



# White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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The foundation for our future is...

## LOVE

...suffers long.

...is kind.

...does not envy.

...does not parade itself.

...is not puffed up.

...does not behave rudely.

...does not seek it's own.

...is not provoked.

...thinks no evil.

...does not rejoice in iniquity.

...rejoices in the truth.

...bears all things.

...believes all things.

...endures all things.

...never fails.

1 Corinthians 13



*Sarah F. Ward*

## WCTU WATER FOUNTAINS

At the first National WCTU Convention (1874) in the United States, the women were encouraged to erect "in every village and town and city, fountains of water." By providing water for villagers and farmers when they came to town, the WCTU met a need and made it possible for the people to resist the temptation of going to the saloon for water and then being tempted to remain for stronger drink. This is an important practice which the WCTU has used many times. Rather than just telling someone to avoid an action, they provide a healthy alternative.

Anna Gordon, private secretary to Frances Willard and Superintendent of the Juvenile Division (now Children's Department) of the WWCTU, obtained 350,000 signatures of children from many countries who signed the total abstinence pledge and contributed \$3,000 for the erection of a fountain to honor Frances Willard. The fountain was first displayed at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. It was called "The Little Cold Water Girl." A stream of water poured into the bowl and dripped down. Using cups that were fastened to the arms of the girl, people could get a drink. The extra water went into the horse trough below. At the very bottom there was a bowl for dogs. After the Fair, the fountain was moved to the front of the WCTU Headquarters (known as the WCTU Temple) in downtown Chicago. After the Temple was sold, the fountain was placed in Lincoln Park on the north-side of Chicago, only a few minutes' drive from Evanston.

On March 1, 1958, when the park district plumber went to the fountain to turn the water on, he discovered the 300 pound bronze girl had been stolen. No trace of it has ever been found. The good news is that a private donor and the Chicago Park District had a new one made from an identical fountain in Portland, Maine which was erected in 1917 to honor Lillian M. N. Stevens, the woman Willard selected to follow her as National President. Stevens also served as Vice President of the WWCTU.

The new fountain was again placed in Lincoln Park on the original foundation and dedicated on October 2, 2013. An identical fountain was erected in London, England to honor Lady Henry Somerset. It, too, was stolen, but has been replaced.

Approximately 85 WCTU fountains have been located while many others have been destroyed over the years. Australia and Canada have found WCTU fountains, too.

See the back cover for the new fountain in Chicago. It has been featured to commemorate the 175th anniversary year of the birth of Frances E. Willard, founder of the WWCTU.

Sarah



Dear all,

2014 is here and going so fast! Let us step into the future with a clear plan of keeping our heart's moral compass on its true north through the love of God. (1 Cor.13) Peace and harmony will bring healing as divisions are easily made. The resulting hurt feelings can have adverse effects so remember, we are all human and have our failings. Every "unloving" situation needs a hero (or in our case – a heroine). Encourage your members to give a smile, a kind word – just refrain from harsh words or criticism. You will be amazed how God will bless your good intentions.



*Margaret Ostenstad*

With these words, I would also encourage everyone to use the Program Kits which have been sent out. They are great tools for the continuation of the work, as well as an ideal method for you to use to introduce new people to the organization. Sponsorship to World Convention will depend very much on reporting to Organization Secretary, Desiree Lanigan, and me. Get started now! Norway is relatively new to the Department Work and we have worked a step at a time for the last 10 years. Finally we are making headway! I heard from a relatively small union who came up with the idea of forming study groups. They contacted a group who give out grants for Christian study groups and I was contacted by the General Secretary. She was so impressed by the WCTU that she became a member! It was as easy as that! Please let us know if you have results like this in your country. It could inspire someone else! Keep your heart's moral compass on its true north and encourage others to do the same.

I do hope that you are enjoying the new World Bulletin ([www.wwctu.org](http://www.wwctu.org)). The new design is aimed at making the Bulletin more appealing as there is so much good material inside that deserves to be read. My hope and prayer is that when people see how much "we care," their hearts will be touched to do likewise. Believe in yourself, follow your passions and NEVER GIVE UP! In all things, give THANKS TO GOD and to Him be the glory.

Please note the change in my email: [margaret.ostenstad45@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.ostenstad45@gmail.com)

Love and prayers,

Margaret



*Brita Nilssen*

## HANNAH

In 1st Samuel, chapters 1 and 2, we learn about Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, who also had another wife, Peninnah. “Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.” Already in this sentence we sense Hannah’s grief, frustration, and great sorrow because being childless in her culture at that time was a disaster and a disgrace to a woman.

“Elkanah used to go up year by year from his city to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh. Elkanah gave to Peninnah and her children portions of the flesh of the sacrifice meal, but to Hannah he gave double portion because he loved her, but Jehovah had closed her womb. And because of that, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year! Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.”

I did not choose Hannah and this conflict between two wives as an argument for monogamy, nor to dwell on the problem childless wives may suffer. I chose her because Hannah, in her agony and great distress, prayed to the Lord Almighty that He would “remember her and not forget her and grant her with a son. She begged Him and she vowed a vow that she would give this son back to the Lord so that he could serve Him all the days of his life.”

And the Lord answered her prayer, Hannah got a son. She named him Samuel for she said: “I have asked him of the Lord!” She also kept her promise to the Lord and gave Samuel back to Him.

Back in Shiloh with her husband, they worshipped the Lord and Hannah prayed: “My heart rejoices in the Lord! . . . There is no one holy like the Lord, there is no one besides thee; there is no rock like our God.” Hannah’s praise and prayer is a holy joy in the Lord at the blessings which she had received.

Her story ends with these words: “And the Lord was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters!” You may receive amazing grace, blessings, and gifts from the Lord Almighty when you give to Him your sorrows, grief, and agony. He who is able to turn evil into something good, and He who listens to a woman when she prays to Him, gives answers - always and in due time!

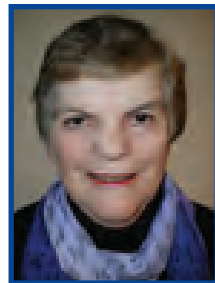
God bless!

Britta



## WE CARE

**WCTU Women Care!** We care enough to try to prevent damaged lives through the use of alcohol and other drugs, and we care enough to do what we can to help those in need. Perhaps you would be interested to hear a little of current “Care” projects being undertaken by WCTUs in Australia.



*Anne Bergen*

“**Because We Care**” boxes were initiated by the **WCTU of South Australia** in 2012 to help those who are victims of crime or who have suffered an unexpected loss of a family member. They contain foodstuffs donated by supermarkets, a card, and a book on grief. Over 100 boxes have been given with the support of the Police Department.

**WCTU of Western Australia** is also investigating a similar project with “Because We Care” boxes.

Several Unions, including Newcastle in **New South Wales**, WCTU of South Australia, and Bayside and Kerang Unions in **Victoria**, have been involved with preparing **toiletry kits** containing essential items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap, talcum powder, personal deodorant, shampoo, and face washers for local Women’s Refuges.

The Headquarters of **WCTU of Victoria** is located in Dandenong, a suburb of Melbourne, which has a high percentage of immigrants and refugees. A special offering at their Christmas meeting raised \$300 for toiletry items for men at the nearby Asylum Seeker Centre. Women and children are well cared for but the men are often overlooked.

In November at **WCTU of South Australia** Headquarters a fundraiser was held for **Rahab Ministries** which raised \$190. A parcel of gifts were also given in addition to an earlier \$100. This Christian Organisation is a place of refuge, acceptance, and assistance to women caught up in the sex trade. Their volunteers work with the girls on the street and are also able to visit Brothels where they offer support, if permitted. They like to give each girl they contact a small gift. For those on the street, it is a can of coke and a small chocolate bar and in the Brothels, a small personal item eg. talcum powder, soap, perfume, etc.



Simple projects like these make a big difference to people in need. What are you doing to show that you care?

Anne



## Organization Secretary



*Desiree Lanigan*

A new year already, 2014! Philippians 3:13-14 helps to put our lives in perspective: “forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God.” Start now! Give grace, one more time. Be generous, one more time. Teach one more class, encourage one more soul, run one more mile, swim one more lap, practice the piano 5 more minutes, continue in your temperance work. My prayer is that when we are tempted to quit, Lord, remind us to endure for one more day, to be patient one more time, and to serve one more season.

Some of the highlights from the reports received recently of the temperance work being done around the world include:

**FINLAND** – reports a new activity. Laulukontti – a Backpack Full of Songs. Laulukontti is a project that gathers seniors’ musical memories and encourages generations to enjoy music together. The goal is to create a therapeutic musical activity that can support seniors in maintaining their physical and mental resources, advance the bond and social relations between generations, and also reach senior citizens that suffer from social isolation.

Laulukontti material will be produced into a community songbook that is available for seniors’ group and daily activities. Implementation and development will continue locally and nationally in collaboration with the Finnish White Ribbon Union.

**INDONESIA** – reports “It has already been 17 years since WCTU-Indonesia first started and every 3 years we hold a National Convention. Last June, we held our 5th National Convention and the members of each branch gathered together from early morning. It was wonderful for the different branches to have fellowship with one another. We started the meeting by worshipping God. It was followed by various discussions and presentations from each of the branches along with electing new leaders. By God’s grace we were able to wear matching t-shirts with the white ribbon logo in the front and we were able to become one through this year’s WCTU-Indonesia National Convention.”



**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** – WCTU/DRC president, Laurentine Mbe Ndala Kitenge, reports that their union was invited by several television stations to talk about the WCTU and their activities. After that they were invited by WHO/DRC to talk about the “effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs” on their National television. Later in the year they took part in a church-hosted program with the principal subjects being “Alcoholism, tobacco addiction and drugs, a break for the development of our nation”. They had four speakers who spoke on the consequences of those products on (1) economy and education of the nation (2) the human body (3) families and society’s life (by WCTU/DRC President) and (4) the spiritual life.



**KOREA** – Mrs. Young Joo Kim, KWCTU President and 3rd World WCTU vice president, had the opportunity to share FAS material with ambassadors from over 50 countries, leading Mrs. Mi Hae Lee, wife of Korea’s ambassador to Cambodia to join the Cambodia WCTU. This union was just planted by the cooperation of the KWCTU and the NZKWCTU (New Zealand Korean WCTU). Also Mrs. Sang Eun Kim, a KWCTU trustee planted a KWCTU branch among Korean immigrants and international students in the U.S.A. by holding Holistic Self-care programs with Dr. Kyung Il Park, WWCTU Field worker.

These reports should encourage each one to look forward in 2014 for new opportunities to share the temperance message. Blessing to you.

Desiree



Irja Eckelinen

## PRAYER - THE LANGUAGE OF HOPE AND FAITH

Most of us ask whether God hears our prayers. We may have been praying long and fervently, but we have received no answer. It is easy to think that no one is listening. The experience may be devastating enough to keep us from returning to prayer.

Our prayerful lives also contain hard times and moments of emptiness. As Psalm 63:1-3 expresses it: *I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory.*

Our experience of silence and not being answered could come from our own confusion between God hearing and answering our prayers. We may spend a long time speaking to a close person who actively listens to us without uttering a word. God listens to us similarly, sometimes answering with delay when we are done speaking. At times we ignore the answer already given, should it not meet our expectations in content or in the method of delivery.

Trusting in Jesus gives us courage to believe that God always hears our prayers. Jesus himself battled with emptiness and silence as He cried out *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me* (Matthew 27:46). We can trust that He knows our pain. As I look to Jesus, I can trust that God hears my prayers.

We may and we should pray even when we are not feeling particularly righteous. We may do as Jesus did in Gethsemane. When we are overwhelmed by anxiety and depression, not knowing which way to turn, terrified of the moments to come, we can transform our anxiety and desperation into prayer. The great treasure in prayer – and a part of its answer- is our ability to pray when we are desperate, when our souls are restless and forlorn. As we do so, we may experience how God is not a roadside observer but a companion who carries our burdens side by side with us, just like Jesus staggered under the weight of the cross. That is the God that Jesus presents to us, the God that we encounter as we pray.

I wish you a blessed year 2014 filled with prayer and hope in your White Ribbon work across the world!

Irja



Dear Friends,

While researching material for the Program Kit, I came across many articles and information brochures. All of them underlined one point which was, alcohol and tobacco use never did anyone any good. They affect more lives than we can possibly know. The statistics are staggering. However, there is hope for one and all.

Being educated about something should include getting all the information possible about the topic so that all the facts are clear and there is no misconception. This is the main reason the material I sent was designed as FACT Sheets. Knowledge equips a person to deal with all aspects of a problem. It becomes important to convey the impact that alcohol and other drugs can have on the life of an individual as well as the family and society.

While educating people about alcohol and other drugs, it is very important to also have a support group in your church or local community as you will have people come and ask for information for their near and dear ones who may be afflicted by a drug problem. When having a community meeting, you may encourage people to perform short skits or one act plays to help reach a wider audience. You may find this helpful in the facts it provides. It can be used to guide youngsters, and especially teens who are most vulnerable.

Last but not least, encourage a healthy lifestyle. State the benefits of leading a drug-free life. This may be done in the form of poster, speech, and/or poetry competitions in schools and in Sunday schools as well.

May the Lord guide you in all your efforts!

Best wishes  
Reena



Reena Kumar



Magnet created and produced by Alice Peterson of California South (USA)



Glenda Amos

## RIGHT THINKING

Brain research has found that our beliefs affect our physical, mental, and spiritual health. When we understand God as good and loving, we flourish. But many people have distorted images of God that lead into unhealthy patterns of self-defeating behaviors and toxic relationships. Our brains can adapt, change, and rewire with redeemed thinking that frees us from unnecessary pain and suffering.<sup>1</sup>

As we work with children, it is important that we give them a true concept of God - a God of love, a God of forgiveness, and not a God to be feared. Jesus came to reveal God and children loved to be around Him. God created us to be others-centered and loving. Do we portray this picture to the children we work with? Are we giving children a true picture of God? Are we encouraging them to be others-centered and not self-centered; to be freed from fear and to trust in One who loves them?

Studies have also shown that forgiveness is essential for continuing good health, both emotionally and physically. When we harbor bitterness toward others and are unforgiving it affects our immune system, our brain function,<sup>2</sup> and makes it much easier for people to turn to destructive habits that further destroy their lives.

In our Program Kit for the children, Lessons 5, 6 & 7 deal with some of these issues: the need to seek forgiveness of others when we wrong them; the need to offer forgiveness when we are wronged; and how to deal with anger and bitterness.

Take advantage of the material prepared and help children understand life with a true picture of God as One who wants the best for them and who is working to bring them salvation. Help their brains to develop healthy patterns of behavior.

Glenda

### References

<sup>1</sup> Jennings, Timothy MD - *The God-Shaped Brain*;  
back cover

<sup>2</sup> Levy, David MD - *Gray Matter*, page 132



Remember Noontide Prayer

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