

Chapter 11:
A VISION FOR YOU

(Pages 151 through 164)

Chapter 11, "A VISION FOR YOU," provides guidance for the future of Alcoholics Anonymous in a very practical manner. As in the preceding sections of this Book, it is based on the experience and knowledge of the Founders of our Fellowship from which came our Program of Recovery.

As the result of taking and applying the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous to our lives, we had been freed from a seemingly hopeless state of mind, body and spirit. This is the ultimate Promise of the Program: "*Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps.*" To insure our sobriety, we found it necessary to seek out other alcoholics who were suffering as we had (as Bill did in May, 1935, when he was led to Dr. Bob.) We let them know how well we understood the misery they were experiencing. We let them see the demonstration of the Higher Power we found through our Program -- thereby creating a curiosity in them to wonder how that happened. When they asked, we would tell them our story -- what we were like, what happened and what we are like now. If they then decided they wanted what we had, we made sure that they had a copy of this Book and set them on the path of recovery. At the same time, we made an effort to get the family to try our way of living.

After awhile, we had a number of sober alcoholics and realized we needed to formalize our Fellowship. So, we initiated the process of "founding" a Group -- to bring the Program of *Alcoholics Anonymous* into the part of the world that we occupy. This chapter describes that process. Once this has been done, you will have made a significant contribution to your community. It might be an amend for harm done. It will certainly be appreciated by many innocent people who have suffered because of our disease even though they may never have been aware of the source.

And the chapter ends with Bill's magnificent summarization of the Program of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. He encapsulates the essence of the previous 163 pages in 16 inspirational lines.