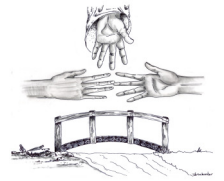
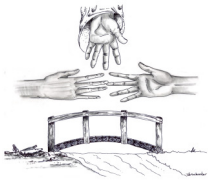


Cross Over the Bridge

"God's Gift to Me is Other People!"



At an AA Conference a few years back the speaker gave her definition of an alcoholic as "someone who wants a prize for being given a gift." Most of us laughed and sadly remembered times where we acted just that way.

AA's founders call us ego-maniacs with inferiority complexes. Quite simply it's a lifestyle based on self. We can "warp" God given gifts - family and friends and our need to control or be dependent on them. The manipulation in either direction causes hurt feelings. Mix in money, sexual relations, work situations, holidays, politics, church, etc... We force ourselves on others. Those around us begin to avoid us and we push harder - and they can only push back or retreat.

When my life was mostly selfish and self-centered I could make a case for how wrong you were about most things because to be part of my life required a level of insanity! Just to be part of it. From p. 47 of AA's 12 Step Guide, "It never occurred to us that we needed to change ourselves to meet conditions, whatever they were." To see how erratic emotions victimized us often took a long time. We could perceive them quickly in others, but only slowly in ourselves. First of all we had to admit that we had many of these defects. Even though such disclosures were painful and humiliating. Where other people were concerned, we had to drop the word "blame" from our speech and thought.

God's gift to me is other people!! With God's will for me honesty, humility, love, trust, patience, integrity and faith. I'm too busy with a joy filled life to need a prize

If you or someone you know needs help to cross over the bridge, contact the pastors.