



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Volume 111 • Number 3

July • August • September 2016



Summary report from World Convention

ALCOHOL AND HEALTH

- Myths
- Dangers
- Facts



DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN



ALCOHOL AND YOUTH



FASD 100% PREVENTABLE



World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union



W.W.C.T.U.

Since 1883 we have shown "we care" and we now build on that with solid academic justification of the importance of our work.

You are needed!



enditnow

Say No to Violence



President's Message



Margaret Ostenstad

Greetings from Norway! The 40th WCTU World Convention was held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and 142 delegates, members and friends representing 25 countries attended from 18-24 August, 2016. It was a wonderful experience, the caliber of which will not soon be repeated.

We came to learn from the past, live in the present and plan for the future. We wanted solid academic justification for the purpose of work and we got more than we could ever have hoped for! The wonderful speakers spoke on a wide-range of topics which are summarized in short form in this issue of WRB and later will be put on

our website (www.wwctu.org.) The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Allan Handysides (Canada) was of great assistance in getting his colleagues to come and be Guest Speakers - Dr. Peter Landless, Ms. Heather-Dawn Small, Dr. Kiti Freier Randall, Dr. Katia Reinert (all from USA). They were all excellent!

Personally, the report of the Fieldworker for Korean Missionaries, Dr. Jung Joo Kim was particularly moving. To see the video of missionaries in Katmandu walking across the mountains for six hours in order to bring the Gospel and the temperance message to remote villages was one of THOSE moments. It made me think "what more can we do to support women around the world?" My President's Speech included verses from Matthew 25: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.'

The importance of ONE can never be underestimated. Malala said "One child, one teacher, one pencil....can change the world. TIME IS PRECIOUS... and how we use it today is an INVESTMENT...for the future.

Women need EDUCATION, EMPOWERMENT and NURTURING. If a woman tells you her story of ABUSE and cries, she is still in pain. Remember to help her give her pain to God. Women understand women. For example, it is not unusual for a woman to feel helpless when her spouse dies. She doesn't know how to do the banking, etc. What about members forming small groups in their country to help widows? These widows would then help other widows. Or a young pregnant woman who has no-one to be with her during the delivery. Isn't this something we could do as part of our FASD awareness work?

Remember also: You are not the only voice in your child's ear, so make sure you are the best voice in your child's ear. Make sure you are an informed voice in your child's ear. Children - love them, nurture them, teach them well and believe in them. They are our future. Thanks to the over 20 young people who attended World Convention!

TODAY IS THE TOMORROW YOU DREAMT ABOUT YESTERDAY.
May we choose wisely, love deeply and laugh of pure joy as we help others to do the same.

Love and prayers,
Margaret



Opening night: DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT ON PSALM 42

Psalm 42:1-2a As the deer pants for streams of water so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

Water--such a remarkable substance. God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let the dry ground appear." And it was so. Oceans, seas, lakes and rivers and the clouds are formed. Filled, they open and send rain and snow to water the earth. Earth is the only planet on which man can live--the planet created for us and we for the planet.

Our bodies are 60% water. We can live longer without food than without water. Nothing quenches our thirst like cool, clear water.

Jesus had an appointment that day at Jacob's Well. The disciples went into the nearby town to buy food, but Jesus sat by the well, tired and thirsty. He knew the woman--the Samaritan woman whose sinful life made her an outcast--would come. They met and the Giver of Living Water changed her life.

Our souls need the Living Water that only Jesus can give. "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13) Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my spirit on your offspring." Hear the invitation of Isaiah 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters."



*Rev. June Ballard
World Christian
Outreach Co-Director*



Noontide prayer

Around the world, someone is always praying



DASHED HOPES AND DAMAGED LIVES: Dr Allan Handysides, M.B., Ch.B., FRCPC, FRCSC, FACOG

- Never in our history have we faced a more challenging task or a more desperate need. The harmful use of alcohol causes an estimated 2.5 million deaths every year, of which a significant proportion occur in the young. Alcohol use is one of the top four most common modifiable and preventable risk factors of the major non-communicable diseases.
- In our work we must stay relevant and apply our influence where it will count the most and we must consider sociological, genetic, cultural, and economic factors.
- That fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is a public health issue is no longer disputed with congenital defects such as microcephaly, defective intellectual development, behavioral difficulties, visual and even cardiac abnormalities.
- Ascribing blame to biological mothers of children with FASD may often be unjustified. In many cases mothers were unaware of their pregnancy at the time of their alcohol consumption and ignorant of the effects of alcohol on their developing offspring. Our society at large is also ignorant of what approach is best.
- Recent work shows that the teratogenetic effects of alcohol, can occur sometimes prior to conception, such as in early gamete formation (sperm and ovum).
- The mind-boggling concept – at least for men – is that alcohol use by men in the pre-conceptual period can result in changes in gene expression in their sperm and paternal alcohol consumption prior to conception has been associated with reduced birth weight and cognitive impairments resulting in dashed hopes and damaged lives.

We agree with those emphasizing the avoidance of alcohol prior to conception by both potential fathers and mothers but because of the complexity of both the effects of alcohol and of the social, emotional, cultural, and economic factors, education alone will not be sufficient to remedy this situation.



Peter Landless, M.B., Bch., M.Med., FCP (SA), FACC, FASNC

Alcohol and Health - the Myths, the Dangers and the Facts (Excerpts)

Alcohol consumption varies widely among countries, depending on cultural traditions. Alcohol, like tobacco, is being exported to developing countries, adding significant burdens to already struggling health systems. According to the Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health released by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva during February of 2011:

- Fifty-five percent of adults worldwide have consumed alcohol.
- Approximately 2.5 million people die from alcohol-related causes each year.
- Four percent of all deaths are related to alcohol through injuries, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and cirrhosis of the liver.
- Globally, 6.2 percent of male deaths and 1.1 percent of female deaths are related to alcohol.

Globally, the effect of alcohol consumption on young people is brought into frighteningly sharp relief by the following statistic: 320,000 young people between the age of 15 and 29 die from alcohol-related causes each year. This represents nine percent of all deaths in this age group. It is the world's third largest risk factor for disease, but ranked as the leading risk factor in the Western Pacific and the Americas, and second-largest risk factor in Europe. Alcohol has become one of the leading causes of preventable death in many parts of the world.

Summary:

- Worldwide, alcohol is the most widely used recreational drug, surpassing tobacco, marijuana, and other chemicals.
- Alcohol is the world's third largest risk factor for disease.
- Alcohol consumption has a significantly negative effect on families, including economic costs as well as a strong association with domestic violence, child abuse, and fetal alcohol syndrome.
- Drinking alcohol can lead to alcoholism.
- Alcohol use negatively affects society through associated crime and violence of all types, and large numbers of innocent victims in accidents.
- Moderate alcohol use has a complex relationship with cardiovascular health.
- The purported health benefits of moderate alcohol consumption do not apply across age, ethnic, and gender variations.
- There is no benefit of alcohol use for young people (below age 35).
- Even moderate drinking is associated with many negative effects such as aggressive behavior and poor moral choices.
- Alcohol is a known carcinogen, even when consumed at very low levels.



HAPPY ATTENDEES ON OPENING NIGHT







Drug Endangered Children

Kiti Freier Randall, PhD
Director, Psychological Services, Department of
Pediatrics, Loma Linda University Health

A drug endangered child is any child who lives in a home where any drug is abused, manufactured or sold. Such children are often subject to physical, emotional, and psychological trauma, making them at risk for long term negative life outcomes.

Prenatal Risks mainly stem from the pregnant mother's use of alcohol (FASD) although tobacco, prescription drugs, amphetamines and cocaine may also cause damage. Their use by an increasing number of women of child-bearing age is a matter of great concern.

The **Postnatal Environment**, often combined with prenatal drug taking, puts children of drug addicted parents at great risk of neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and exposure to toxic materials, and places them at increased risk for neurodevelopmental and psycho-social difficulties. Emotional or mental abuse is often considered the most damaging where children do not receive nurturing because of the chaotic and hazardous home environment. The loss of family security and frequent changes in care-givers when children are moved from home can result in feelings of loss and grief.

The daily chaos, lack of safety, poor communication, violence and disorganization will impact the child's cognition, attention, learning, memory, language, physical development, motor skills and ability to self-regulate, and underlie behavioral problems like attention deficits, oppositional behavior, tantrums, social isolation, anxiety, depression, anger, aggression, mistrust and other maladaptive behaviors such as stealing and lying.

Children of drug users are at great risk of also becoming drug users. Those who have been victims of abuse will usually become perpetrators of violence.

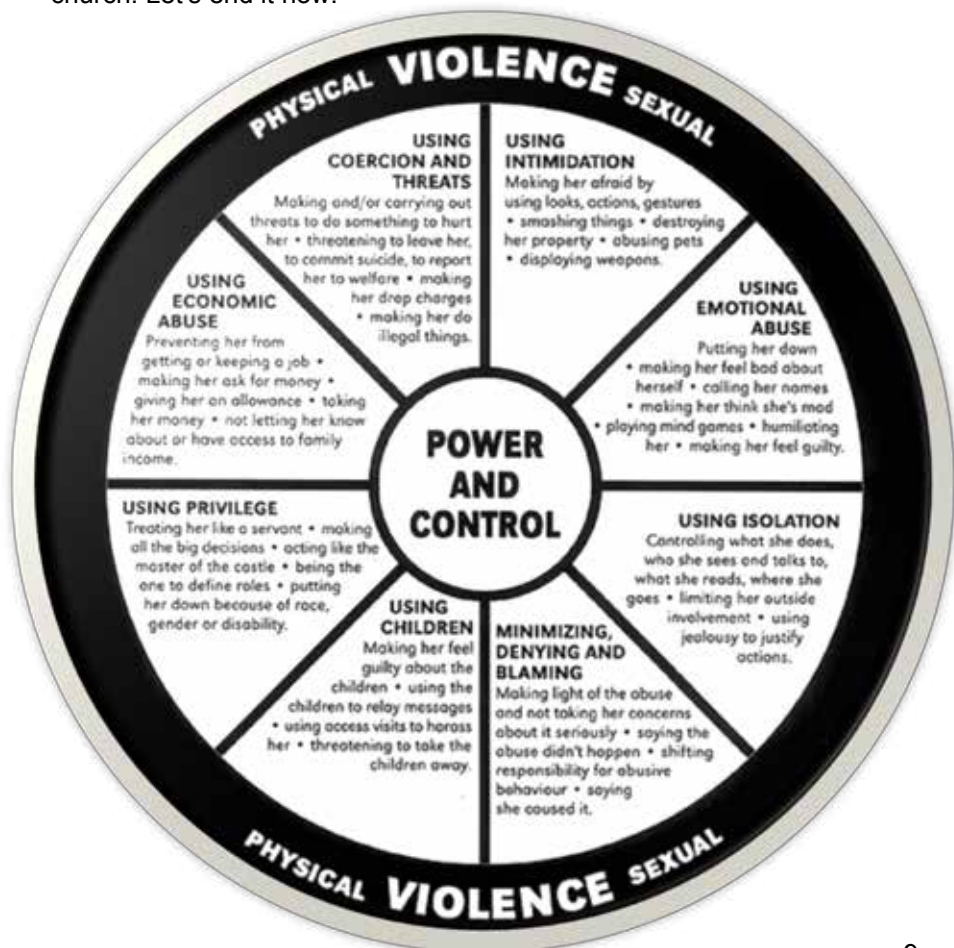
Early intervention is important as it is now understood that neuronal regeneration is possible given the right environment. Given the right care, endangered children can tilt their 'balance' from risk to resiliency and change their futures.



Heather-Dawn Small
Director of Women's Ministries at the
General Conference of SDA

enditnow - The Scourge of Domestic Violence

Abuse does not concern women alone, it concerns all of us. Abuse is always a question of headship and power. Power over women, men and children and it comes in different forms. It can be physical, psychological, sexual, religious... There is no limit, but it always hurts someone. Let's break the silence about abuse, let's make it a topic in our society and church. Let's end it now!



World Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU)

CODE OF ETHICS

The code of ethics gives guidelines which serve as a foundation for action and cooperation within the World Woman's Christian Temperance Union (**WWCTU**) as an organization, as well as with external partners.

The WWCTU wishes to focus on the integrity of its members to strengthen the organization's reputation. The code of ethics has its roots in Christian values that create good relations in any community. Examples include:

- Respect
- Fairness/Justice
- Loyalty
- Reliability
- Democracy
- Equality and solidarity

One must treat others as one would like to be treated. Adhering to such core values within the organization will have positive ripple effects and give a solid boost to our goal achievement.

The WWCTU aims are:

- To strengthen preventative work with all kinds of addictive substances
- To protect the family
- To encourage women to join in temperance work
- To promote equality in civil rights
- To promote international peace and understanding
- To protect the home and community
- To build public sentiment for sobriety
- To promote good citizenship
- To instill Christian principles into the character of our children
- To inform society about the values of total abstinence by providing scientific facts concerning the nature and effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- To promote just and fair laws

To reach these objectives, the WWCTU continues to:

- Teach the scientific facts about the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on the body and on society in general
- Promote laws for such teaching throughout society
- Produce teaching aids for use in the classroom and the church
- Distribute videos, provide websites and other electronic means to reach as many as possible
- Conduct alcohol and drug workshops

The WWCTU Board is to ensure that the organization operates in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The WWCTU is a Christ-based organization with the Holy Bible as a guideline for its activities.

The WWCTU is a non-partisan, non-denominational, non-profit organization.

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WCTU website— www.wwctu.org

Website for children - www.drug-freekids.com

Website for youth - www.drug-freeyouth.org

WHITE RIBBON BULLETIN published quarterly.
Subscription rates in USA CURRENCY - 3
years - \$30.00; 2 years - \$20.00; 1 year -
\$10.00. Send subscriptions, address changes,
and corrections to CIRCULATION MANAGER.

Printed by



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