

Gregg Morris Statement of Recovery

September 5, 2022

I had my last drink on April 23, 2000, the day (Easter Day, no less!) that my obsession to drink was miraculously lifted as a gift from God. So as of today, by the grace and mercy of God, and one day at a time, I have accumulated 22 years, 4 months and 10 days of continuous sobriety.

I have been active in the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous since Day One. The fellowship showed me how to live a sober life that is not a somber life. This program saved my life. Sponsors have helped me work the 12 Steps, and I continue to work them in my daily life, especially Steps 10, 11 and 12.

I attend two AA groups here in Downers Grove: The Highlanders Group on Wednesday nights (which conveniently meets in my church) and the West Suburban Alano Club meeting on Sunday nights. At this point in my sobriety, I try to get to one meeting a week. I still read the Big Book and the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions book on a regular basis.

Over the past 22 years, living sober has become my way of life. It is an integral part of my spirituality – sobriety is, and has to be, a spiritual way of life. I am open about my sobriety and my sober journey. Friends know, family knows, and my congregation knows. (A month after the pandemic began, parishioners organized a drive-by 20 year celebration, with balloons and cards and signs – it was hoot!) God's gift of sobriety to me is my salvation story – how could I not tell it?

I have been blessed to sponsor men in AA over the last 22 years. I have also been blessed to help several parishioners over the last 11 years get sober and find a sober way of life. Sobriety is a gift that's meant to be shared.

The Rev. Sam Shoemaker – an Episcopal priest who was instrumental in the formation of the 12 Steps – is my patron saint (HWHM feast day January 31). Fr. Sam watched over my discernment process in the Diocese of Maryland and during my time in Pittsburgh. It's a great story, and I'd love to have the chance to share it with you.

Peace,
Gregg+