

November 2020

AA Newsletter:

11th Step: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

11th Tradition: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

11th Concept: While the trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

11th Step Prayer: Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace; that where there is hatred, I may bring love; that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness; that where there is discord, I may bring harmony; that where there is error, I may bring truth; that where there is doubt, I may bring faith; that where there is despair, I may bring hope; that where there are shadows, I may bring light. that where there is sadness, I may bring joy. Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort, than to be comforted; to understand, than to be understood; to love, than to be loved. For it is by self forgetting, that one finds. It is by forgiving, that one is forgiven. It is by dying, that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.

November Birthdays:

None submitted

**Submit birthdays in your group to amanda@myardor.com to be posted in the next month's newsletter

AA FUNNIES:



Inspirational Story:

This week, Kate Phillips of [Total Wealth Coaching](#) contributed a guest post about her most memorable Thanksgiving – one that didn't go as planned!

“You can't pay anyone back for what has happened to you, so you try to find someone you can pay forward.”

-An anonymous Alcoholics Anonymous spokesperson, as quoted in the Christian Science Monitor in 1944.

Do you have a favorite Thanksgiving memory? As much as I love gathering with family and friends to enjoy a delicious holiday feast, one of my now-favorite Thanksgiving memories came disguised (or, at least, part of it) as a Terrible, Awful, No Good, Very Bad Day.

After enduring years of long Thanksgiving ferry lines to commute to my parents' home, I decided to short-cut the process by boarding the ferry as a walk-on passenger and get picked up on the other side. Unfortunately, hundreds of other holiday travelers had the same idea. The ferry passenger parking lot was full to overflowing, as was the street parking. I finally parked at a nearby mini-mall parking lot that was safely closed for the day, where other travelers were also parking. I grabbed my sweet potato dish and caught the ferry.

Many hours later, I returned by way of the same ferry. It was dark, cold, rainy, and I was a bit perturbed that I hadn't made a better mental note as to exactly where my car was parked. I wandered around the parking lot casually at first, then methodically up and down the now-sparse rows of cars, but with no luck.

Finally a couple with two children pulled up in a four-door sedan. “Are you looking for your car?” “Uh-huh,” I answered. “How did you know?”

They explained that a grumpy property owner (probably having a Terrible, Awful, No Good, Very Bad Day) decided to TOW *all* of the cars parked at his CLOSED business near the ferry dock! Many dozens of foot passengers returning from Thanksgiving meals and visits had discovered themselves stranded. Their cars had been towed to a neighboring town where and promptly impounded.

This family had just reclaimed their own car, assisted by another stranger who had endured the same fate. They had then driven back to help someone *else* find their missing car, where they found me wandering around in the rain. They gave me the number of the towing company and waited while I confirmed my car's whereabouts. Then they *insisted* on giving me a ride to the towing yard, several miles away, to get my car. (Their own rescuers had done the same for them.) Forty-five minutes and \$196 later (but no taxi fees), I was reunited with my car.

As bummed as I was about the car being towed, I was so grateful for my Thanksgiving angels, and so happy to have my very own, warm car back! My rescuers refused to accept a tip, but suggested that I could “pay forward” the help I had received. (**Paying it forward** is a centuries-old concept of returning a favor “forward” to someone else in need, rather than paying it “back,” and was popularized by a poignant [movie of the same name](#).) It was very late now and I was still a long drive from home, but knew what I must do next. I drove back to the same parking lot. The next ferry had come and gone, and sure enough, another frustrated family — complete with cold, tired kids — was roaming around in the rain. “Are you looking for your car?” I asked. “I know where it is – and I can take you to it!” It’s easy to be thankful with our families around the turkey table. It’s a little harder to be thankful when it’s late, you’re tired, you’re cold, it’s dark and raining, and your CAR is MISSING! Some circumstances require us to *be a person* of gratitude, regardless of the situation.

Initially, I was sure I would remember this experience as an all-time holiday low point, “The Year My Car Got Towed on Thanksgiving.” But what remains in my memory about this holiday was how a group of strangers embraced the *spirit* of Thanksgiving. I’ll never forget the “pay it forward” miracle of giving and receiving that turned ordinary people into angels and heroes.

Yes, it was the year my car got towed, but more than that. It was “The Year When Stranded Strangers Helped Each Other Out.”

This Thanksgiving, many families will gather to share a meal, perhaps prayers and reflections of what they are grateful for. Some circumstances lend themselves easily to gratitude. In challenging times, giving thanks requires the ability to see the silver lining in the clouds, spin a bit straw into gold, and trust that there is always a purpose for everything — even pain.

Let’s see how we can embrace a prosperity mindset and “pay forward” the gifts that we’ve received this year. Thanksgiving represents an opportunity for transformation, a chance to express and appreciate what is truly important.

Source: <https://partners4prosperity.com/paying-it-forward-a-thanksgiving-story/>

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