

THE A.A PRAYER

The Story of Larry

The author of the prayer pictured here is known to be Larry J. whose story is not only an elemental part of Alcoholics Anonymous' history, and whose contributions were instrumental to the A.A literature as well as public awareness of the solution available to the communities most hopeless drunks, but also a serious warning of "self will run riot" and the destructive effects resentments can have on ones recovery.

Larry J.'s story begins the same as many others in this program; John Barleycorn had driven him mad and doctors had proclaimed him a hopeless case, until A.A stepped in to introduce to him a solution.

In 1939, Larry J. was detoxing in the hospital under the sponsorship of the well known Dr. Bob, who after much consideration and advising of the hospital's doctors, decided to convince Larry J. to move away from the cold Cleveland weather for health concerns regarding his lungs.

In the winter of 1939-1940 Larry J. left the hospital in Cleveland and got on a train to Houston Texas with not much more than a first edition big book, and the hard work done in the hospital. He had yet to ever experience an A.A meeting.

Being a well known writer back in Cleveland, he continued his craft in Houston under the employment of the Houston Press, for which, in February 1940 he wrote a series of six articles on the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The articles, of which Larry J. had claimed to be inspired by a spiritual experience he had been blessed with on his train ride to Texas, had gained the attention of Bill W. who later asked for them to be reprinted in the A.A literature as Alcoholics Anonymous' very first pamphlet.

The series became the first dominos in the chain that started and built the A.A. community in Houston, and consequently in all of Texas.

The attention gained from these articles lead to Larry J. coming into contact with Roy Y., a fellow alcoholic

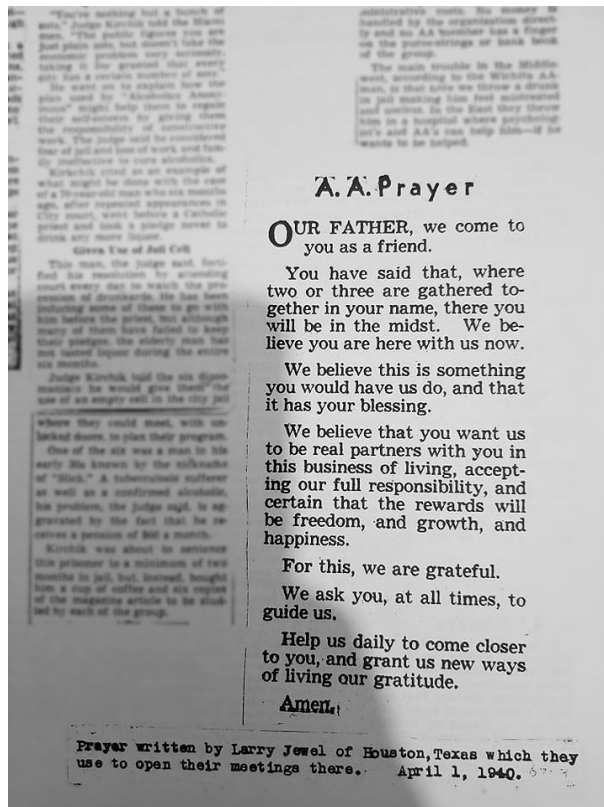


Image to the left: the A.A prayer written by Larry Jewell and used for many years to open meetings in Texas.
Image to the right: the first A.A pamphlet, written by Larry Jewell.

native to Houston; together they would start Texas' first group of Alcoholic Anonymous, aptly named "The Houston Group".

It was at this first Texan group, founded on the first of April of 1940, that the A.A prayer (written by Larry J.) was first uttered to open the meeting; a tradition that the groups of Texas kept for years afterwards.

Once the group was born, Larry found himself living his recovery at a blinding momentum; keeping up an active correspondence with Bill W.; Insisting to be present for almost all twelve step calls; as well as chairing every single meeting in Houston.

Early in that first year of Texan A.A, a woman named Benita became their first female member of the group.

Larry J. wrote to New York, declaring her to be incredibly "Helpful", and a few months later found himself marrying her, becoming known as Houston's first thirteen stepper.

By late 1941, Larry J. was still dictating A.A in Houston, thereby providing some resentments within its growing membership.

In October of 1941, a member from Baltimore suggested the group form a committee, and group conscience agreed, leading them to elect a committee which of course would include Larry J.; a position which Larry J. would outright refuse.

As many members of Alcoholic Anonymous know, unchecked ego and resentment become the rapidly growing spore of relapse, and unfortunately, this was no exception for Larry J.

The spore grew into a divorce with his wife Benita by November of 1941, with a declaration that "he could not stay sober and be married at the same time", followed by his relapse into active addiction.

He struggled to get sober again, attending "The Houston Group" on occasion, until finally he founded a new group, in May of 1942, which was held at a spiritual retreat.

Bill W. refused to get involved as there was some controversial matter about the meeting, and by July of that year the meeting flopped, leading to Larry J.'s return to drinking.

Sporadically over the next couple years Larry J. would try to return to "The Houston Group", with a continued and unsuccessful attempt to regain control of it and take charge.

On May 10th of 1944 Larry died due to health issues relating to his lungs.

While not an active member of "The Houston Group", the members took care of him during his struggles at the end.

Larry J. died sober and loved.

12 TIPS AND TRICKS To Survive the Holidays

The holidays can be tough for anyone in recovery regardless of sobriety time; find out tips and trick to make them easier for yourself this year.

MEETINGS ACROSS ABBOTSFORD Need your support!!

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GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Cakes and Events for the Upcoming Months

What is happening around town? Read to find out!