

A.A. Grapevine, July, 1948

A.A. Is Religion With Feet On Ground

From Akron, Ohio

In a sermon recently delivered in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron, Ohio, Rev. Walter F. Tunks, D.D. said:

“Therein the patient must minister to himself. But ministering to one's self isn't enough! Many of you who have tried it, know that! This week I attended a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous. If you want to see a religion with its feet on the ground, still working miracles through the power of God, get in touch with that earnest group that is lifting men and women out of the gutter and restoring them to lives of usefulness. But as one of them said the other night, ‘Take God out of our group, and we have nothing left but human fellowship, and that isn't enough’! Over the place where I stood to speak hung a motto of the group with its terse reminder, ‘But for the grace of God—’ Maybe alcohol isn't your problem. But whatever your weakness is, you will never overcome it by flexing your own muscles. We can't swing up a rope attached to our own belt straps. All our human efforts fail until they are anchored in the rock that is higher than I.”