good. We need to remember what we ought not do least we are destined to repeat it. History has a way of repeating itself. There may be similar opportunities in our present as our past, therefore, opportunities to choose to do the right thing. One should admit that the next moment is never, and can never be, guaranteed. So blanket acceptance of the present, now the past, is the solution.

Through the bitter ugliness and hopelessness of our yesterdays the eternal present loving grace and companionship of God is revealed.

You are a warrior, fighting the good fight.

Finally, don't loose hope. Hope is a powerful thing. When one loses hope they lose the power to be. When one loses the power to be, they lose the power to do. We have to DO, BE, DO, BE, DO..... ha! "Be" in the moment in faith (which is hope of that which is to come), and "Do" what is in front of oneself-- action. It's the rhythm of life!

**Lyman**

## A New Decision

The first meeting I ever went to was with my mom. All I remember was that I didn't want to be there. Mom dragged me to the *other fellowship*. There was a hot redhead in the room. Also a couple of old farts. When I went home, I climbed into my room, broke out the pipe and got stoned. Back in my world it was all good. That's how I liked it. It was my revolution. Full on.

I came back in 2001. Ready to stop. Surrendering, I was done. Spiritually broke. Depressed. Angry! Hurting. Lost! But MA was a place to get the Phoenix to rise again. I wanted to change.

I came to MA fully inspired by my ex-girlfriend to get clean. At my second MA meeting a guy named Bob invited me to fellowship. He was at McDonald's and I showed up just before he left. I told him I was doing this to show her. Bob said, "When you start doing it for yourself, let me know, brother." July of 2002 is when I called Bob and said "I'm doing it for me now." It could have been my spiritual awakening!

I was letting go. I wanted to get clean and recover. I have been clean 12 years now. My clean date is January 17, 2001. I'm grateful

and continue to live one day at a time.

I just parted ways with my sponsor. He and I were struggling to agree on certain things. One is that he was not answering his phone. I'd call and get his voicemail. It got

*"My sponser  
was awesome  
for me at the  
time, just what  
I needed, I am so  
grateful."*

old. Then, when I really needed to talk, there was this resentment that he was too busy or not available to talk. Also, I had difficulty with his choices. Choosing not to answer when I called drove a wedge in our relationship. A week ago today, I sat down with him and said I was moving on. Not willing to work out our differences. It was too late.

Moving on! We had a clean break. My sponsor was awesome for me at the time, just what I needed, I am so grateful. He got me to do Step Work. I was reclaiming my seat and voice. He let me know about addicts on asphalt. Going to meetings outside the area in a car – four of us, having fun in sobriety. But in the end, I had expectations and he was not even close to meeting them. We needed to stop. So very politely and very gracefully, I told him thank you, but it's time for me to get a new sponsor. How brave and scary this was to me.

I'm getting real! I have my sights on someone new. A new choice. A new decision. I'm lucky. I can do this with the help of a Higher Power. I could say "Phuck it! I'll sponsor myself. I got this." I know, I know. "Yeah, but hey, if so and so is sponsoring themselves, I know I can do it." See all this talk is bullshit. God points me in the right direction. When they say, "Good Orderly Direction," I know (or I think I know) what is taking place. I'm listening. I'm willing. I'm showing up. I'm doing it for me. Showing myself that I'm worth it! I appreciate and I'm grateful to District 5 for making the MA convention 2013 happen!

**Anonymous**

## MA Daily Meditation Book

We're looking for YOUR writing to fill a year's worth of daily meditations, focused on MA recovery from marijuana addiction. The writings should be approximately 250 to 500 words, and focused on recovery. *What would you want to read every day on your sobriety birthday?* Send your submission and we'll print it on YOUR recovery birthday. If you feel so moved, send in more than one. If you need inspiration, take a look at daily meditation books from other fellowships. It also helps to find an inspiring quote to jump off with. Be on the lookout for examples in upcoming issues or just go for it... write yours today.

Send submissions to: [smilingheart9@yahoo.com](mailto:smilingheart9@yahoo.com).

New Meetings Start-Up  
All The Time  
Check your local district's  
website for updated  
information!  
or  
Get listed on the  
MAWS website.  
For details contact:  
[office@marijuana-anonymous.org](mailto:office@marijuana-anonymous.org)

# marijuana anonymous worldwide

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For a complete listing of all meetings visit [www.marijuana-anonymous.org](http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org)

## Step Eight

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

## Tradition Eight

Marijuana Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

## ROVING REPORTER ASKS...

**What is one of your favorite 12-Step slogans and how do you apply it to your life?**

(Submit by September 17th, answers will be published in the October issue.)

## Birthdays

Celebrating 170 years of sobriety in this issue!

Want your sobriety date published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANLP contact information on page 2. Bureau Chiefs are encouraged to submit Birthdays that, a) HAVE occurred, b) HAVE NOT been published and, c) are not older than 45 days.

## KEEP COMING BACK!

**District 5**

|           |         |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Scott     | 6/25/12 | 1 Year!  |
| Justin    | 6/26/12 | 1 Year!  |
| Ryan H.   | 7/7/07  | 6 Years  |
| Sean F.   | 7/4/02  | 11 Years |
| John McC. | 7/2/07  | 22 Years |

**District 7**

|            |         |          |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Nick D.    | 7/1/12  | 1 Year!  |
| Les G.     | 7/11/11 | 2 Years  |
| Scott H.   | 6/27/10 | 3 Years  |
| Matthew B. | 7/4/07  | 6 Years  |
| Gary S.    | 6/23/92 | 21 Years |
| Carol McD. | 6/23/88 | 25 Years |



**District 8**

|          |         |          |
|----------|---------|----------|
| Sheryl   | 7/3/03  | 10 Years |
| Missy S. | 6/25/99 | 14 Years |

**District 11**

|            |         |          |
|------------|---------|----------|
| Seth B.    | 7/2/12  | 1 Year!  |
| James D.   | 6/18/11 | 2 Years  |
| Juliet J.  | 7/4/09  | 4 Years  |
| Ron P.     | 6/7/08  | 5 Years  |
| Alycia     | 6/26/08 | 5 Years  |
| Brandon R. | 7/5/94  | 19 Years |

**District 15**

|          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Brian    | 7/15/12 | 1 Year! |
| Cassie   | 7/30/12 | 1 Year! |
| Loren S. | 8/10/04 | 9 Years |