

He was at that age, you know, the age of the impressionists. At 15, he wanted to impress everybody.

And God, he wanted to be accepted, to be accepted and loved. And he was, he was accepted and loved in the fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. As a newcomer we all knew him. Some of us traveled the same desperate road of loneliness and lack of recognition, lack of hope. We understood when he talk about drugs and the vast quantities he consumed. We understood his poor ego when he related epic tales of shooting rope through his fingernails. We knew the games that said "Hey, look at me, I need your attention."

We knew addiction, that great feeling of nothingness we tried time and time again to recapture and we knew compulsion, that once taking that first fix, pill, drink or joint we were in a destructive power that would not let us stop of our own will.

We wanted to find out what he wanted to do about his problem and how we could help.

We tried to help him help himself. We could not do it for him. We tried to help him get real by being real. We tried to raise his bottom by being living examples of a new way of life without drugs, street games, jails, institutions and death.

When he came we called him on it, when he cried we wiped his tears and gave him a shoulder to cry on. When we let himself feel good we shared his joy. He was an atheist and very intelligent. We told him of a simple spiritual not religious program of Narcotics Anonymous. He could not or would not use a power greater than himself. He missed meetings, started using and chose one of three alternatives to the program. He died in <sup>the</sup> weekend of the 10th World Convention of Narcotic Anonymous. He ~~left~~<sup>hung</sup> himself.

And that's not unusual. A drug addict's prognosis is poor. We are not supposed to make it. But by the grace of God more and more of us are making it.

*ONE DAY AT A TIME*

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MIRACLES ARE PERFORMED EVERY DAY. A MIRACLE OCCURS  
WHEN THE LAWS OF NATURE ARE SUSPENDED. THE MOST  
NATURAL THING FOR A DRUG ADDICT TO DO IS USE DRUGS.  
EVERYTIME AN ADDICT DOES NOT USE, A MIRACLE HAPPENS.