

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

Mrs. Ras Lopez

Danny Carlson, started Narcotics Anonymous in the summer of 1948, he had been an addict for 25 years.

On his last trip to Lexington, Kentucky, he learned a new approach to his problem of addiction as a result of a new program called Addicts Anonymous, that it is patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous.

When Danny came home he brought back with him the fierce faith that moves mountains and the idea for Narcotics Anonymous. He followed the Addicts Anonymous' philosophy but felt it was better to name it Narcotics Anonymous.

With his faith, his ideas and the help of Brigadier Berry of The Salvation Army, N. A. was first started. I do not have the time to tell you in detail all the struggles that N.A. met at the beginning.

N.A. brings together addicts who try to solve their problems by group help and ruthless self-dissection. We attract addicts that help themselves by helping other addicts. At that time there was no other available help. Danny Carlson died of cancer on August 19, 1956, refusing medication for the horrible pain because he did not want to become addicted again and face death as an addict. Though at the present time there is other help available, N.A. still continues their work with addicts.

In the beginning of the N.A. meetings each member gave their experience on their past life of addiction. Since then we found that this kind of testimony was hurtful to new members with short abstinence. At the present time at our meetings we discuss the everyday problems that arise while we are abstaining from drugs a day at a time. If you should ask, how many addicts have we helped through the years, I would have to answer you something like this, "ONLY GOD KNOWS, AS ONCE THEY ARE REHABILITATED THEY GET LOST IN THE MASS OF SOCIETY... MANY OF THEM NOT WANTING ANYONE TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE FORMER ADDICTS. THIS IS A LOOSELY-KNIT GROUP AND IN THE PAST WE NEVER ATTEMPTED TO KEEP RECORDS."

In attendance at a meeting there are generally between 25 to 40 members. We also have our N.A. contact outside of meetings, and roughly, I would say around a hundred a week.

We have two kinds of group meetings... the Closed and the Open Meeting. The closed meeting is for former Addicts only and the open meeting is open to the public.

Our Closed Meetings are held every Tuesday night at 8:30 P.M. at the Fellowship House, 836 East 165th Street, in the Bronx.

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The Open Meetings are held every Wednesday at 8:30 P.M. at the McBurney Y.M.C.A., 215 West 23rd Street in Manhattan.

We have:

- 7 Groups in California
  - 2 Groups in Boston, Mass.
  - 3 Groups in Walla Walla, Wash.
  - 3 Groups in Cleveland, Ohio
  - 2 Groups in Michigan - Jackson and Marquette
  - 2 Groups in Minnesota
  - 1 Group in Lorton, Va.
  - 1 Group in Utica, N.Y.
  - 1 Group in Middletown State Hospital in N.Y.
  - 1 Group in the House of Detention for Women in N.Y.
  - 1 Group in Newark, N.J.
  - 1 Group in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
  - 1 Group in Toronto, Can.
  - 1 Group in Yorkshire, England
  - 1 Group in South Africa
- 1 last Saturday we started in Philadelphia