

Where Two or More Are Gathered. . .

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A LITTLE over a year ago in the basement of a home in Cambridge City, Indiana, four men got together. Theirs was a mixture of personalities, temperaments, social standards and financial levels, but they had one thing in common. Each was an alcoholic and knew it.

The same pattern of existence, the type of problems and the same gutter-level had been experienced by each of these men.

Their stories differed in environment only, as the background in each was the same old bottle.

Together these four men were the beginning of an AA group in Cambridge City.

Regular Sunday evening meetings were held with frequent visits to surrounding towns where groups were already active. It wasn't long before the idea caught on and the Twelfth Step work reaped its reward.

The town itself, curious, skeptical at first, just sat by and watched. As the group grew, outside persons became more and more interested. The happy faces of mothers, wives, sons and daughters reflected the change that AA had made for their loved ones.

After a year of hard work, cold turkey calls, trips to hospitals, a few disappointments but on the whole a successful year, the group decided to have an anniversary dinner. A few words here and there soon brought an offer of a local church basement and kitchen for the affair. Then, to top even that, the gracious offer of a church ladies' organization to cook and serve the dinner.

A very well-known state leader accepted the invitation to be the speaker of the evening and a young team of teen-age xylophone players furnished the musical portion of the program.

To say the anniversary was a big success would be mild. For some it was an inspiration. Turkey dinners were served to over one hundred AA members, their friends and families.

The speaker, who wishes to remain anonymous, made one of the finest talks ever heard and thrilled the local group no end when he brought the personal congratulations from the Governor of Indiana.

After a year, the small get-together in the basement of an alcoholic has sprouted a seed to become the bud of promise to any alcoholic, and with the help of God and an honest effort to live the Twelve Steps, it will blossom unto the glorious flower of happy living.

R. M.
Cambridge City, Indiana