

# STRAIGHT

## NEWSLETTER from Cincinnati

MARCH 1985

### NEW-NEW-NEW

A new feature of the newsletter is a special page just for 7-Step News. All 7-Steppers and families are encouraged to submit items for this page. Be sure to read it.

### PARENT WEEKEND

Parent Weekend will be held on either March 30 & April 1, or April 6 & 7 at the Milford United Methodist Church. This is a chance for you to grow as an individual in a way you have never experienced. As one parent said, "I will never forget the closeness, the sharing and love I felt from my group. The meaning of risk, of trust, finally sunk in." Don't let this opportunity for YOU slip by.

### REMINDERS

- . Parents, be sure to be responsible for signing yourself in on Open Meeting nights.
- . Remember the garage sale coming up in May. Save your junk (remember your junk is someone else's treasure!).
- . Sign up to be part of the Straight Booster Club. A sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the carpet room. There is something for everyone to do to help.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HOST PARENTS

Host Parents: if your host child has to miss school for any reason, YOU are responsible to notify the school, just as you would if your own child must miss school.

### MINI-MARATHON PRACTISE RUNS

With the Heart Mini-Marathon less than a month away (March 24 at 1:00 PM) it is important to get your weekly mileage up. Each Sunday afternoon at 4:00 we will be running as a group in Sharon Woods. Please join us - it is a lot more fun to run with friends. Enter Sharon Woods at Swing Road (off Cornell) by the golf course and meet by the clubhouse. Also, entry forms are due by March 11th, and it is your own responsibility to get those sent in.

### LISTEN

When I ask you to listen to me and you start giving advice, you have not done what I asked.

When I ask you to listen to me and you begin to tell me why I shouldn't feel that way, you are trampling on my feelings.

When I ask you to listen to me and you feel you have to do something to solve my problems, you have failed me, strange as that may seem.

Perhaps that's why prayer works for some people, because God is mute and He doesn't offer advice or try to fix things.

He just listens and trusts you to work it out for yourself.

So please, just listen and hear me. And if you want to talk, wait a few minutes for your turn and I promise I'll listen to you.

Anonymous

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REASON FOR LIFE

I don't know how to say it  
 But somehow it seems to me  
 That maybe we are stationed  
 Just where God wants us to be.  
 That the little place I'm filling  
 Is the reason for my birth  
 And just to do the work I do  
 He sent me down to earth.  
 If God had wanted otherwise  
 I reckon he'd have made  
 Me just a little different...  
 Of a worse or better grade.  
 And since God knows and understands  
 All things of earth and sea  
 I fancy that He placed me here  
 Just where He wanted me.  
 Sometimes I get to thinking  
 As my labors I review  
 That I should like a higher place  
 With greater things to do.  
 But I come to the conclusion  
 When the envying is stilled  
 That the post to which God sent me  
 Is the post He wanted filled.  
 So I plod along and struggle  
 In the hope when day is through  
 That I'm really necessary  
 To the things God wants to do.  
 And there isn't any service  
 I can give which I should scorn  
 For it may be just the reason  
 God allowed that I be born.

Anonymous

"We must come to see that human progress  
 never rolls in on wheels of inevitability.  
 It comes through the tireless efforts and  
 persistent work of men [and women] willing  
 to be co-workers with God....We must use  
 time creatively and forever realize that  
 the time is always ripe to do right."  
 Martin Luther King, Jr.

## TRUST AND COMMITMENT TO STRAIGHT

What does this mean to you as a parent? When you brought your child to Straight, you had certain ideas about your "druggie" young person and about yourself. Straight was an avenue toward a better future for you and your family. Being a part of Straight began a new adventure, thus the question: What does trust and commitment to Straight mean to you?

One out of town parent said their family's life changed completely. It means flying 1100 miles per month, but it's all worth it, she says. That sacrifice is small compared to what Straight has done in healing their family. "I'd do anything for Straight. I'd go 11,000 miles." (Nancy)

Another dad expressed his idea in terms of dedication, full participation, and a commitment for "ME." He stressed the importance of meetings for himself for when his son 7-Steps. (Nick)

"Straight has given me inspiration to reach out and help other parents and kids in the community via hot line, radio, and TV shows and speaking engagements, because of my gratefulness for Straight's saving my daughter." (Adrienne)

Trusting Straight and making a commitment to the program has meant getting my family's life in order and helped us set goals for the future." (Opalee)

This dad "turned my will over to Straight for my daughter's sake. Now it's for myself. I like the results for my daughter and my whole family." (Jim)

One mom said, "I put all my faith into Straight and turned my will for myself and my family over to Straight. The results have been good." (Carol)

"Trust and commitment in Straight for me meant listening to parents who went before and making changes where necessary, learning all I could for the benefit of my child, my whole family, myself." (Betsy)

by Betsy S.

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.  
To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.  
To reach out for another is to risk involvement.  
To expose feelings is to risk exposing our true self.  
To place your ideas, your dreams, before the crowd is to risk loss.  
To love is to risk not being loved in return.  
To live is to risk dying.  
To hope is to risk despair.  
To try at all is to risk failure.  
But to risk we must,  
Because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.  
The man, the woman, who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing,  
is nothing.

## A PROFILE OF BILL GLICK

Bill Glick has been Associate Director of Cincinnati Straight since January 1, 1985, after serving on executive staff in the Virginia Straight program. He and his wife, Joan, have two children - Rachael, six, and Aaron who is nine months old. Bill and Joan are both native New Yorkers (in case you didn't recognize the accent) and Bill lived in Greenwich Village area of New York City while attending college at New York University. That experience helped him to determine the work he was later to do.

With a desire to work in the area of social services in the community, Bill did graduate work in applied behavior analysis at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo after having completed an initial two years of research-oriented graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1977, Bill attended the first Michigan Governor's Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. At this time he was working at Learning Village, a care center for children ages two to twelve. He worked with the children and their families.

After this, Bill became Program Director of Battle Creek Day Care, Inc., a program for pre-school and school age children. He also became founder of the Calhoun County Child Abuse and Neglect Task Force.

His work with chemically dependent youth began when he worked for three years as Executive Director of Pegasus, Inc., an organization dedicated to educating the community in substance abuse prevention and offering short-term counseling. Pegasus was a drop-in spot for youth, the staff held school programs and parenting workshops on preventing substance abuse. Pegasus won a special award from the State of Michigan honoring the program as a model Prevention Demonstration Project.

At this time, Bill received a grant from the Department of Transportation to study teenage drinking and driving. Bill was also elected to the Region Three Crime Commission as the Minority/Youth representative, and appointed to the Substance Abuse Prevention Advisory Council in Michigan.

In 1981, Bill went to work at Battle Creek Sanitarium, a twenty-eight day drug rehabilitation program primarily for adults. It was while working at Battle Creek that Bill heard about Straight. He was interested in working in Virginia, but the Straight program had not opened there yet. So, he was invited to visit the Cincinnati program (which had been open here for only six weeks). "That visit occurred exactly three years ago," Bill said. "I remember the date so well because I stood up in the Open Meeting with my host family to celebrate my birthday." Bill spent a week in Cincinnati, and then visited the Florida program. At that time the only job available would have involved a lot of "bouncing around," which Bill did not wish to do.

So, Bill and his family moved to Virginia where he worked as a substance abuse counselor for a Community Mental Health Agency. While working in this capacity, Bill met the Straight staff at various community functions and got to know them. (The Virginia program was open by this time.) By happenstance, he answered a blind help-wanted ad which turned out to be Straight. Bill joined the staff on December 5, 1983.

Bill has always liked working with kids of all ages. What else does he like about his work? "I like working with families. The changes I see are what keep me in the job. I am constantly learning from the families and the kids." Bill had words of praise

for Straight parents: "Straight parents are special - they are humble, open-minded, and accepting of change." Getting to know the kids is another part of his new job he enjoys. "I still have 200 families and kids from the Virginia program with me - so I'm still getting to know the kids," he said.

As for moving to Cincinnati, Bill said, "Joan and I like it here. Cincinnati is very pretty, we like our house and our neighborhood. The people are extremely friendly and helpful. When we came to the program everyone was warm, courteous and appreciative. We received a warm reception and I appreciate that."

Besides his work, Bill enjoys sauerkraut on his hot dogs, hiking, playing with his kids ("they are adorable"), and reading - especially science fiction and science and nature subjects. He also does an excellent imitation of Alley Oop and may actually be Groucho Marx (as you know if you attended the Straight Talent Show).

Bill Glick - his personal example, his sense of humor, his calm assurance, and dedication to strengthening families - is a real gift to Cincinnati Straight.

#### FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE

Today upon a bus I saw a lovely maiden with golden hair;  
I envied her...she seemed so gay...and oh, I wished I were so fair.  
When suddenly she rose to leave I saw her hobble down the aisle.  
She had one foot and more a crutch, but as she passed, a smile...  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine...I have two feet...the world is mine.

And when I stopped to buy some sweets, the lad who served me had such charm:  
He seemed to radiate good cheer, his manner was so kind and warm.  
I said, "It's nice to deal with you, such courtesy I seldom find."  
He turned and said, "Oh, thank you sir!" and then I saw he was blind.  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine...I have two eyes...the world is mine.

Then, walking down the street I saw a child with eyes of blue.  
He stood and watched the others play; it seemed he knew not what to do.  
I stopped a moment, then I said, "Why don't you join the others dear?"  
He looked ahead without a word...and then I knew he could not hear.  
Oh God, forgive me when I whine...I have two ears...the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset glow,  
With ears to hear what I should know, I'm blessed indeed....  
The world is mine. Oh God, forgive me when I whine.

submitted by Stephanie H.

# 7-Step News

## 7-STEP PROFILE - MIKE CI

"I knew it was a life or death situation when I came to Straight...I was a 4th stage druggie," said Mike. He remembers thinking early in his program: I don't need something this hard; I can do it on my own. Then near the end of his fourth phase he recalls feeling determined and strong with a real direction for his life.

Today, Mike has been 7-stepped for two years. He is 24 years old, a junior at Cincinnati Bible College. Mike talked about how his program is an integral part of him. If he faces an especially difficult problem, he is much more conscious of going right through his steps. Mentally, he makes a moral inventory of himself, often writing down goals for the next day. Mike said, "I am aware of my feelings and what is happening in relationships. I have gained trust in myself and faith in my motives. It is a great feeling knowing I'm living the life I'm living because I want to do it for me. Being straight, living this life is God's will for me and what I want."

Mike went on to say, "It is hard to believe but I have grown as much since 7-stepping as I did in the program because now I'm applying what I learned to real life." Mike has a different perspective on his growth now as compared to his growth while in the program. "There came a time for me after I 7-Stepped when I stopped working away from my druggie past and started working toward my future. It gives me a different focus, a more positive outlook. I will always remember my past, but it isn't pulling on me anymore. I believe this is a line every 7-Stepper crosses and we all progress at a different pace."

As for the future, Mike is working on a degree in Christian Ministries. After that he may go on to graduate school to get a degree in Counseling Psychology. He may work with high school and college age youth and he plans to preach in his ministry. As Mike puts it, "I know I want to do what God wants me to do."

### BARN DANCE

### NEW 7-STEPPERS

A Barn Dance will be held for all 7-Step families and all siblings on FRIDAY, March 22nd from 7:30 PM until 1:00 AM at Livingston Lodge, Indian Hill. The cost is \$5 per person. Bring a salad, hot dish, or dessert - country fried chicken will be provided. Make reservations for this fun evening before March 8th by calling Noelle H. - 891-2719 or Nan V. - 489-2575.

The announcement of six new 7-Stepper was celebrated at the February 22nd Open Meeting. Congratulations to these new 7-Steppers and their families: Denise N., Dean S., Ken L., Eric B., Jeff B., John B.

### STEP ALIVE-'85

The 7-Step Convention will be held in Cincinnati on June 28, 29 & 30. The agenda is exciting: Friday registration will take place at the Marriott Inn, followed by a pool party. Saturday a party will be held (with live entertainment) on board the boat "Becky Thatcher." A dinner dance at the Marriott will follow. Sunday's activities will be held at the Straight building beginning with a non-denominational worship service, with activities ending at 12:30PM. Plan NOW to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\*\*  
For the past year or so, you have been receiving the Cincinnati Straight Newsletter free of charge. This has been made possible through the generosity of individuals who have donated postage, labels and printing. If you would like to continue to receive the Newsletter, please fill out the order form below. We will continue to send it to you free of charge. If you would like to send a donation to help defray the cost, it will be most appreciated.

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Enclosed is a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray the cost of providing our Family with up-to-date news on the Program and the 7-Step Society.

Mail to: Straight, Inc., Box 7394, Millford OH 45130

FOR SALE

Great Straight Crate: '75 Ford LTD 10 passenger wagon; PS, PB, AC, AM radio, automatic transmission, 351V8, steel-belted radials, heavy duty shocks and new springs on rear. Price: \$795. Contact Chuck or Elly M. Dayton - 435-3676



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