

September 2010

Dear Brother and Sister Survivors,

When I first came into the SIA Program I didn't understand how being "fully self supporting" was important to my recovery and the life of SIA as a whole. I guess on one level I wanted to be rescued. I wanted my help to come from outside of myself. I had lived with economic insecurity for years. I'd been a workaholic - definitely a human doing - as opposed to a human being. I took pride in my struggle and saw it as evidence of my independence and courage and ability to overcome overwhelming odds. But the thing was, I was always afraid when it came to money.

At the beginning of my 12 step career I was amazed to see my new SIA friends calmly drop their dollars in the basket week after week. It was hard for me to let go of my dollars. I had a habit of thinking there would never be enough. Sure, others seemed to get their needs met, but it would be different for me.

Also, I had a deeply engrained idea that all things financial were separate from spiritual life. I'm so grateful that I've come to see things differently. While I'm still not sure how it all fits together, after 16 years of SIA recovery, the basket is still passed at every meeting in honor of our 7th Tradition. So what's changed?

What I find is that, over time, my way of thinking about this simple act has dramatically changed. I no longer associate any fear of scarcity with it. Those feelings of profound isolation are gone. Instead, the action and the feelings that accompany it, in some very down to earth way have become solid evidence of my FAITH that while alone I was unable and always wanting - together WE are recovering and whole. The action of supporting ourselves in our recovery and reaching out to other "still suffering survivors," is evidential truth, proof, and an actual lifeline of Faith in the Great, Loving Hand of SIA.

Please, give something extra this fall in gratitude to support SIA's World Service Office in Benson Maryland. Our WSO though small is mighty. It does so much for all our continuing recovery: it publishes and supplies all SIA literature, maintains the on-line store, updates and distributes our meeting lists and oversees our website. It's our program's center of gravity. Thank you in advance for your faith in action.

Your friend in recovery,

Axie N.