

# The Caterpillar

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July 2004

## JUST ANOTHER CHILD

Submitted by Parker D.

We received the 3 a.m. phone call. I knew that it would come. It saddened her even more than I thought it might. You see this was that collect call from jail that so many of us know only too well. Yes, again, he had another DWI. It hurts so much to watch your son crucify himself with alcohol.

Thank God for Al-Anon. My sponsor was the first to spot the anger in me. At his request I visited him after work. He spoke of what had happened to him and how he had looked within himself for his anger. Our discussion put me on my quest to work through my anger, pain and disappointment. In meetings I heard "you did not cause it, you can't cure it, and you cannot control it." This fueled my anger at the disease. I began to build a wall around me to keep out the pain. It was stacked high with the bricks made of "I won't do this and I won't do that." I justified the building of this wall with the statement "I won't enable my son's disease."

In a moment of clarity I heard another member tell that she would do nothing what so ever to enable her son's disease. However, she would do anything for his recovery, including chopping off her arm if it would help. The conflict in our home was whether or not we would allow my son to move back into our home. Knowing whatever we decided to do, we would have to live with the consequences. Finally I was able to pray about my dilemma.

After discussing my quest with my son and listening to what he had to say, I offered him a place in our home for a month at a time. I do have reservations, but it is truly a miracle for me to work through this. I am in awe of Al-Anon's teachings and I stand "Just another Child."

### After Hours Phone

July 12 - 18	Listen and Learn
July 19 - 25	Recovering Parents North
July 26 - Aug. 1	Recovering Parents South
Aug. 2 - 8	Monday Noon Discussion
Aug. 9 - 15	Steps to Serenity
Aug. 16 - 22	Happiness Is
Aug. 23 - 29	New Roads Monday
Aug. 30 - Sept. 5	Triangle
Sept. 6 - 12	TGIM
Sept. 13 - 19	Came to Believe
Sept. 20 - 26	Strength and Courage
Sept. 27 - Oct. 3	Serenity Club DS Tues.
Oct. 4 - 10	Gonzales Tuesday PM

Thanks to all of you who have so generously responded when I have asked for your help. The after hours phone is a great way to reach out to those who need and want what we have to offer. It also provides a way to do service work from you own home. Call 775 - 7929 if you wish to be a substitute phone person. Thanks, Mary S.

### Coming Events

July 23 - 25  
31<sup>st</sup> Louisiana Al-Anon Covention  
Holiday Inn Holidome Lafayette, LA

August 13 -15  
LA Area Assembly  
Hampton Inn Alexandria, LA

September 11  
Greater New Orleans Intergroup Annual Banquet  
Jefferson Orleans, Metairie LA

## Seeing As God Sees

Forum, April 2002

Brenda M., Nebraska

I never had compassion for my mom until I heard something in a meeting. Someone said she prayed to be able to see her mother the same way God sees her. I thought about that the next time I saw my mom. Instead of seeing a person who wanted to hurt me and didn't care about anyone else, I saw a woman who was lost, afraid, angry, and sick. My heart opened up to her and I finally felt compassion.

My Higher Power helped me by giving me the chance to change my perspective. I never would have seen her compassionately through my own eyes. Now I can have detachment with love. I know that not everything she says or does has to do with me. I am so thankful that I heard what I needed to hear at that meeting. I'm thankful that my Higher Power has made me aware.

Compassion is a tool that helps me step out of myself and see others as they really are.

### Group Contributions January – May 2004

Bayou Sorrel	65
Courage to Change	120
For Alateen	70
Denham Springs	40
Tues. Faith & Hope	44
Gonzales	80
Goodwood	70
Happiness Is	20
I am Important	50
Just for Today	388.72
Listen & Learn	526.91
Mollysharp (Wed)	100
Morning Glory	300
Powerless Step	36
Prairieville	31.23
Recovering Parents North	120
Recovering Parents South	265.46
Sat. Newcomers	15
Stepping Stones	277.23
Steps to Serenity	74
Strength & Courage	8
STP	91
TGIF	2
TGIM	140
Triangle	80
Tuesday Noon	15
Tuesday's Children	60
Wednesday Noon	24
Woodale Sunday	20
TOTAL	\$ 3223.55

*God,  
Grant me the Serenity  
to accept the things I  
cannot change,  
  
The Courage to change  
the things I can,  
  
and the Wisdom to  
know the difference.*