

A Christmas Message From Bill W

ALL MEMBERS

Greetings On Our 10th Christmas, 1944

Yes, it's in the air! The spirit of Christmas once more warms this poor distraught world. Over the whole globe millions are looking forward to that one day when strife can be forgotten, when it will be remembered that all human beings, even the least are loved by God, when men will hope for the coming of the Prince of Peace as they never hoped before. But there is another world which is not poor. Neither is it distraught. It is the world of Alcoholics Anonymous, where thousands dwell happily and secure. Secure because each of us, in his own way, knows a greater power who is love, who is just, and who can be trusted.

Nor can men and women of AA ever forget that only through suffering did they find enough humility to enter the portals of that New World. How privileged we are to understand so well the divine paradox that strength rises from weakness, that humiliation goes before resurrection; that pain is not only the price but the very touchstone of spiritual rebirth. Knowing its full worth and purpose, we can no longer fear adversity, we have found prosperity where there was poverty, peace and joy have sprung out of the very midst of chaos. A Great indeed, our blessings! And so, Merry Christmas to you all-- from the Trustees, from Bobbie and from Lois and me.

Bill Wilson

A CHRISTMAS GREETING - 1957

(From Bill and Lois Wilson)

Dear Friends:

As we stand together, looking back on 1957, we see among us a heartening growth in numbers and in spirit. Our global unity is something for wonder. The world around us is everywhere our friend.

That we of AA can really have and hold such blessings in this time of great fear and conflict at this time when all men and women stand at history's most fateful crossroads' is almost beyond belief.

Nevertheless we do have these blessings. The sum of them is God's gift to us at this Christmas time.

Therefore let us be worthy "come what may" to hold, to use and to carry our gift to all those who suffer and who may want our aid in the days to come. In the full measure of our abilities, let us follow in the footsteps of Him who is called the Prince of Peace.

Lois joins me in a very Merry Christmas to every one!

Bill