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Editorial

At some point in our AA careers, many of us have found ourselves worrying about the future of the movement.

Will AA go the way of previous "movements" and succumb to power or greed or bureaucracy? Will we eventually exhaust the supply of drunks? Will enlightenment on alcoholism, in which AA itself is such a vital educational force, some day end the need for the service AA is now rendering?

These and other equally anxious questions have been asked, sincerely if perhaps somewhat short-sightedly, about the future of AA. Every AA can himself find heartening answers to all of these questions when he gives them sufficient thought, but the answers have rarely been stated more clearly or more dramatically than at the recent General Service Conference of AA.

Perhaps our future is more readily seen by one who is close enough to observe the inner workings of AA at first hand yet who is not himself a member. Our own deep, personal involvement may prevent us from being sufficiently objective about the phenomenon that has saved our lives.

At any rate, the message that was given the Conference by the beloved "dry" Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation, Bernard B. Smith, put into reassuring words the hopeful prediction which all of us want to hear and believe—*the future of AA is secure.*

As our friend sees it, the obligations of AA are not limited even to "the millions who now suffer from alcoholism and the many millions more who will suffer in the generations that will follow us." If there is one thing that impresses itself upon the consciousness of a so-called non-alcoholic trustee, it is the fact that the principles of Alcoholics Anonymous are principles which constitute a message for the spiritual health of humankind.

That's the answer to the future, for within the obligation is the opportunity, a never-ending opportunity. So long as human beings come into the world, regardless of how many may or may not become what we call alcoholics, the need will exist for application of the principles by which AA lives, collectively and individually.

We do not claim to have discovered or formulated these principles. We simply seek to apply them to our everyday lives.

As any AA can testify, this is no easy task, and our obligation to help others to apply these principles to their daily lives endlessly multiplies our opportunities for future service and growth.

The tomorrow of AA is secure and expanding so long as we continue to live and work on these principles . . . today!