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HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

for

12th Steppers

Alcoholics Anonymous
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National Helpline Number: 0845 769 7555

Hints and suggestions for 12th Steppers

The group is responsible for sponsoring members into 12th Step Service. The Big Book, in Chapter 7, has much to say on this topic and the following suggestions have been prepared to assist groups with that responsibility, and are based on the collective experience of the Fellowship in Britain.

1. The suffering alcoholic should be visited at home preferably, after an initial contact, unless he/she specifically asks not to be so visited. They need to see you and hear your experiences. It is not enough to meet at a meeting.
2. Always try to take another member with you, as you do not know what you may find, introducing newer members of the Fellowship helps them to gain experience.
3. Ideally men should 12th Step men and women should 12th Step women, or, as a reasonable alternative, a man and a woman might go together.
4. If you are unable to deal with a request quickly, telephone the caller, explain the delay, and offer assurance that you do care. Remember your own first call, and need for immediate help.

5. If the suffering alcoholic is not on the telephone, and there has been no pre-arranged time for a visit, take a note in an envelope, confirming that you have called, and asking them to contact you again.
6. Make sure that the new member at their first meeting is introduced to other people, and is offered telephone numbers, local 'Where to Find', 12th Step pack etc.
7. Newcomers should be taken to several different meetings, so that they may be introduced to as many local members as possible.
8. Experience shows that some people do not want to be visited, or go to a meeting. In this situation, contact may be maintained for a short period. If there is no response, we need to detach and let go.
9. Do not advise about medication. It has absolutely nothing to do with us.
10. 12th Steppers should be prepared to look after the newcomers until they feel at home in meetings. Contact on a regular basis, and an explanation of AA Sponsorship would also be helpful.
11. There is no such thing as unsuccessful 12th Step Call; you are bound to have planted a seed and reinforced your own sobriety.
12. REMEMBER - 'Continue to speak of alcoholism as an illness, a fatal malady'

(Alcoholics Anonymous, p.92)