



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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Luke 2 - New International Version (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.



In the season of Advent, all over the world candles will be lit to remind us of the light that came into the world in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. What a precious gift! You may think your light is small and of no significance to others. My speech (excerpt below) at World Convention was on preserving the past, reflecting the present and shaping the future. You are VALUABLE! You are LOVED! Let your light shine strongly so that others can find their way out of the darkness.



Margaret Ostenstad

It IS worth it

TIME IS PRECIOUS.....and how we use it today is an INVESTMENT ... for the future. WHAT DO WE NEED? A balanced life is what we all strive to achieve – spiritually, emotionally, and physically. God want us to strive for balance in our personal lives. He wants us to “live in harmony with one another.”

Living a well-rounded life gives us the chance to make the most of every opportunity God sends our way. The only way to create a balanced life is to have Christ at the centre of it and to do what we need to “Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness” which was our Convention Song.

One key to a balanced life is to focus on the present. Do not worry about yesterday or tomorrow. “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:34. We should indeed learn from the past, live in the present and plan for the future.

In May of last year, I attended a Conference in Oslo, Norway: “Strengthening and integrating national policies on the harmful use of alcohol, gender-based violence and HIV/Aids.

Conference report:

Strengthening and integrating national policies on the harmful use of alcohol, gender-based violence and HIV.

Dr Vladimir Poznyak, World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva was the speaker. The main theme of the conference was the linkages between the harmful use of alcohol, infectious diseases and gender-based violence (GBV).

Dr. Poznyak started by presenting selected key figures on alcohol consumption globally and in the WHO regions by referring to the WHO Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health 2012:

- The global average consumption of pure alcohol per capita 15 years and above is 6.2 litre. A quarter of this is so-called unrecorded alcohol (home brews etc.).
- The European region is a high-consumption area with 10.9 litre while Africa has 6.0 litre and the South East Asian region has 3.4 litre.



President's Speech

- 48 % of the world adult population has never consumed alcohol, while 62% did not take any alcohol the last 12 months.

In the next part of his presentation Dr Poznyak introduced the Global Burden of Disease calculations. They quantify the burden of disease in terms of mortality and morbidity and for 62 different risk factors. They show, among other things:

- 3.3 million deaths (5.9% of deaths in all age groups globally) are attributable to alcohol consumption; 7.6% for men and 4.0% for women.
- This makes alcohol risk factor number five globally for disability and early death, up from place number eight in 1990.
- Around 20 per cent of all interpersonal violence is attributable to alcohol use. Eight per cent of breast cancer and 11-12 per cent of tuberculosis is alcohol-related.
- Such figures for HIV and AIDS are not yet finalized as there still has to be more evidence on the causality between alcohol use and HIV infection.
- A large proportion of alcohol-related harm comes in the younger groups of adults, and among young men in particular, different from tobacco and some other risk factors where harm becomes evident later in life.

When discussing alcohol and violence, Dr Poznyak referred to UN figures which show that in 2011 estimated 1.37 million people died as a result of violence. 58% were self-directed violence, 35% were interpersonal violence and 6% collective violence. Around 475 000 people were murdered in 2012. 35% of women worldwide experienced intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, and 4%-22% of women are affected by sexual and other forms of violence in conflict.

Dr Poznyak pointed at the following potential mechanisms of impact of alcohol use on violence:

- Alcohol intoxication with impaired psychosocial functioning (Impaired processing of information, and emotional instability and impulsivity).
- Individual and societal "norms" and beliefs.
- Common risk factors for heavy drinking and violence (Personality disorder, organic brain disorders etc.).
- Alcohol dependence with increased risk of violent behaviour in intoxication and withdrawal.

SUMMARY "In places where drugs are produced and trafficked, criminal drug organizations foster corruption and undermine the legitimate economy. Their actions also undermine democratic governance and citizen security and fuel conflict.

Do today what others won't so you can live tomorrow like others can't.

1. COR. 13:13 "AND NOW THESE THREE REMAIN: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE" BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.

Someone has said, "The measure of a man is not how great his faith is, but how great his love is." When we go through an experience in life that may not be too pleasant, it can either harden us or increase our love so that we feel for others who may be experiencing what we have.



HOW DO WE GET THE MESSAGE OUT

Just think of how Jesus, an itinerant rabbi from Nazareth asserted that He was the light of the world. That was an incredible claim from a man in first-century Galilee, an obscure region in the Roman Empire. It could not boast of any impressive culture and had no famous philosophers, noted authors, or gifted sculptors. More than that, Jesus lived before the invention of the printing press, radio, television, computers and email. Not to mention Facebook which did not come before 2002 - and now blogs, twitter, etc. How could He expect His ideas to be circulated around the world? The words He spoke were committed to the memories of His followers. Then the Light of the World was snuffed out by the darkness on a cross at Calvary – or so it seemed. Centuries later we still listen with amazement to Jesus’ words, which His father has miraculously preserved. His words lead us out of the darkness into the light of _God’s truth; they fulfill His promise, “He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12

HIS PROMISE HOLDS TODAY! We in the WWCTU should encourage everyone to read the words of Jesus in the Gospels. Ponder them. Let them grip your mind and change your life. Do not worry about tomorrow – GOD IS ALREADY THERE!

We don’t know everything, but we know this – DRUGS KILL! BE SMART! Don’t start!

BE YOURSELF. YOU ARE WORTHY!

YOU ARE IMPORTANT HERE AND NOW!

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE LOVED!

WHAT YOU DO MATTERS!

A little girl was on the beach when hundreds of starfish were washed up. She was frantic trying to throw them back into the water. Her father called out: “Don’t bother with that! You can’t save them all. It doesn’t matter.” She replied: “It matters to the starfish.” The value of ONE!

MAY WE LIVE FULLY WHILE HELPING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME “FOR GOD, HOME AND EVERY LAND”

As long as one baby is affected by its mother’s drinking during pregnancy, we will continue to fight.

As long as one family is destroyed by alcohol and domestic violence, we will continue to fight.

As long as one young person dies of an overdose, we will continue to fight.

IT IS WORTH IT! It is worth it to the ONE.

Christmas blessings, one and all!

Margaret



Christmas is a busy time



*Rev. Gena Torres
Director CO*

Christmas is a busy time of year, shopping wrapping gifts, cooking baking, visiting with family and friends so much to do so little time. Bing Crosby summed it up in his Christmas song, Silver Bells –“City sidewalk, busy sidewalks, dressed in holiday style. In the air there’s a feeling of Christmas. Children laughing, people passing, meeting smile after smile, and on every street corner you’ll hear: Silver bells, silver bells. It’s Christmas time in the city.”

On that first Christmas the streets also were full of people, some had travelled a great distance as they would be visiting with family and friends who had also come home for census. They were going to and fro completely unaware that in a stable the miraculous was taking place. They were near yet unaware. If they had been told they most likely would never have believed it - A carpenter and an unknown girl from a small village in the stable with a baby they say is the Son of God the Messiah? It’s impossible!

The shepherds were in the field-just another ordinary night - when a choir of angels proclaimed to them, and them only,“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11. There were noble, wealthy and religious people in Bethlehem near the stable but completely unaware. God chose to bring the birth announcement to the shepherds. It wasn’t just an announcement it was an invitation:“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

I can imagine the shepherds whispering to each other “Manger? Did they say manger?” It wasn’t a palace with a gate and guards it was right there where the people were in a humble little stable.

Even Christians can get so caught up with the busyness of the season, so much to do so little time. On December 26 it will be over, the weeks of preparing will leave us with, tummies too full, eating leftovers for a week and a whole lot of garbage to dispose of. But that baby that the world did not have room for, that gift that God gave to us, is still here, “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world”. Let us not get so busy that we leave Christ out of Christmas. As we invite family friends, invite him also to be part of every celebration. Let’s look for creative ways to daily keep focused on the Christ child. Share these ideas on our Facebook page: wwctchristianoutreach.

With love from your White Ribbon sisters in Canada. May God bless you and Merry Christmas!



It is time to invite you to enter into the Christian world of prayer and praise, and spend time daily with them.

Prayer Calendar for 2017

1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-3; 1 THESSALONIANS 5:28

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

WWCTU President, Margaret Ostenstad, members of the World Board, WCTU National Presidents, Field workers, Department Directors, members
May we all be an instrument of your love



*Irja Eskelinen
3rd Vice President*

World political leaders all around the world
May they serve God in truth

Your country's Government – concern and action
on alcohol/illegal drug issues
Almighty God, guide with your Spirit governments of our world

We pray the special needs of WCTU in regions
We pray the special needs of the world
We pray with those who mourn, be close to them
We pray with those who are afraid, live in the middle of war and crises
Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

We pray for more women to join WCTU around the world
We pray for peace and love among WWCTU members (1 Corinthians 8:1)

If I allow pride to dominate my heart, I become my own worst enemy.
Grant me the grace of a humble and contrite spirit that I may come into thy
presence washed clean with tears of godly sorrow.

I JOHN 15:5

Our Lord, teach our heart where and how to seek you, where and how to
find you.

All that I am, all that I have, Shall be for ever Thine.

MARK 11:24



Noontide prayer - Matthew 11:28
*Prayer changes not only situations,
but also those who pray.*



Anne Bergen
Organization Secretary

As the new Organization Secretary I will be preparing the centre pages of the World Bulletin. If your WCTU has done something of interest I would love to hear about it for future Bulletins.

Anne Bergen

Exciting news of WCTU in new countries.

It was inspiring to hear reports from our Field Worker among Korean Missionaries, Dr. Jung Joo Kim, of new WCTUs being formed due to the work of Korean missionaries who are working in Cambodia, Senegal and Nepal. We had lost contact with former WCTU's in Vanuatu and Western Samoa and it was encouraging to hear reports of new work being started in these countries.

Hyunsook Kim, wife of a now retired paediatrician told the convention that she has been contacting friends working in public sectors in Samoa, sharing WCTU materials with them, and introducing leaders of WCTU. She strongly hopes that these efforts can bear fruit for WCTU, especially in public policy and legislation.



Nanjoo Kim and her husband, Pastor Tony Won, who have been missionaries to Vanuatu since 2007, told the convention how she has started a woman's temperance union and how the small meeting is growing in Vanuatu. She is focusing particularly on the problems caused by the use of Kava. Photo shows new Vanuatu officers.

Since the Convention we have had news of a new WCTU being formed in Tanzania. Fourteen women attended the inaugural meeting as a result of the work of Korean missionary, Mrs. Mi Kyung Lee. The photo shows the newly elected officers with Mrs. Lee first from the left in the front row, next to the new President, Matilda Dondo.



We pray that these new WCTUs will grow and make a real difference for good in their countries.



World WCTU Life and Continuing Memberships

One of my duties at the World Convention was to promote Life and Continuing Memberships. At US\$100 each these are a source of income for WWCTU. Altogether about 50 memberships were given to honour members.

An outstanding contribution was made by DukJa Nam from Korea, who had been born into a strong Buddhist family. She paid for 15 Life Memberships for members of her family in gratitude for the way her university lecturer, Jung Joo Kim, had led her to the Lord and, with the prayer support of WCTU members over many years, she saw her children also turn to Christ while her husband was eventually delivered from alcohol.

Picture shows some of her family with their Life Membership Certificates.



FASD Outreach by WCTU Australia

We ordered 5000 band-aid packs, each containing 5 band-aid strips, and with the message, "Babies and grog don't mix. Band-aids won't fix" on the packs and 5000 FASD leaflets especially designed for the Aboriginal women.

We are pleased with the response we have had so far with nearly 2,500 of the band-aid packs and leaflets being ordered by Aboriginal Health Centres and other contacts, as well as 440 of our posters. We had also bought 5000 sticky note pads with the message – Take note!" Babies and booze don't mix. No alcohol is the best fix" - intended for our non-indigenous women. More than 1000 of the notepads have already been distributed. (Note: Our Aborigines often refer to alcohol as "Grog" while our general population often calls it "Booze".)



“Alcohol and Youth”

Dr Katia Reinert, PhD, MSN, RN, CRNP,FNP-BC, PHCN-BC, FCN

Youth today face many at risk behaviors such as:

- Substance Abuse – Throughout the world the use of alcohol and other drugs are a major cause of youth health problems, poor cognitive development, violent behavior, victimization, poor learning and low rates of economic/social development. (Addictions are one)
- Sexual Activity – Early onset of sexual activity relates to a wide variety of STI's (including HIV), pregnancy, life interruption, poverty.
- Dropping out of School – The lack of education relates to very poor life chances.
- Gang Membership and Crime – Throughout the world juvenile gangs attract youth, relate to violent behavior, poor learning outcomes and poverty.
- Suicide – In many countries, suicide is a major risk that youth face.
- Among substance abuse, Alcohol takes a particular toll on youth. Underage drinking is a serious public health problem with alcohol being the most widely used substance of abuse among youth. Drinking by young people poses enormous health and safety risks. It is directly correlated with youth violence.

In addition, alcohol is a factor in the deaths of 4,358 young people under age 21 each year (2006-2010). This includes:

- 1,580 deaths from motor vehicle crashes
- 1,269 from homicides
- 245 from alcohol poisoning, falls, burns, and drowning
- 492 from suicides

Building resilience among youth is a critical way to help prevent underage drinking and all the negative results listed above. WCTU can help by supporting young people in outreach and leadership and focusing on the individual attributes and strengths unique to each youth. Also, family, school, and church can facilitate protective factors providing a loving and caring environment for youth.

The most critical aspect perhaps is building trusting relationships with young people. When adults develop strong caring relationships, rather than without negative judging and nagging young people, this can help them feel empowered to make healthy choices and avoid at risk behaviors. Studies show that when young people are connected with God, an adult mentor, and have a sense of purpose and calling in their life, they will be more likely to say no to alcohol and other harmful substances.

Poverty and feeding the children of the future

Dr. Dora de Barrientos, 4th Vice President
Director of Fundacion Debora, Guatemala.

In Guatemala one out of two children under five years old suffers from chronic malnutrition.

This illness puts at risk the capacity of each child to acquire the normal level of emotional and physical intelligence to function as human beings in a school and their community.

I joined the National Program for underweight and malnourished children. Working as an investigator and doctor for the National Health Program. I created a nutritional program, which remains as a national standard.

Children must have loving parents and family guidance for a correct motivational development. This is why we need to educate every mother, father and child about the importance of good nutrition as well as the knowledge of how to prevent malnutrition.

Here is some data

- 1 child dying every 4 seconds - 21,000 deaths per day.
- 1.2 billion people still don't have access to electricity.
- Hunger is the number one cause of death in the world, killing more than HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined.

Sadly, we find that too many people are trapped in poverty with no hope of getting out of their misery. Violence is a factor that maintains and increases poverty, as well as malnutrition. Economic development experts indicate they do not know how to solve the problem of poverty.

To eliminate problems such as poverty and malnutrition it is necessary to reduce the violence. When justice systems are effective, violence will be reduced.

We have a great responsibility to unite in compassion with those in need. But we can go even further and make a difference as children of God.

As 1ST John 3:17 New Living Translation (NLT) says,

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother in need but shows no compassion, how can God’s love be in that person?”

We are all called to be the light, to love our neighbours, and to be compassionate.

Let's show the love of God.

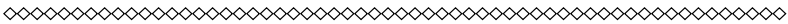


Treating Addiction

Pastor Ragnar Enger, Full-time Pastor, Riisby Treatment Centre, Norway. Treatment is long-term, requires at least 9 months and involves treating psychological problems as well as drug addiction because dependency affects all aspects of life. It leads to low self-esteem and self-conflict and the difference between right and wrong becomes blurred. Treatment helps them to find themselves again through God's love. Pastoral Care and Group Therapy play a part in rehabilitation.

Treatment is holistic, involving their medical, psychological and spiritual needs and includes creative activities, rediscovering nature, motivating them to change their thinking (a long process), developing new values and being honest about themselves.

Varied diet and fitness offer the possibility to restore physical health. Useful work such as carpentry, weaving, and painting help the patient get back their creative abilities. The spiritual factor of self-esteem was discussed. The workers are not to talk condescendingly about a man whom Jesus



The following poem was written by a young girl who was in jail for drug charges, and was addicted to crystal meth (TIC). She wrote this while in jail.

As you will soon read, she fully grasped the horrors of the drug, as she tells in this simple, yet profound poem. She was released from jail, but true to her story, the drug owned her.



MY NAME IS TIK - CRYSTAL METH

I destroy homes, I tear families apart,
take your children, and that's just the start.
I'm more costly than diamonds, more precious than gold,
The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember! I'm easily found,
I live all around you – in schools and in town.
I live with the rich; I live with the poor,
I live down the street, and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab, but not like you think,
I can be made under the kitchen sink.
In your child's closet, and even in the woods,
If this scares you to death, well it certainly should
I have many names, but there's one you know best,
I'm sure you've heard of me, my name is crystal meth.
My power is awesome; try me you'll see,
But if you do, you may never break free.

Just try me once and I might let you go,
But try me twice, and I'll own your soul.
When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie,
You do what you have to -- just to get high.
The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms
Will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms,
(your lungs, and your nose).

You'll lie to your mother; you'll steal from your dad,
When you see their tears, you should feel sad.
But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised,
I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways.
If you could live that day over, now what would you say?
I'll be your master; you will be my slave,
I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave.

Now that you have met me, what will you do?
Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.
I can bring you more misery than words can tell,
Come take my hand, let me lead you to hell.

The work of the WCTU world-wide is IMPORTANT! Go to our website www.wwctu.org and join us in this never-ending battle against ALL addictive substances. Alcohol too is a DRUG!



New Year's Advice

DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann "Desiderata"

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*The WCTU World Officers wish you all
a blessed Christmas and a bright
and Happy New Year!*

*Now may the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace in
believing, that you may abound in*

hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15.13

