

History of the Eye Opener Group

Prepared by Precious 12/31/16

The Eye Opener Group was started in the late 1980's by a man from the state of Washington named Kent and a woman from Vermont named Casey Swan. At the time, there were no early morning meetings in Santee and they wanted to start a meeting for people to attend before going to work in the morning. It was held at 6:30 A.M., Monday through Friday at a church at the end of Magnolia Avenue in Santee, California.

There was no heat in the room and it was pretty cold in the early mornings for the small group of 4-6 men and women. They read from a small book published by Hazelden, *The Eye Opener*, and shared on the reading. The group took its name from the title of that little book.

In the early 1990's the group moved to the Prospect Avenue Baptist Church. The format changed to reading from the *Daily Reflections* book and sharing on the reading of the day. Also, a Saturday meeting was added to the schedule at 7:30 A.M. as the meeting attendance continued to grow. When the church decided to discontinue allowing 12 Step meetings on their property, in the winter of 2000, our group moved to the United Methodist Church at 8964 N. Magnolia Avenue in Santee, California where we continue to meet.

The 6 days a week meeting schedule serves approximately 100 members and visitors. As an open group, attendance slips are signed and newcomers are always welcomed. There are usually a number of people who are in their first few days, months or years of recovery, however, most regular attendees celebrate a range of 5-45 years of continuous sobriety and are available for sponsorship.

A full range of service positions are available and a Group Conscience meeting is held every month during which agenda items are discussed and trusted servant reports are given. A required attendance quota must be met in order to enable voting on any new issues. The Group Conscience is responsible for decisions such as the format, signing slips,

not using a timer, closing with the Serenity Prayer and every other thing imaginable as regards the functioning of the group.

The Eye Opener group is fiscally responsible and regularly distributes contributions from the 7th Tradition basket to help carry the message according to our Pie Chart. We maintain our own bank account and post office box. There is an active Coordinator and GSR. Members participate in answering phones at the Central Office, working with the activities of the Public Information Committee, filling panels for Hospitals and Institutions, and support Area workshops. The Traditions are followed and the language of the heart is alive and well with this group.