



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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Blessed Christmas





Sarah F. Ward

LEADERSHIP TRAITS

Dear Reader,

It is evident in today's world that there is a great void in leadership. We see the lack of statesmen in the political arena. Organizations are suffering because no one takes the lead. The WCTU has a need for leaders, too. Hopefully the following thoughts about leadership will be helpful in developing WCTU leaders. This includes officers, department directors, and those responsible for a specific project.

Leadership may be defined as the action of leading a group of people or an organization. It is not wrong to be interested in becoming a leader. As a leader one should continue to grow and never stop. If your God-given talents include many of the traits we will discuss, then you should consider leadership.

Individuals interested in leadership should be motivated with a desire to strengthen the organization and move it forward. A strong prayer life and desire to follow God's will are essential traits.

I strongly believe in the need for a servant's heart which means that as a leader you never ask anyone to do what you are not willing to do yourself or have not already done.

Knowledge of the organization is important and one should never stop learning. Commitment is needed for successful leadership. That means that the WCTU is a top priority in your life and as a result may on occasions prevent you from doing something else you would enjoy.

There is a need for courage in order to make tough decisions and to sometimes try what others do not think is possible. Leaders need to be able to set clear and reasonable goals. It is important to have a team of helpers who can offer advice and counsel.

Perseverance is a needed trait. There will be difficulties (let's call them challenges) and discouragement along the way but trusting God and seeking His guidance will be helpful. This is also where an encourager can be a wonderful ally.

A leader needs to be able to inspire her followers. Her enthusiasm should be contagious. She needs to involve as many others as possible in achieving the goals of the group.

Leaders express thanks and appreciation for the efforts of their followers. They encourage and mentor.

You may list other traits you hope to have in leaders. Those who desire to be leaders may use this checklist to measure their abilities.

A final note - remember that every successful leader needs devoted followers. If you honestly believe that your talents are better suited to being a follower rather than a leader, then be the very best follower you can be!

Yours for a drug-free world,
Sarah

President's Message



Dear White Ribbon Sister,

A quotation from one of Frances Willard's addresses: "The World's WCTU is but an outline map as yet. The shading is to come; the tones are to be wrought into its texture with the perspective that shall make a picture glorious and complete. How soon this vision shall begin to dawn on human eyes depends upon each one of us - in the last analysis perhaps as much on one as on another."



Margaret Ostenstad

We can call department reporting as "shading." I am so inspired by the reports coming in from countries around the world – in particular, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo! A challenge was sent out that only those who report regularly will be eligible for sponsorship to the next World Convention and the reports have been coming. Please be mindful of sending your report and clear photos also to World Organization Secretary, Desiree Lanigan.

Each individual is so important to the work and together we weave a pattern where the dark threads of despair are just as important as the golden sheen of success. In order for God to bless our endeavours, we need to practice Jesus' words – "Love one another." Find a kind way to express your opinion and, as far as possible, give praise before words of criticism. You will be amazed with the results.

As Christmas approaches, please do not hesitate to encourage the use of alcohol-free beverages. Hundreds of thousands of children live in homes where there is at least one parent/care-giver with an addiction problem. These children are particularly vulnerable during the Christmas season. Liquor sales double and triple at this time of the year. In addition, research shows that children are affected whenever the adults drink, even in moderation. Children want adults to be present and the presence of alcohol and other drugs takes that away from them. In Norway, a slogan widely advertised is "**Children are our greatest resource! Let the holidays be drug-free!**" Perhaps this is an idea for use in your country, too.



Praying you sense the love of JESUS and His nearness to you this Christmas and always!

Margaret

**The World Officers, Directors, and Fieldworkers
wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and
a happy New Year!**



Henrietta Griffith

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

We commemorate the coming of Jesus each Christmas time. He came to bring joy with the knowledge of salvation to all. He lived for others. As a child, He grew in wisdom and knowledge. This kind of knowledge comes by obedience to God. The fear of the Lord is the keystone. No wonder the angels sang of joy, peace, and good will to all men.

At Christmas time we are reminded of the One who gave Himself to serve us. He took on the form of humanity that He might serve by His death on the cross. For the joy that was set before Him, He served. Christmas time is a time of living service. There are many lonely people. We can serve without loving but we cannot love without serving. Find a needy family and serve them. Find a child in need and lovingly serve him/her in Jesus' name.

WHY?

Why were the heavens all ablaze
When Christ was born in Bethlehem?
Why did the angel host come down
To tell the news to humble men?
Why did the wise from eastern lands
In reverence bow before a stall
And leave their costly gifts and gold
In worship of a babe so small?

All heaven knew God came to earth
When Christ was born in Bethlehem,
And faithful hearts who longed for Him
Received the message given them.
All heaven knew that lowly Babe
Could save a world from every sin;
All heaven knew the love of God
Had come in Christ to dwell with men.

And that is why the angel host
Said, "Glory be to God most high,
Peace on earth, goodwill to men,
All glory be to God on high."
And that is why men sing today
Above life's fretful stress and strain,
For God's great love in Christ still saves
And men re-echo heaven's refrain.

— Mary Stoner Wine



NORWAY'S TREATMENT CENTRES 1913 - 2013

At the Norwegian WCTU (Det Hvite Bånd) National Convention 10-13 October, 2013, we had the theme "Inspiration to further effort". The 100 year anniversary of the Treatment Centre was celebrated with the introduction of a book tracing its history written by the present Chaplain at Riisby, Ragnar Enger.

The White Ribbon in Norway was founded in 1889. Quite early the White Ribbon sisters realized the need to help female alcoholics and visited Duxhurst in Reigate, England which was started by Lady Henry Somerset. Lady Somerset, a close friend of Frances Willard, focused on a wide variety of activities in order to get patients to use their own resources to help themselves.

In Norway limited funds resulted in establishing the first treatment centre in a farm setting. It was established in 1913 at Jeløy. At that time there were no similar places for women, either public or private. Our pioneers had an incredible vision! It was a formidable task for a small organization with small means. But they had great faith in God, and his blessing has rested upon the treatment centre all these years.

After some time it was obvious that there was a need to expand the capacity, and a union in Vestre Slidre found the solution. In 1949, they purchased a larger building which, to everyone's dismay and sorrow, burned to the ground in 1960. However, the same year, the building which is the present location - Riisby at Dokka – was purchased. This was a significant milestone for The White Ribbon, and it is with thanks to God that we look back on the 53 years that Riisby has been our flagship and pride. The developments that have taken place in this era have been a great inspiration and joy to our members.

Today there are two centres - Riisby North and Riisby South. A major addition at Riisby North was completed in 2010, giving patients single room accommodations with bathroom.

The White Ribbon sisters have a great heart for the work and the patients at Riisby. The members regularly pray for the work and, in addition, Christmas presents are sent to the patients, packed by members from all over the country and sent with great love by faithful hands.

Prayer, which is an essential part of the White Band work, has been a great blessing, both for Riisby and the intercessors themselves. Only eternity will show the full meaning of the prayer service.



Desiree Lanigan

International FASD Awareness Day, September 9, (ninth day, ninth month) reminds people around the world to support alcohol-free pregnancies. Every time a pregnant woman drinks she is exposing her child to the risk of being diagnosed with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). The more a woman drinks the higher the chance the child will be diagnosed with FASD. In the same way if a woman drinks no alcohol while she is pregnant there is no chance that her child will have the condition. FASD is a leading cause of mental retardations in the USA. FASD is 100% preventable, but is still very common. How can we stop it from happening? Awareness is the key. That is what International FASD Awareness Day is all about. The following are excerpts from the reports on how FASD Awareness Day was observed by Woman’s Christian Temperance Unions in different parts of the world:

South Dakota WCTU (USA)- reports sending a news release to 122 newspapers in their state, individual emails or letters to editors, and a FASD church bulletin insert for the Sunday before September 9.

Canada – The Canadian WCTU reports the local Verona Union attended a breakfast in Kingston, Ontario sponsored by the FASD Action Network. Len Whalen was the speaker and author of a play about FASD which was performed. A dessert night was also sponsored at a local restaurant featuring a speaker presentation on FASD. This was held in the evening to give opportunity for more women to take part.



The Myanmar WCTU observed FAS Day with a special program. What an attractive banner!



Norway – The Norway WCTU devoted one full page of their National White Ribbon Bulletin to FASD. They also sent announcements to their local newspaper and 340 bulletins were sent to individuals and organizations (state councils, schools, doctors etc.)

England - reports in regard to recognizing International FASD Day, they offered display boards to various community-settings to raise the profile of FASD day; made available information found on the Linked In services on a teleconference aimed at parents of children with FASD, and also included the FASD board and doll in alcohol awareness sessions during that week and the following week. They now have a group of young people developing a campaign to ‘get more information to other young people and pregnant women about the dangers of alcohol in pregnancy’, through their Health Champions Scheme running in their secondary school.

California WCTU (USA) - The Home Protection Department Director hosted a workshop featuring the FASD KNOT and FASD information (online resources).

West Virginia WCTU (USA) – This union reports having Church bells rung on FASD Awareness Day at 9:09. They also reported placing FASD announcements in newspapers.

These reports are all full of good ideas. Let them be an encouragement to each local union. In closing, these words from a local WCTU president – “How will others know if someone does not care enough to tell them? Praise God for our very caring WCTUs around the world and for the courage He gives to all our members to keep spreading the truth about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.”

Blessings to all,
Desiree



Sagale Telaulini Niuatui and Losalini Taeka (President of Tuvalu WCTU) made a presentation about FASD Awareness Day and the WCTU on live radio for one hour on September 6th. The announcer, Afasene Pese, was so impressed and touched by the message that she joined the WCTU.



Christian Outreach



Irja Eskelinen

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:14

A Christian often longs for his heavenly home. This longing can even become a source of strength. There are enough troubles in life and earthly sorrows to wear us out. Sins, mistakes, and errors weigh heavily on our conscience; our faith and hope are often tested.

On our journey we are carried forward by the words of the Bible, prayer, and meeting with other believers to partake of the Holy Communion Jesus has given us. When Jesus walks with us, we can better endure our fears and worries. As Jesus gave us the Lord's prayer as an example, He emphasized: "Your Father knows what you need." (Matt.6:8).

If we Christians are unskilled in our actions, it is our fault, not the Bible's or the churches. The Bible deals with the real issues of this life. There we meet people like us in the midst of their daily troubles; we face them happy, grateful, surrounded by the enemy, famished and miserable. The Bible shows us how people in their ordinary lives put their trust in God or begin to rebel. Jesus was born a human in a human world. He knew a man's share because he was a man too, poor and homeless. He was tormented like any one of us. That's why He understands us and as the true God can help us who are tormented. Let us nurture each other like Christ has nurtured us. Likewise, I must be like Jesus, poor in spirit, humble, loving, and serving others.



Education



Reena Kumar

Education is a very important part of our WCTU work. In the Program Kit mailed to your National President at the beginning of October I included a great deal of material about alcohol and other drugs. You may also access it by going to our webpage - www.wwctu.org. Then click on **Resources** on the left side and scroll down to Program Kits - Education 2014.

There is information on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, short-term and long-term effects of alcohol, alcoholism, signs and symptoms of drug abuse and drug dependence, effects of cigarette smoking and marijuana facts including short-term and long-term effects, addiction risks, and signs of usage. I also included a chart which shows the contrast between a normal brain and an FAS brain.

I hope you will use the information in your meetings to better inform your members and then take it everywhere you can.

Home Protection



“Protecting the home” entails so many aspects. It is not just parents, but, as adults it is absolutely imperative to be on guard for the safety of all homes; to encourage that homes be kept safe from harmful drugs and harmful influences.

Social safety includes all forms of media (music, videos, internet, written). The task seems insurmountable considering the age we are living in. However, we can be assured our message of temperance is true and honorable. God honors that! Our work will not be in vain.

Spiritual safety is protecting the heart. This begins, I believe, even before birth, to be praying for the unborn child. Pray the child will grow to know and follow the will of the Lord. Then, as Little White Ribboners and LTLers, the children learn what God has to say about keeping their bodies healthy and that they are temples of the Lord.



Florence Einwechter

So, as Home Protection Directors, I encourage you to be faithful in your tasks. Believe that this area of the WCTU is the heart of this wonderful organization. “For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.” Psalm 100:5

Blessings in your work.

Social Service



Living in Indonesia, I have experienced several incidents and disasters. I have seen thousands, and sometimes even hundreds of thousands of people become victims of major riots and massive earthquakes and violent, volcano eruptions. I have also seen a disaster when the mud inside the ground covers dozens of villages. I was very shocked as I witnessed these disasters and I cried whenever I looked at the families who became victims and were in pain due to injuries from the disasters. That's why I wanted to be by their side and help them and encourage them.

The skin color, nationality, and religion are not important. As a human being, I had the heart of wanting to help the weak as much as I could. Our Lord was always filled with love and mercy and pity. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and gave joy to those that were sad. Our Lord loves each and every one of us and takes pity on us.

We are people that follow Jesus. Therefore we must become more like Jesus and we must learn and do what He does. That's why we have the WCTU Social Service Department. As long as Jesus Christ is inside us, we will continue this work. Don't you think so?



Hyun Sook Lee



Glenda Amos

FOUNDATIONS

Having a good foundation is one of the most important things when building a structure. Children need a good foundation in life so that they can make right choices as they grow. If we make sure that we establish good relationships with children, we will be able to assist them to develop principles that will help them deal with the issues that life will bring to them.

The project kit for 2014 has been designed to emphasize these principles. There are seven principles that are highlighted and a couple of units which cover Easter and Christmas and one dealing with Commitments. You may use the material in any order according to special times that your country may celebrate. Some units do flow on from the others. The principle of authority has been divided into two, which provides a unit on family (mothers and fathers) and one unit on other authorities in our life. A manual is also provided with extra memory verse material and answers to puzzles.

All the material can be downloaded from the website with provision for both US and English spelling. Other countries are welcome to adapt the material for your own language group. It is my prayer that you will find the material useful as you work with children and help them to develop a good foundation for life and skills that will enable them to meet life's challenges in a positive way.



Dr. Elsa Masauku

I hope you have received the ideas for interesting youth in our work that were mailed to your National President in the Program Kit for 2014. Otherwise you may go to our website - www.wwctu.org and click on Resources on the left-hand side. Then scroll down under Program Kit 2014 to the Youth section.

We have offered several suggestions to help you get a group of young people together. When you try an activity, be sure to include a short devotional time, perhaps offered by a local youth minister. Also, be sure and explain the total abstinence pledge and its importance and give the youth the opportunity to sign it. That means you must plan ahead and be sure to have pledge cards available. Of course, refreshments are a must for this age group.

Young people are eager to have fun times in a safe and drug-free environment. They do represent the future so we have an opportunity to play a role in the future. Give it a try.

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And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2: 8-11