

We can beat alcohol problems

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Alcohol . . . I've seen it destroy so many of my Native people. It's so sad, because God gave us so much to make ourselves happy, that all we have to do is look for them — the positive values of life. It really hurts to see the minority people today so low, but if you really look for the reason it will most likely be because of "booze." The water that deteriorates and destroys lives of the people whom we really do love and care so much about.

We really can't run away and hide from this problem, because we know that it will always be there, no matter what. All we can do is try to be part of the solution, instead of the problem. A lot of people say you just have to "accept" it, but I can't!

I grew up around it, like many other people I know. We all have our stories to tell, but can we be so ignorant to let it continue among "our Native people"? We cannot say it is hopeless to try to conquer this problem, because I know that God is on "our side" and with Him all things are possible!

Sure it will take time and hard work, but to me anything that you really want and believe in, is worth any price! Believing that someday "our" dream might come true is all it takes, along with working, striving, and praying together to reach that goal.

We all need to be realistic about such a task to beat alcoholism. It cannot be done overnight, but gradually, just

like it came upon us! It can be slowly taken away, if we really want that to happen.

Today, things are changing so rapidly, that we have to stop and think, what is going to happen to our future Native generations if we don't fight now against this disease, that has stuck and infected so many of our Native people today?

Alaska is the No. 1 state known for alcohol abuse, and many people use the "excuse" that it is because of the harsh environments or the weather! To me that is just a cover up to the real reasons why so many of our Native people drink in our society today.

I don't have all the solutions to our problems of alcoholism, but I know and pray that if we all pull together, we can beat this handicap before it destroys more of our Native people! If people would just take the time to really think why do they drink? Why do they need it in their lives?

Maybe then, they would realize that there is something better that they can do and enjoy in their lives, instead of drinking. Some people say they don't need it to have a good time, but I guarantee that a majority use it as a "crutch" or an "excuse" to try to have a so-called, "GOOD TIME"!

What do we define as alcohol or liquor? Is it wine, beer, or whiskey? What makes it so appealing to so many people? Why do so many people risk the consequences that come along with drinking alcohol or liquor? There are so many questions that need to be answered.

I don't have to tell you what kinds of problems that are related to drinking, because they happen every minute, every day. Why do we put up with such a killing substance called "alcohol"? Are we all that dumb? If we are smart enough to produce it, we are definitely intelligent enough to come up with a solution to destroy it!

All what I have written isn't just felt by me, but by many other people that care about the human race. I am more than willing to try and work with anyone to look and study our situation of alcoholism. To help come to a solution that I know will benefit all of us. But the only way this is ever going to happen, is if each and every one of us participates, if we want to succeed.

People power is a wondrous tool if used right, and I definitely know that God will give us all the power we need to battle against **ALCOHOLISM**, if that is what we really want to happen! There is a chance that if we pull together, this might be the beginning of something very beautiful and the opportunity for all of us to really participate in the **HUMAN RACE vs. ALCOHOLISM**.

To me, there is nothing more beautiful than being part of the solution, instead of the problem — **THINK ABOUT IT**. Thank you.