

# THE FELLOWSHIP

*Your World Recovered*

January 2009

Volume 5

The Fellowship is a newsletter published by the Chemical Recovery ministry. The Fellowship is making recovery far more exciting, provocative, and high-spirited (no pun intended), than our addiction ever was. The news of this world is dominated by an earthly perspective. The Fellowship is a refreshing view of "everything under the sun" from the perspective of those formerly deeply entrenched in its vices and now free and grateful to share a unique perspective on life.

## THE FIRST RESOLUTION EVER

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. The road for Jesus to be "taken up to heaven" was a road of humiliation, torn flesh, torture, blood and spit; thorns and nails, asphyxiation, hematohidrosis and hell.

This road was no mystery to Jesus; he knew what was to come and yet we are told he set out for pain beyond imagination "resolutely."

For all the talk around January 1st, concerning resolutions, the truth is many of us have never made a real resolution. Many of our so called resolutions have just been wishes or short-lived attempts that ended in failure. A resolution by definition is: The quality of not allowing difficulties or opposition to affect one's purpose; a firmness of purpose. You see a true resolution never goes away! It burns in your heart until fulfilled. Resolutions don't come to fruition by mere chance, they are pursued wholeheartedly and with a passion that doesn't dissipate.

For those who desire a noble resolution, maybe the first one ever made, let me suggest one. The purpose of The Fellowship publication is, in large part, to seek and profess truth. As addicts to drugs we have a history that has allowed us to see the power of sin full-blown in our lives and the power of the truth to free us from the bonds of sin. This power, we now recognize, has broader applications than just not using drugs. We are called to have a sober estimate of life and to recognize Satan and his schemes and fight for righteousness and the advancement of the Kingdom of God through force!



The Fellowship plays a large part in this fight (we expose the enemy within and without and aim all of our spiritual weapons at him). My proposed resolution to you reader is to plug yourself into this publication. To become a faithful reader, connect with the other members of the fellowship and encourage others to do the same. This is a practical, quantifiable way of achieving something that otherwise can be just a vague and aimless pursuit for truth and the spiritual depth we know we need. Ultimately the goal is "not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." God is using The Fellowship for this end and I implore all to make a real resolution and take on this challenge.

### Recent Articles on the Web

Read these articles at

[www.chemicalrecovery.org](http://www.chemicalrecovery.org)

- ▷ [Horton Hears A Who](#)
- ▷ [A Cure For Pride](#)
- ▷ [Staying Sober For The Holidays](#)

Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."  
Matthew 9:16-18

## STATS

The following statistics are taken from [www.samsha.gov](http://www.samsha.gov). They are for the year 2007. They take into account alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use over the month prior to the survey. The data is shown by age group.

Illicit drugs include all other drug use including abuse of prescription drugs

	Alcohol Use %	Cigarette Use %	Illicit Drug Use %
<b>12 Yrs and up</b>	51.1	28.6	8.0
<b>12-13 Yrs</b>	3.5	2.4	3.3
<b>14-15 Yrs</b>	14.7	10.8	8.9
<b>16-17 Yrs</b>	29.0	23.4	16.0
<b>18-20 Yrs</b>	50.7	39.0	21.6

# AM I AN ADDICT ?

One day I was sitting in my car trying to get a moment before I went home to my wife and kids. I was playing a game on my PDA and after playing for more minutes than I can remember a thought came to me: 'Am I an Addict?' I said, 'just one more game and that's it'. The next thing I knew I had played about 3 to 4 more games. Does that sound familiar? "One more drink and that's it". I could have chalked this up to my competitive nature and dismissed it as nothing to be concerned about.

A series of incidents led me to go back to CR. I went to a CR workshop and a brother whom I trusted invited me to come to the actual group. Nothing tragic had occurred to

me like picking up drugs again or getting drunk; I didn't even have a drink. No, I believe God was calling me to come back and learn the lessons yet unlearned. I had graduated from CR 17 years ago, worked in the ministry, married a wonderful woman yet still had so much to learn.

The first time I had attended CR I went with someone else as a sponsor but I ended up staying for myself. It was with a lot of resistance and only after being threatened with getting kicked out that I wrote my journal. I was avoiding getting in touch with who I was. Even after writing it and attending CR regularly I was never able to admit to myself and others that "I am an addict". Maybe it had something to do with my pride.

Well, here I am a faithful disciple for 19 years. Clean and sober for about 23 years. What? Me an addict! Yep! It was like scales falling from my eyes and I could now see clearly what had eluded me before. One of the traditions that stood out to me at the workshop was "Total Recovery". God does not just want me to be sober but he wants me to work on every area of my life. I guess after 14 year of marriage and two kids and many failures and much needed humbling, God was finally getting through my wall of pride. I am thankful that God does speak to us (sometimes in a dream to terrify us with warning or in your car on your PDA; maybe in a talk or an article). God could have come to me after a fight with my wife, a fit of rage with my kids, while medicating myself with TV or lust. But God came to me in a gentle whisper. "Am I an addict?"



**Q:** I have received a few of your newsletters and am encouraged to see the direction the group, the website and now, the newsletter, is going. What was the impetus for this revival?

**A:** Thanks for your question and thanks also for noticing the changes being made! When the website was first created, it was intended to be a service to the New York CR ministry. Later the domain [chemicalrecovery.org](http://chemicalrecovery.org) was purchased to allow the site to be a central out-reach to all CR ministries across the church. The website was woefully understaffed with a team of one, the result being little activity and few updates. After "the letter" it appeared that CR would fall foul to the cynicism and sentimentality at that time.

## Question & Answer

Around this time God laid on the hearts of some brothers meeting in the New York CR ministry, the need for changes in the way CR was done. This resulted in formalizing the rules and traditions among other changes. Together with the brother managing the CR website, they decided to revamp [chemicalrecovery.org](http://chemicalrecovery.org), to reflect the direction the fellowship is moving in. As Jesus said, "The old has gone and the new has come." The new wine of CR which we believe God has made clear cannot be put in old wineskins. To this end we launched the newsletter, made key website updates and continue to encourage CR groups to adopt the changes.



The CR traditions (see below), rooted in Scripture, are the cornerstone of CR, calling not only the addict but the entire Church back to the truth of God's Word. The group is now an open meeting where anyone can walk in off the street and have the opportunity to experience the recovery God has in store for them.

We encourage you to join with us in spreading the truth of God's Word and His plan of recovery for all caught in the bonds of addiction.

Sign up to receive this newsletter at [www.chemicalrecovery.org](http://www.chemicalrecovery.org)

**Total Recovery | Biblical Authority | Accountability | Truth In Love | Empathy | Willingness To Change | Eternal Fellowship | Outreach**

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