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AN OPEN LETTER TO AA

I AM a member of the Chicago group; starting my seventh year of continuous sobriety. I have many times read the Big Book, both for my own knowledge and also before calling on others to carry the message. Nowhere between the covers am I able to find where it gives any information about how to carry the message to constant slippers.

As I have said, I have read and reread the Big Book, and it seems to me that the book deals with the person who has an alcoholic problem, but does not know how to help himself. On page 107, paragraph three, it says "If he is not *interested* in your solution. . . ." Again, on page 108, paragraph two: "We find it a waste of time to keep chasing a man who cannot or will not work with you." In other words, as I understand it, the book is for the person who has no preconceived ideas of AA.

It deals strictly in the first person. I have been criticized for my lack of understanding by older members and told to "go back to the book" because I refuse to accept the constant slipper using AA members and their wives for financial gain and petty blackmail, with the same solicitude I have for an alky trying to do something about his drinking problem.

There is one member of the Chicago

group who enjoyed three and one-half years of sobriety, but who for the past four years has been drunk and using AA members for his means of sustenance. With the smoothness of the con man that he is, and knowing the program backwards and forwards, he continues to clip people by "This time I've got it," but first must come the medical care, room and board, financing till the first payday, then drunk.

When I object to his continued using of AA contacts, I run into many an uplifted eyebrow and am told that I am not carrying the message or being willing to work the Twelfth Step.

My line of work brings me into daily contact with alcohol. In fact, it is the very place I was a drunk for twenty-five years. I still work with my old drinking pals, and help them weather many a rough Monday morning.

I have compassion and concern for any drunk who wants help and I can help, but I haven't much for the guy who wants to take me or any other member for all he can get.

Can anyone explain the difference between Twelfth Step work, working with others, and guys and gals who know the solution but continue to drink and use AA connections?

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