

TO WHOM DO YOU TURN?

INTRO:

This message can be started by a "numbers" game that adds up to 4100 which can be found in the OAC Training Manual (*appendix #3*).

Here is another problem for you to figure out. Think of a way to connect these 4 dots with 3 straight lines by having all the dots inside the lines. While you are thinking of a solution I would like to ask you a question. Look at these yellow boxes and you will see my question: **TO WHOM DO YOU TURN?** When you are confronted with a problem, where is the first place you turn?

Most of you are doing it right now. You are trusting **YOURSELF** to come up with the solution. Someone may think of connecting the dots using the "X" method, but, as you can see, there are 3 openings and all the dots must be inside.

If you fail at solving a problem, who do you turn to next (*At this point ask the crowd for the answer. By getting them involved it helps build the crowd, and someone will usually give the answer.*) Yes, that's right, a **FRIEND** someone you can trust. I usually turn to my wife for help if I fail at solving a problem. With additional help (*use the "Z" method*) I now have only 2 openings, but the problem is still not solved.

If you and a friend cannot solve a problem, who do you turn to next? (*Again, ask the crowd for their input.*) Most people will get out their wallet and pay someone to solve the problem. The **PRO** seems to do a better job but there is still one opening. All the dots must be inside the lines. Paying someone doesn't guarantee that the problem will be solved. Have you ever paid to have your car fixed and still have the car not work? Lawyers, doctors, and counselors can be wrong and still take your money.

Has anyone figured out how to connect these 4 dots with 3 straight lines while having all 4 dots inside the lines? (*Often someone in the crowd will suggest that the triangle is the answer.*) That's right, the triangle is the answer. You must think outside the box for the solution.

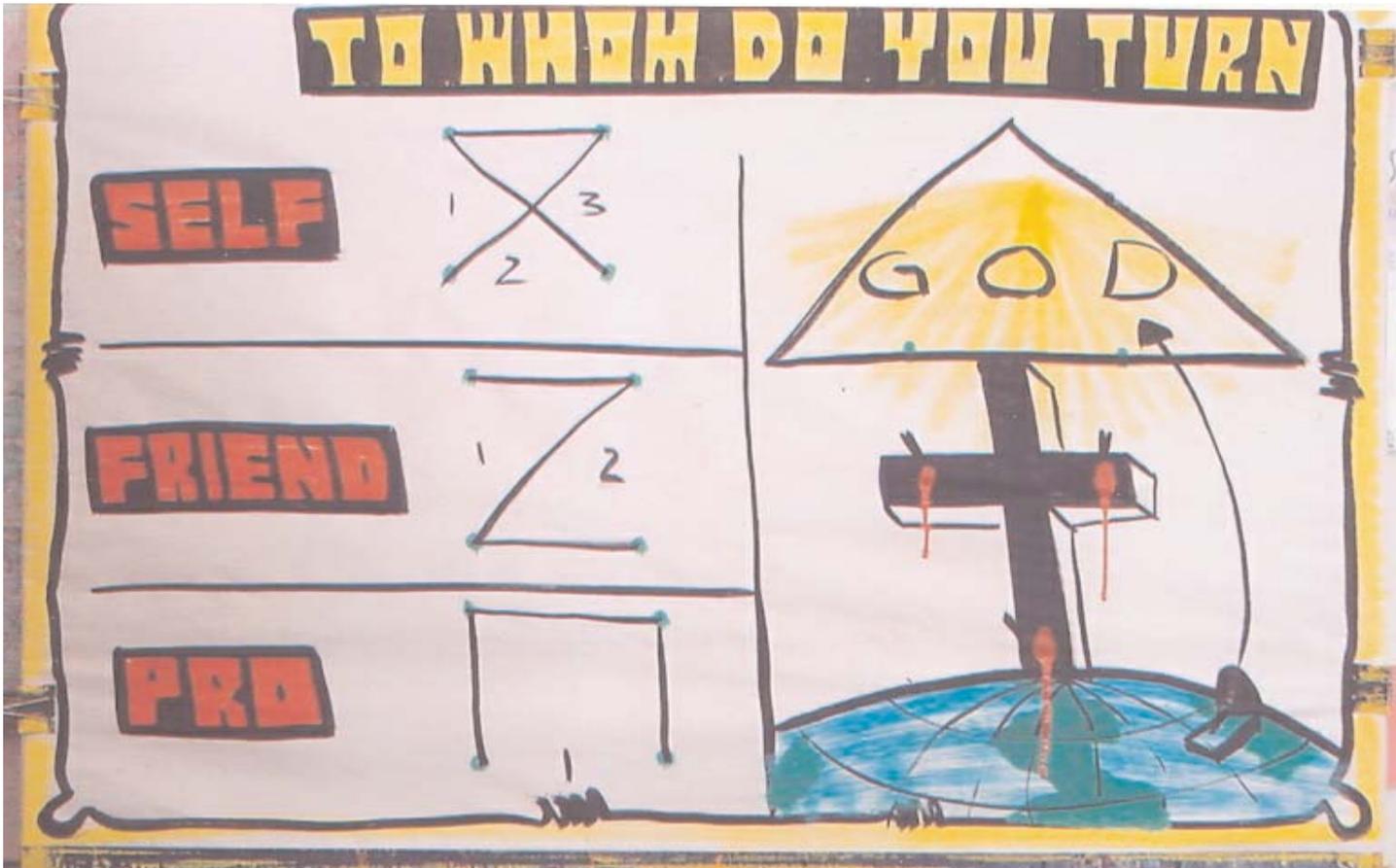
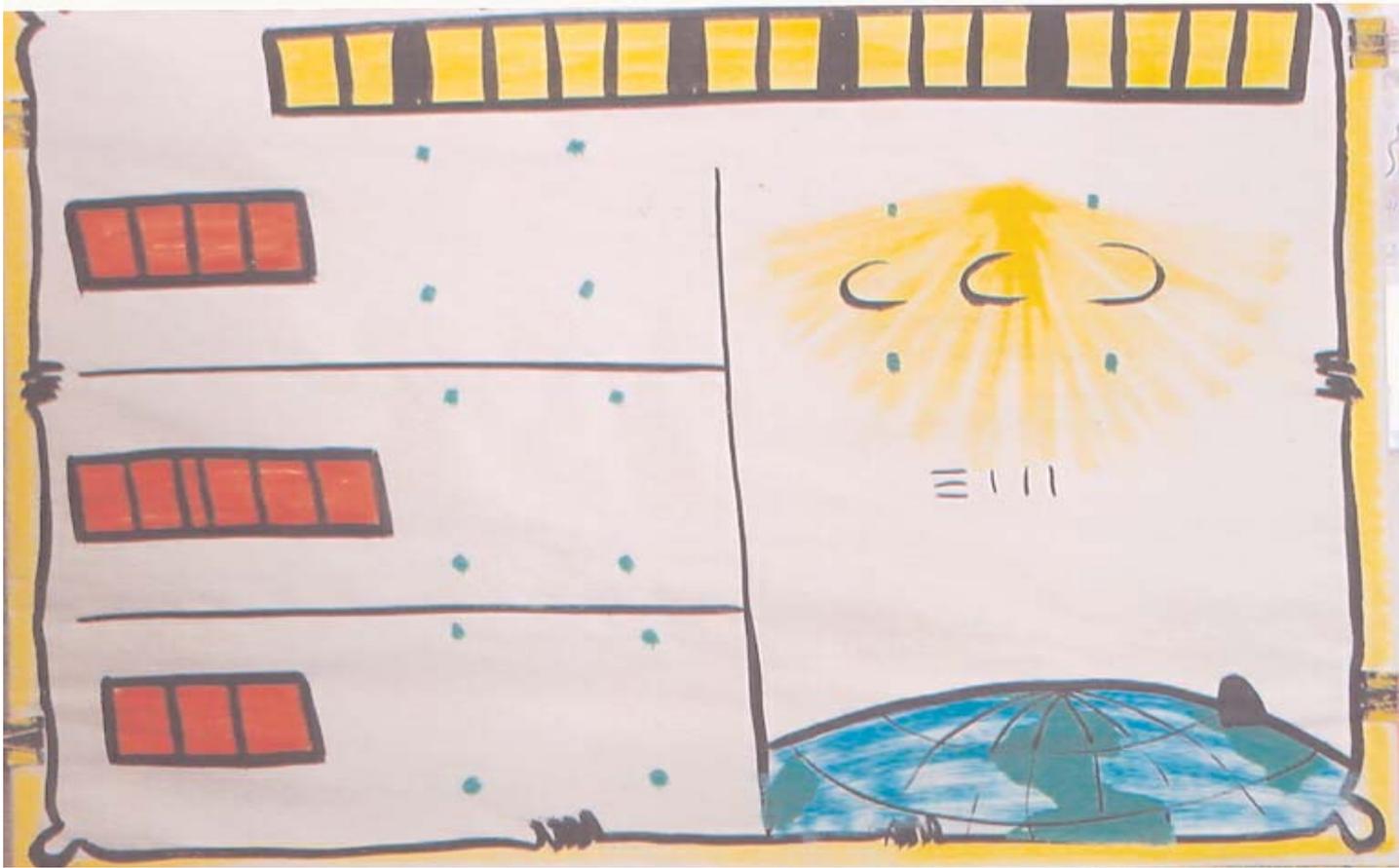
(*At this point you want to start transitioning into the spiritual application to these things.*) Some problems in life do not seem to have an answer. What is the biggest problem a person can face in life (*ask crowd to respond*)? **DEATH** by far is the worst problem, and no matter who you turn to in this life, yourself, a trusted friend or a professional clergy, they cannot provide you with a solution. Like our math problem, you must think outside the box.

GOD exists outside the box. He created the box and all other things, whether seen or unseen. God is eternal and has power over life and death issues. He has even told us what the problem is that leads to death and then has offered the remedy.

SIN brought on death for the first two people and this has been a problem ever since. God has given his Ten Commandments to reveal to us the depth of our sin problem. By looking into God's Laws, the sin in our hearts is exposed because God wants us to see how terrible and hurtful it is. Sin hurts God; it creates problem with others and will result in our being punished. God says the wages or penalty for our sin is death which sends us to hell not heaven. We cannot work off our own sin by trying to do better or becoming religious; that's like turning to yourself for the solution. No one can help you either, even the clergy cannot take your sin away; they have the same sin problem you do. (*At this point you may want to elaborate on some of the commandments as this will convict the hearts of your crowd*).

We must turn to God for the remedy to our sin problem. Jesus claimed to be God. He even said to his disciples that looking at Him was like looking at God. As a man here on earth, He was tempted to sin in every way that you have been, yet Jesus remained pure and holy like His Father. Because Jesus was without sin, He could become an acceptable sacrifice for our sin. God must punish sin, yet He demonstrated His love for us by punishing Jesus in our place. This is a type of love that is almost incomprehensible. We may show love to a friend or family member, yet God showed His love to His enemies, namely you and me. By turning to God in confession and brokenness over our sin and trusting in Jesus, that He suffered and died in our place and rose from the dead, God promised to give us eternal life...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord. He who believes in the Son has everlasting life, and He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, instead the wrath of God will abide on that individual.

CONCLUSION: Today if you wish to turn to God for your salvation, I would like to give you this booklet with Bible verses in it which can help you better understand such a great salvation.



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