

WORLD'S WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION



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National Convention Choir at the Arctic Cathedral in Tromsø, Norway

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The President's Page . . .

Sarah F. Ward



Dear White Ribbon Sister,

In June I enjoyed celebrating the 110th anniversary of the Haugesund, Norway WCTU with their members and many guests who came in support of the organization and its goals. Maria Molvik gave an inspiring temperance message. The history of the group's first 50 years was read and the members were encouraged as they realized they are still continuing their work today.

I enjoyed a beautiful boat trip through many of Norway's fjords as the National President and I traveled to the site of their National Convention. A good Convention was held with new enthusiasm for the work. Margaret Ostenstad was re-elected National President and the board members were also re-elected.

I am including a message from Margaret Ostenstad regarding the recent tragedy in Norway and the lesson for us in the WCTU.

At the time of writing, Norway is devastated in the aftermath of a terror action which has taken the lives of 90 people, the majority of them beautiful young people at a summer camp. How this could happen in this small, peaceful country is beyond comprehension but it did and everyone is grieving. Our National leaders remind us that we are to stand together and that violence will not silence or change us. But isn't this how we should feel in the WCTU – part of a "family" with a common cause? Young people die every day all over the world because they do not heed our message. And their loved ones are grieving every single day! We need to stand together, clear in our message so we can rejoice every time that ONE PERSON'S LIFE is changed or ONE BABIES' LIFE is saved because someone listened.

Even though you may tire of promoting **International FASD Awareness Day, September 9**, just remember that millions still have not heard the message that there is NO safe amount of alcohol that a pregnant woman may drink. Be diligent to spread the word again this year!

**39th World WCTU Convention - May 3 - 8, 2013
Adelaide, South Australia**



Treasurer

Dorothy Russell

It is summer in the US and flowers are blooming - such a lovely time of the year. After all the tumultuous weather the world has experienced, it is welcomed relief. I trust each of you are safe and well in your country. Now is a good time to reflect on the many blessings that God has given us. We are a blessed people.

World Convention is not until 2013, but it is not too early to anticipate the needs of that convention. One thing we can do is consider giving to the Frances Willard Scholarship Fund. This fund helps to send younger women to World Convention who might not otherwise be able to attend. We try to find ladies who will benefit from this experience to help them be successful in their countries with WCTU work. Talk with your ladies and start planning now to help with this fund. Ask God what He wants you to do, after all it is He who has blessed us. "Happiness lies more in giving than in receiving. (Acts 20:35)

We also need to consider the World Project for this three-year period. We have been asked to give money to provide clean drinking water for people in many parts of the world who do not have this basic need met. We have been told about women who even make alcoholic drinks and sell them because the water is not safe to drink. It is not enough to ask people to be total abstainers. We must also help meet their basic needs and one of those is to have safe, clean drinking water. When you make a contribution just be sure that all the money you contribute goes for the project rather than having part of it used for overhead and administrative costs of that organization. I will repeat the list of organizations we know who can assist you.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency International
(www.adra.org) provides wells.

Christian Broadcasting Network
(www.cbn.com) provides wells and cisterns

International Disaster Emergency Service
(www.ides.org) drills wells

Procter & Gamble
(www.csdw.org) distributes PUR packets to clean water

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!



2nd Vice President

Brita Nilssen

Youth Camp at Sætervika, Norway

The first weekend in June, I had the pleasure of attending a summer camp at Sætervika, a beautiful place close to the seashore some miles from Bergen. For more than 30 years, White Sisters from this region have arranged summer camp for girls and boys. They teach Bible lessons as well as the temperance message to more than 60 children, 4th to 7th grade.

The children arrived Friday afternoon, loaded with bags and different "needed" equipment, excited and eager to meet old friends. Oddrun Småbrekke, the lady in charge, had a good hand on everything. Her family owns a farm nearby. Her husband and their youngest daughter brought two horses for the kids to ride. Very popular! So were the other activities like canoe paddling, trampoline, swimming, ballgames, and different competitions.

The Camp motto and song were: "Who do you say Jesus is?" and "Who does Jesus says you are?" With great enthusiasm they sang: "Who can teach me live a meaningful life? Jesus can!" In my temperance lesson I talked about alcohol and the dangers they put themselves in by drinking. I also gave them a fresh report from one of the largest newspapers in Norway about a high school student, diligent, with highest grades in every subject, and with a great future planned. He had never tasted alcohol, and therefore did not know the effects when he celebrated his graduation. He completely lost control and as a result severely injured a man who was hospitalized for a long time. The student was imprisoned. He now has a police record which puts a stop to all his wonderful plans for the future.

My hope and prayer is that this story along with the excellent posters and brochures from Signal Press (USA) which we translated into Norwegian will keep these children from starting to drink or use drugs.

I was very impressed with the ladies on the staff who give of their time year after year. I sensed and experienced the care and commitment they showed the children. The manner in which the children responded to their caring underlined to me the value of being a mentor and a person who cares, listens, and tells the truth about Jesus and the temperance message.. Every night at bedtime, the leaders went into each room, sat down and either talked, read a story, or prayed.

The first night I went into a room shared by 4 girls. One of the girls asked me: "Are you a Christian?" When I responded affirmatively she said: "I am not! The three others said the same. I could not help but ask the reason why they came to a Christian camp. "We want to be on our own without our parents around. We want to be free, to have fun!" I told them why I believed in Jesus, and experienced openness from the girls as they asked serious questions. Sunday afternoon before leaving, one of "my" girls asked a leader: "Will there be a camp next year? I want to come!" Wonderful!



Organization Secretary

Margaret Ostenstad

Please E-mail me articles and jpg photos about your work to wwctu.most@c2i.net

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand WCTU held their 124th National Convention in March with the theme "The Way Forward". One speaker told of the work of The Life Education Trust who work among the school children throughout the country. The other speaker told of his vision to look after folk who have completed 12 weeks recovery from alcohol and need somewhere safe to live while they adjust to a different lifestyle.

The NZWCTU has a very supportive men's group. Since the NZ headquarters property was recently sold, they see perhaps the opportunity to start all over again and rebuild, like they are doing in Christchurch after the earthquake.



New Zealand Executive (left to right): Beverley Boardman, Secretary; Janet Palmer, Vice President; Ruth Hillsdon, President; Ruth Gray, Vice President; and Margaret Larsen, Treasurer

NORWAY

More than 60 members from all over Norway traveled to Tromsø, which lies above the Arctic Circle, for the National Convention. Under the theme "Be a light in your everyday life" a successful Convention was held. Keynote speaker, Professor Jan Norumm, spoke on "Addiction and Lifestyle." World President, Sarah Ward, had a productive meeting with the National Directors who use the National Bulletin to spread their ideas about projects, The Youth and Children's Department report was of special interest as well as the Children's Camp which has existed for 30 years.

INDIA

Ms. Reena Kumar, Delhi State Secretary, has sent Issue 4 of the Delhi State White Ribbon Bulletin with interesting reports and pictures of their work. A recipe for a thirst-quenching summer drink was included. Delhi State President, Mrs. V. Kumar, states that they continue efforts to create awareness about drugs, including sophisticated drugs, even pain killers. She also pointed out that the unmonitored use of the internet gives youngsters opportunities to surf for sites where drugs can be ordered online so parents have the responsibility to take an active part in their child's life.

VISIT TO OLD PEOPLE HOME



ANTODAYA HOME FOR DESTITUTE



TEMPERANCE STALL AT ST JAMES CHURCH FETE



CHILDREN PROUDLY DISPLAY THEIR ARTWORK



WCTU KIT WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED IN VARIOUS SCHOOLS



WOMENS PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS



GUATEMALA

Fieldworker for Central and South America, Dr. Dora de Barrientos writes that she is excited about an offer from a member of her church, a professional singer, to record an album for sale. The proceeds will be given to support the project, Debora Foundation and the White Ribbon in Latin America. This is very timely as Norad and Fokus in Norway no longer consider this project as meeting their strategy on rights for women. The focus of the project is on education, job training, health care as well as kindergarten and preschool which change the lives of all who live in one of the poorest, most violent areas in Guatemala. **If you have any ideas of how they can get funding, please get in touch. Funding stops in 2012. Dr. Barrientos has stopped her work at the hospital in order to make every effort to keep the project alive.**



Christian Outreach

Pastor Irja Eskelinen

In Finland, our theme for the International Day of Prayer is Messengers of God. The text for this day is recorded in Exodus 23:20-23 and in 1 Kings 19:5-7.

“See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says.” (Exodus 23:20-23)

“I will send an angel to go ahead of you to protect you on your way and to take you to the place I have prepared” – this promise is given to us as well. We all have to endure hardship in our lives- some of us abundantly. We live amidst threats despite our desire to live in truth and righteousness. We desire to be good parents, but life can lead us to situations that deplete our resources. How can we survive then?

Some of you may have visited Israel and seen its great deserts. It is horrific to be stranded in the desert without food, drink and shelter, without hope. In the Bible there are several passages where an angel gives comfort and assistance in the desert. One of these passages is 1 Kings 19:5-7. “Then he (the Prophet Elijah) lay down under the bush and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, ‘Get up and eat!’”

At that time the Prophet Elijah was afraid and desperate. He had opposed those who worshipped Baal and had the wrath of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel upon him. He was on the run because Queen Jezebel had threatened to have him killed. Elijah no longer knew who was his friend and who his enemy. Fear isolated him and brought great loneliness. Elijah escaped to the desert and finally fell asleep, completely exhausted. The angel of the Lord arrived at this time of great difficulty and the help offered was very real: kind words, bread, and water. There was no pomp and circumstance about the act of helping. There were no harsh words, no reprimands. What happened to Elijah in the desert was probably something he could not at all expect.

In this story about prophet Elijah, the journey is essential. If we want to overcome despair, we must keep trying. It is essential that we not stand still but get up and try again. It is a long journey to help and understand someone with a substance illness. We White Ribbon sisters have a challenging task to, lovingly and with open ears, remain close to someone who is suffering, whether their pain be the result of substance abuse or other trials.

We are simultaneously on the way and arrived at our destination. Changes in life are powerful in the midst of life’s passing moments. Nothing is ours to keep, and once we help people, we have to let them go about their own lives. It is difficult to say goodbye at these moments. They remind me of a term used in early Christianity for an experience of great joy: sacred tears. That is when we choke up. Something great and irrevocable is about to happen. At these times, God wants us to get a glimpse of His presence and, as we see our neighbor, we see God.



Education Director *Dawn Giddings*

MEMBER EDUCATION and ACTION

The purpose of the Education Department is to make known the facts about alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs and their effect on the body.

To enable us to do this effectively we first need to educate ourselves and then take the following actions.

- Source information - WCTU websites and WCTU literature/posters, local Health Centres, etc.
- Compile a separate file for each drug
- Familiarize yourself with the facts
- Distribute literature to churches, schools, mother and baby centres, doctors' offices, public library, shopping centres, hospitals, etc.
- Make displays or exhibits for special days such as World No Tobacco Day, May 31; International FASD Awareness Day, September 9; and World No Alcohol Day, October 2.
- Seek speaking appointments (churches, schools, etc.)
- Give workshops - Invite a qualified speaker for each topic. Use up-to-date DVDs, demonstrations, and information. Give fact sheets to the participants. Allow time for questions.
- Provide children's programmes - Hold them during school holidays or after school or on the weekend. Use DVDs, puppets, flash cards, etc. Include games and refreshments.
- Sponsor contests - Coloring, poster, essay, and speech

This is a very important Department. If we as members do not know the facts, how can we teach others? It is also important to know the history of the WCTU - how, why, and when it began. Protection of the home was the impetus behind the Women's Crusade in 1873 that challenged women to march to the saloons and do battle with the liquor trade. They went forth bathed in prayer and in the strength of the Lord.

Today we also face many of the same issues plus many more but we also have at our disposal many more resources. Even more important, we still have available to us the power of God so we can go forth in His strength with prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

"So my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable, always work enthusiastically for the Lord for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless." (1 Corinthians 15:58 New Living Translation)



Children's Director

Glenda Amos

Is Our Message Positive?

How are we presenting our message to the children? Are we describing the things that they shouldn't do – “don't smoke, don't drink, don't do drugs”? Or are we talking about the things that can be put into our lives – healthy eating, drug-free choices, enjoying life to the full, mental alertness, experiencing great friendships? Where is our focus?

Paul made the statement in Philippians 4:8 “Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”

Are the statistics that we use to support our message couched in the number of children and teens who are taking drugs, drinking alcohol and smoking? How often does the media report the negative trends, rather than the positive ones – the increases in drug usage rather than the decreases (e.g. cannabis and heroin use in Australia has declined over the past decade¹.)

Very often we focus on a negative message instead of a positive message and children develop a resistance to the message as it seems restrictive and narrow and appears that those who are smoking, drinking and taking drugs are being highlighted in the media and they are made to appear as the norm. But wouldn't it be better to present our message in positive terms? We can stress the good things that life offers without the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs. We can also present the statistics in the positive rather than the negative (e.g. 72.8% of 12 – 17 years old in Australia have never smoked and 92.7% did not smoke in the preceding week¹.) This is affirming for the children who are making the drug-free commitment. They do not stand alone – they are part of a group who have chosen to be drug-free. They can be proud of their choice and not feel as if they are freaky or different. Let's help our children and young people to hold their heads high that they have made the choice to drug-free.

So what can you do? Present the drug-free life positively. Gather a group of children and meet in your home to plan great drug-free activities together suitable to the age of the children. In your community, search for young role models who are total abstainers. Have them come and talk to the children highlighting the benefits of being drug-free. Have the children find out famous people who chose to be drug or alcohol-free. Share stories of people in history who made that choice and the impact it had on their lives and the lives of others. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Let our children know that to be drug-free is to really live!

¹ Tobacco, Alcohol, Over-the-Counter and Illicit Substance Use Among Australian Secondary School Students 2008 - <http://www.nationaldrugstrategy.gov.au/internet/drugstrategy/Publishing.nsf/content/school08>



Arctic Cathedral
in Tromsø, Norway



Norway's members on the way to the Sunday morning church service at the Arctic Cathedral in Tromsø (above the Arctic Circle)



Norway's National Board

(Left to right): Brita Nilssen, Turid Giskegjerde, Margaret Østenstad, Anne Grete Olsen, Jenny Kristiansen, Aud Karin Fjørland and Aud Bodil Brekka

Marsipan cakes were served at the Haugesund, Norway 110th anniversary celebration.

