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Is the Big Book neglected?

From Columbus, Ohio:

In the January 1977 Grapevine, "Closed Meeting Topics in This Issue," I found a wonderful suggestion under "Guideposts to Sobriety." Several years ago, a couple of AAs started a Big Book study group. We took turns reading



chapters and encouraged interruptions at any time during the reading for discussion of what we had just read.

To me, it was beautiful, fantastic. Although I had read the Big Book, I found myself hearing things that seemed totally new to me. Every time any chapter was read again, there was some new wisdom to be heard. It was as though the Big Book kept expanding. What valuable tools are to be found in this incredible book!

Yet our group remained very small, and we limped along for two or three years without too many

AAs showing interest. I can't help wondering what's wrong. Are we no longer stressing the value of this book? It tells us so much more than just how to stay sober. Between its covers is everything we need to know to live a sober, happy, useful life. It's all there for the taking.

I can't help feeling sad for the new people coming into our program if the value of the Big Book is not stressed by their sponsors or at the meetings they attend. Are we, the so-called old-timers, failing to carry the message? Are we really working our Twelfth Step?

The Big Book study group is now the Big Book Group, and our meetings are now open. Our attendance is growing each week, but we no longer read the Big Book. Ours was the only Big Book discussion meeting in our city, and I feel we're left with a void. Can any of the readers out there suggest ways of helping this kind of meeting? *B.S.*