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White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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4th VP, Dr. Dora de Barrientos (Guat.); World Treasurer, Lois Anderson (USA); 2nd VP, Joy Butler (NZ); 1st VP, Young Joo Kim (Korea); World President, Margaret Ostenstad (Norway); World Organization Secretary, Anne Bergen (Aus.); World Recording Secretary, Florence Einwechter (CAN.); 3rd VP, Rev. Irja Eskelinen (Fin.).

WCTU World Officer's at a buffet meal after a beautiful worship service at KWCTU Headquarters in Seoul Korea on May 4th, 2017



Stop it now!

Domestic violence (also named **domestic abuse**, **battering**, or **family violence**) is a pattern of behavior which involves violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting.

Domestic violence can take a number of forms, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse such as female genital mutilation and acid throwing that results in disfigurement or death.

Globally, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence.

Domestic violence is among the most underreported crimes worldwide.

Domestic violence occurs when the abuser believes that abuse is acceptable, justified, or unlikely to be reported. It may produce intergenerational cycles of abuse in children and other family members, who may feel that such violence is acceptable or condoned. Very few people recognize themselves as abusers or victims because they may consider their experiences as family disputes that just got out of control.

As a result of abuse, victims may experience physical disabilities, chronic health problems, mental illness, limited finances, and poor ability to create healthy relationships. Victims may experience psychological problems, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Children who live in a household with violence often show psychological problems from an early age, such as dysregulated aggression which may later contribute to continuing the legacy of abuse when they reach adulthood.

President's Greeting



Dear all,

I have received official confirmation that three representatives for the temperance movement have been nominated for the Nobel Peace prize for 2017 - **World Woman's Christian Temperance Union, International IOGT and the International Blue Cross (IBC)**

A great honour! A retired Norwegian Pastor, Haakon F. Meyer, has been working tirelessly for many years to get **"The International Temperance and Sobriety Movement"** nominated for The Nobel Peace Prize. I will share with you the opening paragraph of the text of the nomination:

"In November 2015, 193 member states adopted the UN's new sustainability goals. These are benchmarks for success in global development towards 2030. In achieving sustainability we believe the world community will also find easier solutions towards world peace. Damage caused by alcohol and drug use adversely affect many of the sustainability goals. Putting in place preventive measures and effective drug policies globally will be important steps towards reaching these important goals."

Just being nominated lifts our profile and we all have reason to be proud of our loyalty to the stand taken by our early leaders. They had a wide basis for the temperance work and we need to do as they did and expand our horizons to include all manner of physical or psychological 'attack' which denigrates the dignity of women worldwide.

On the opposite page is an article on domestic violence which includes female genital mutilation. The latter seems to be a subject which men have difficulty addressing; perhaps they just feel uncomfortable. My country is aware that young girls are taken out of the country to undergo the ritual of female *circumcision and has taken steps to stop this. Please do what you can to bring awareness to this devastating problem and do not be afraid to speak up whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself.

There are many interesting articles in the new version of the White Ribbon Bulletin and I want you to use it in your daily contact with people through whatever medium this takes. Getting the message out is vital and we have never had such a wide range of ways to communicate.

In all things, give God the glory and the thanks for His undivided love for all mankind. Do your bit and He will do the rest!

Love and prayers,
Margaret



Margaret Ostenstad
World President

CONNECTING WITH KIDS

Glenda Amos

The focus of Drug-free Kids is to connect with children and make a difference in their lives.

Research has shown over and over again that the best way of doing this is to get to know a child on a first name basis and to show an interest in him or her as a person.

It is sad when we see areas in which WCTU has been strong, but which now has little or no work with children. Everywhere we go, we need to try and connect with the children. Find out their names, play with them, take an interest in what they are doing, share your stories with them, encourage them to make good choices, to abstain from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and pray with and for them.



Recently I travelled to the Solomon Islands to assist in the building of a health clinic. On one rainy afternoon, I sat on the verandah of the house where I was staying surrounded by a circle of children, who just wanted me to tell them stories. They wanted to connect with me and even though they had limited English, we had a great time getting

to know their names, their interests and sharing stories from my life with them. It is easy to then share what are good choices to make and what are poor choices.

I am encouraged to see women who are doing that in many places. I would encourage each WCTU member to take an interest in a child, know their name, pray for them every day, invest time in playing with them, tell them stories and encourage them to make good choices.

It is great to see the women in the Solomon Islands who take the children who may not be able to attend school and who provide colouring and other activities to help them read and learn, and teach them to say





No to drugs, even though resources and finances are extremely limited where they live.

My local union sponsors a children's picnic every year during the winter vacation and provides the food and games for the day. This year, the Balloon Man - Pastor Daron Pratt, shared with the children how

life is full of twists and turns as God shapes us to be something special. He encouraged the children to live a temperate life, abstaining from those things that will ruin their lives, and to daily give their hearts to the Lord.

Some countries put out a paper just for the children to let them know they are important, give them clear information and to encourage them to choose to live a drug-free life. Others use the materials which are on our Drug-free kids website (<http://www.drug-freekids.com/pages/activities.html>) to connect with children in schools and community groups as they run programs to educate them in drug-free living.

Then there are the faithful women, (mothers, grandmothers, aunts, or neighbors) who gather a small group of children into their homes of an afternoon after school, to love them, encourage them, play with them and to provide a safe place for them to learn, play and grow to be responsible young men and women.



What are you doing to connect with a child? It could be something as simple as sending a birthday greeting, an encouraging card or giving a cup of cold water when they are thirsty from playing.

Connect today and make a difference in a child's life. The results could be eternal!



Photos from the Solomon Islands and the DFK Club Picnic, Newcastle, July 3, 2017



SERMON FOR THE WWCTU INTERNATIONAL PRAYER DAY 2017
Sunday, September 24th: Luke 10:38–42

**GOD HELPS US SEE WHAT OTHERS TRULY NEED AND SHEDS
LIGHT ON THE SHADOW WE CAST WHILE TRYING TO HELP**

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

What happened at the home of Martha and Mary in Luke's account feels familiar. The contrast between two kinds of people is something we often encounter in daily life. Indeed, we are so used to it that we hardly appreciate how big the difference between two fairly similar individuals – here, siblings – might actually be when it comes to spiritual life. At first glance, the conflict taking place in Luke's account may seem like a trivial clash between personalities. After all, some are born to bustle while others are quiet in nature. Those who find satisfaction in action may find it peculiar that others seem quiet and passive, even withdrawn. Those who, in contrast, lead peaceful lives may be disposed to view their bustling peers as shallow and noisy. Since we are living in a world of many kinds of people, we are rightly taught not to be judgmental about them as society is dependent on numerous kinds of personal traits to function.

From a spiritual perspective, one cannot speak of wrong kinds of personality and right kinds of personality. God has not mass-produced us to be identical copies of each other. Some are concerned with pots and pans, others with deep thinking, but everyone can have a meaningful function in God's creation. The Lord has a purpose for both Martha and Mary!

Today's text, however, brings up another topic of great importance: Even when we think we have good intentions, our efforts to help others may be misguided.

When Jesus entered the home of Martha and Mary, He was received as an important guest by both sisters. Martha wanted to offer Him the very best she had at home, and in order to make all the necessary preparations, she had to hurry. Let us for a moment think about what Martha's bustling looked like from the Lord's perspective. Had He entered the house to be served by those who lived there, or had He come to serve them? Was He hoping for a grand meal, or did He want to feed His friends with His words?



Which sister received Him in the way He had hoped, Martha or Mary? Despite her intention to serve Jesus well, Martha was focused on matters that were of secondary importance to the words Mary was listening to so attentively as to forget her chores.

Jesus was indeed an important guest, but He was not expecting to be treated like the guests of honour of this world. For someone who had fasted for forty days at one point, not getting a meal when visiting a house would hardly have been intolerable, and a simple meal would have been more than enough. While Martha hurried to serve Jesus in what she considered to be the only right way, Mary was, by listening to Jesus and in this way being served by Him, actually doing what Jesus had hoped. Here we find one of the great difficulties in life. We often want to do our best to be helpful and benevolent toward each other, but we want to be so in the way we ourselves choose, on our own terms. When our efforts are not welcomed as we had hoped, we feel offended and unappreciated, leaving us with a thought that often reveals our secret desire for recognition: "I did my best, and this is how my efforts are rewarded..."

If we want to truly help other people, we have to put aside our own agenda and try to look into the heart, the inner world of that person and think about what he or she desires and needs. Jesus loved Martha and Martha loved Jesus, but by not realizing what Jesus considered important, Martha disrupted His teaching with harsh and unfriendly words toward her sister. In this situation, Martha did not see the Jesus whose food was to do the will of His Father (John 4:34).

Martti Lindqvist, a well-known Finnish churchman and author on ethics, talked and wrote about the so-called "shadow of the helper". The desire to lead a good and spiritual life cannot dispel our shadow, but God can shed light on it. By helping another person in need, the wounds of my neighbor reveal my own wounds. The desire to be there for a fellow human being in need and be an active participant rather than a passive observer is noble and desirable. It is like finding the right frequency on a radio; when we attain proper understanding, we can see, even feel, the pain of the other person. Based on his experience, Lindqvist encourages the one who wants to help another person to consider his or her own shadow as a helper, becoming aware of the risks and dangers associated with one's particular personality.

White Ribboners frequently meet people who are in the midst of the pain and chaos caused by drugs. Some try to regain control of their lives, but these efforts often fail, reminding us of the importance of God's help. In many situations, a caring neighbor may serve as God's most important tool for helping a struggling individual.



Anne Bergen
Organization Secretary

As the 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

I have had a busy time in the past couple of months with the WWCTU Officers' meetings in Seoul, South Korea, then a holiday in Japan which enabled me to spend a day with the delightful **Japan WCTU** members.

I spoke of the work of WWCTU using a power-point presentation and gave some ideas for future work for the JWCTU. Mrs. Sato, who was the backbone of WCTU in Japan for many years, was present although she is now frail. Her son, Rev. Jun Sato, who some of you may remember as "Elvis" from the World Convention in Ottawa, Interpreted for me. It was good to see three generations of WCTU members from one strong Christian family in attendance. Only 2% of the Japanese population claims to be Christian and only half of these attend church, so Christian Temperance work there is difficult.



It is good to hear from Laurentine in the Democratic Republic of Congo:



We held a meeting in the town of Ngaba in March with the theme, "Addiction hinders women's economic autonomy", with speakers on the dangers of tobacco, the evils of alcohol, drug harm and cancer. Women were invited to free cancer screening. Those present enjoyed the presentations.

The Busu High School in Lae, PNG, invited WCTU to come and tell their students about what it all means. In early April, 2017, Mitroy and Joy found themselves amidst hundreds of teenagers telling them about alcohol, drugs and tobacco and how it is destroying lives in their beautiful country. Mitroy knew Silimas, a teacher at this high school and she invited us to come to her school and tell the message that was so urgently needed. The principal and his wife were very supportive.



Joy, Mitroy and boys with pledges

Over a period of 4 days Mitroy and Joy, together with Brown, a recently converted young man, told the facts, shared the stories and showed a vivid film about what alcohol can do to the brain. Brown gained the attention of the boys when he talked about his experiences with the misery that alcohol can bring into a life. After each presentation the girls crowded around Mitroy and Joy each day, wanting to know more and to be a part of the WCTU organization.

More than 1,500 teenagers, the entire school population, heard the messages loud and clear. Hundreds signed the pledge to abstain from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Mitroy and Joy believe that this is a simple method to use in any country to get the temperance message out. We urge you to find a school, get to know a teacher, speak to him/her about your involvement and the importance of speaking to youth. Prepare pledge cards, prepare a talk, pray, love the kids you speak to - and GO, DO IT. JUST DO IT.



Girls with signed pledge cards



KATE SHEPPARD

New Zealand WCTU Leader

Suffrage Campaign

The temperance cause was intertwined with the campaign for votes for women in New Zealand in the 1880s and early 1890s. At the time all women were denied the vote, along with 'juveniles, aliens, lunatics and criminals'. Kate Sheppard, the WCTU's national franchise and legislative WCTU department's superintendent was a woman of courage and persuasion, filled with energy, passion and commitment to the aims of WCTU - For God and Home and Every Land. The WCTU had been established in 1885.

They believed, along with some others, that if women had the right to vote, governments would be more likely to pass laws to reduce or ban alcohol consumption. Therefore Kate mobilized, encouraged and coordinated women across the country to sign the suffrage petitions in 1891, 1892 and 1893. Nearly 32,000 signatures were obtained which represented nearly 30% of the women in New Zealand at the time. This resulted in New Zealand becoming the first country in the world in which women were granted the vote in general elections.

Those original signatures, on a long glued-together parchment roll, are now safely stored in a new depository and display cabinet in the National Library of New Zealand. The official opening of this new exhibition took place in Wellington, New Zealand on 19 May, 2017. Kate Sheppard, along with other early NZ history makers, was honoured.

In 1895 the WCTU began publishing its own newspaper, the White Ribbon. Kate Sheppard was the papers's first editor.

Kate had come to New Zealand with her mother and siblings in 1869 at 22 years of age, after the father had died. She and her sister soon became concerned about justice for women and children. She was an early cyclist, just like Frances Willard was, and helped modernise clothing for women. She travelled to and campaigned for women's suffrage in England and America. She married Walter Sheppard, a wealthy merchant and they had one son. She outlived both of them and her one granddaughter. Kate helped set up the National Council of Women in New Zealand and she became the first president in 1896.

Memorials, streets, bank notes, houses in schools, a play - have all been named in honour of this excellent lady. A number of green pedestrian lights in Wellington show her walking. She died in 1934, aged 87 years and is buried in Christchurch, New Zealand. She will long be remembered and is honoured on Women's Suffrage Day or White Camellia Day on 19 September each year.



WCTU - Then and Now - in New Zealand and Beyond **by Joy Butler**

The WCTU (Woman's Christian Temperance Union) has long been a major influence for clean living and for liberation of women throughout the world. And certainly so in New Zealand.

On May 19, 2017 four members of the NZWCTU and Vice President World WCTU, Joy Butler, attended the celebration of the HE TOHU (signs) exhibition at the National Library in Wellington, New Zealand. Annette Patterson, NZ President and member of the He Tohu Committee, together with Judy McAnulty, treasurer and two members - one from Hamilton and one from Whangarei, made put the WCTU representation.

This was a historical event where dignitaries from the Maori tribes and European descendants - all New Zealanders, met to celebrate the new permanent depository of three iconic constitutional documents that shape Aotearoa, New Zealand. They are - 1835 - Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand; 1840 - Treaty of Waitangi; 1893 - Women's Suffrage Petition.

The Women's Suffrage Petition brought about freedom for women to vote in the national elections in New Zealand. This was closely tied to WCTU and its aims and objectives their motto being, and still is - For God and Home and Every Land.

Kate Sheppard, the leader of the suffrage petition, was the WCTU national franchise and legislative department's superintendent. This influential organization at the time, with hundreds of women members, was the perfect place for this dynamic Christian leader to use her opportunity to help gain justice and equality for women who had hitherto been denied the vote, along with 'juveniles, aliens, lunatics and criminals.'

More than 35,000 signatures were obtained which represented nearly 30% of the women in New Zealand at the time. This resulted in New Zealand becoming the first country in the world in which women were granted the vote in general elections.

Those original signatures, on a long glued-together (original) parchment roll, are now stored in this new state-of-the-art depository in the National Library.

Women like Kate Sheppard continue to inspire us with their dedication, fierce determination and commitment to make a major difference the world. She is remembered everywhere in New Zealand as a world leader in her time. Annette Patterson is determined to keep her involvement with the WCTU foremost in the minds of the New Zealanders and this is entirely commendable.

WCTU continues to be an influence and a voice in the world in more than 46 countries. It is growing fast in PNG and in Africa. There are thousands of women who realize its value and help as they face the enormous issues relating to their families with alcohol and drugs.

For more information about its origins, its presence in the world now and how you can join - see:

www.wwctu.org

www.drug-freeyouth.com

www.wctu.org.au

www.drug-freekids.com

www.wctu.org.nz

www.dfk.com.au

Facebook - I'm Worth It - teens; WOW Unlimited



Observe FASD Day 09.09 9:00am

FASD cannot be cured, but it is 100% preventable!

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are a group of conditions that can occur in a person whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. Problems may include an abnormal appearance, short height, low body weight, small head



size, poor coordination, low intelligence, behavior problems, and problems with hearing or seeing. Those affected are more likely to have trouble in school, legal problems, participate in high-risk behaviors, and have trouble with alcohol or other drugs. The most severe form of the condition is known as **fetal alcohol syndrome**

(FAS). Other types include partial fetal alcohol syndrome (pFAS), alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder (ARND) and alcohol-related birth defects (ARBD). Some accept only FAS as a diagnosis, seeing the evidence as inconclusive with respect to other types.

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Surveys from the United States have found about 10% of pregnant women have drunk alcohol in the last month, and 20% to 30% drank at some point during the pregnancy. About 4.7% of North American women who are pregnant are alcoholics.[11] The risk of problems depends on the amount consumed and the frequency of consumption as well as when during pregnancy the alcohol is consumed. Other risk factors include an older mother, smoking, and poor diet. There is no known safe amount or safe time to drink during pregnancy. While drinking small amounts of alcohol does not cause abnormalities in the face, it may cause behavioral issues. Alcohol crosses the blood brain barrier and both directly and indirectly affects a developing baby. Diagnosis is based on signs and symptoms in the person.

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders are preventable by avoiding alcohol. For this reason, medical authorities recommend no alcohol during pregnancy or while trying to become pregnant. While the condition is permanent, treatment can improve outcomes. Interventions may include parent-child interaction therapy, efforts to modify child behavior, and possibly medications.

FASD is estimated to affect between 2% and 5% of people in the United States and Western Europe. FAS is believed to occur in between 0.2 and 9 per 1000 live births in the United States. In South Africa, some populations have rates as high as 9%. The negative effects of alcohol during pregnancy have been described since ancient times. The lifetime cost per child with FAS was \$2,000,000 in 2002. The term fetal alcohol syndrome was first used in 1973.



John 14:14 NIV
*"You may ask me for anything
in my name, and I will do it."*



Dr. Jung Joo Kim
Field Worker

Prayer is the forerunner to a blessing

I ask all White Ribbon sisters around the world to pray for a peaceful unification of South Korea and North Korea according the prayer of Daniel 9:1~14.

Let us also prayerfully intercede for the healing grace of the Lord for the United Kingdom and the United States especially for the victims of the tower fire in London, the recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester and the victims of the latest shooting episodes in USA.

Let us intercede for the Lord's loving care for all nations to return to His fold asking for His deliverance and His healing of our lands in obedience to the commands in the Bible in 2 Chronicle 7:14.

Both these Bible passages require people to repent and pray before God the Father for the forgiveness of their sins and those of their country.

What are our sins today?

May our dear Lord hear our prayers, offered in humility before His very presence, and forgive our sins and heal our lands.

Amen

.....

Please pray for these days in 2017, in addition to Noontide Prayer every day.

September 9 - International FASD Awareness Day

September 28 - WCTU World Day of Prayer

October 2 - No Alcohol Day



*"It is always noontime somewhere.
And across the awakening continents
From shore to shore, somewhere,
Our prayers are rising evermore."*



Tears of joy will stream down their faces,
and I will lead them home with great care.
They will walk beside quiet streams
and on smooth paths where they will not stumble.
Jeremiah 31:9

You are never alone...

Do you feel forsaken or forgotten by the Lord as you go through some deep dark trial? Know that you are not alone. Even if you don't feel His presence, rest in the assurance that He is near for the Bible tells us, He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

In *Steps to Christ*, we are told, "Through sincere prayer we are brought into connection with the mind of the Infinite. We may have no remarkable evidence at the time that the face of our Redeemer is bending over us in compassion and love, but this is even so. We may not feel His visible touch, but His hand is upon us in love and pitying tenderness" (p. 96).

In another place we are told, "Despondency may shake the most heroic faith and weaken the most steadfast will. But God understands, and He still pities and loves. He reads the motives and the purposes of the heart. To wait patiently, to trust when everything looks dark, is the lesson that the leaders in God's work need to learn. Heaven will not fail them in their day of adversity. Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 174).

So no matter what you are facing right now, whether you feel God's presence near or not, know that God is with you! Hang on to Him and don't let go.

Dear Heavenly Father, sometimes in the midst of our trials, we lose sight of You. In fact, sometimes we wonder if You are even near. Help us to hold on to You, knowing that You will never leave us or forsake us. Help us to cling to Your Word even when we cannot see Your face. Help us to be faithful through every trial and every storm. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

World Officers & Department Directors



WORLD PRESIDENT/EDITOR:

Mrs. Margaret Ostenstad
Karmøy, NORWAY
Email: margaret.ostenstad45@gmail.com

WORLD ORGANIZATION SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anne Bergen
Victoria, AUSTRALIA
Email: anne.bergen@gmail.com

WORLD TREASURER:

Mrs. Lois Anderson
Kokomo, IN 46902, USA
Email: loislynn@gmail.com

WORLD RECORDING SECRETARY:

Mrs. Florence Einwechter
Ontario NOJ 1SO, CANADA
Email: keithein@gmail.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Young Joo Kim
Seoul, KOREA
Email: goodnews217@korea.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Joy Butler
New South Wales, AUSTRALIA
Email: joymariebutler@gmail.com

3RD VICE PRESIDENT:

Pastor Irja Eskelinen
Helsinki, FINLAND
Email: irja.eskelinen@suomenvalkonauhaliitto.fi

4TH VICE PRESIDENT:

Dr. Dora de Barrientos
Guatemala City, GUATEMALA
Email: dorajudithcolomadebarrientos@gmail.com

WORLD DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

CO-DIRECTORS

Rev. Gena Torres
Ontario, CANADA
Email: wctugena@aol.com

Rev. June Ballard
Chadron, NEBRASKA, USA
Email: shamrockzjb@gmail.com

EDUCATION:

Miss Sarah Oh
Seoul, KOREA
Email: sarahoh@yuhs.ac

HOME PROTECTION:

Mrs. Rhona Theodore
Victoria, 3179 AUSTRALIA
Email: rhona.theodore@gmail.com

SOCIAL SERVICE:

Mrs. Anna-Mari Laine
13700 Parolannummi, FINLAND
Email: ranna.laine@gmail.com

CHILDREN:

Mrs. Glenda Amos
New South Wales, AUSTRALIA
Email: wctu@amoswebsite.me

YOUTH:

Dr. Elisa Masuku
ZIMBABWE - AFRICA
Email: dummasuku@gmail.com

WORLD FIELD WORKERS

AFRICA:

Mrs. Joy Butler
New South Wales, AUSTRALIA
Email: joymariebutler@gmail.com

ASIA:

Dr. Kyung-il Park
Seoul, KOREA
Email: gunsik@snu.ac.kr

CENTRAL AND SOUTH:

Dr. Dora de Barrientos, AMERICA
Guatemala City, GUATEMALA
Email: dorajudithcolomadebarrientos@gmail.com

EUROPE:

Mrs. Brita Nilssen
5411 Stord, NORWAY
Email: britanilssen@hotmail.com

MISSIONARIES (Korean)

Dr. Jung Joo Kim
Seoul, KOREA
Email: kimjungjoo@gmail.com

PACIFIC ISLANDS:

Mrs. Mitroy Sapul
Morobe Province, PAPUA/NEW GUINEA
Email: mitroy.sapul@gmail.com

WHITE RIBBON BULLETIN

Circulation Manager:

Mrs. Lois Anderson
2504 S. Berkley Road,
Kokomo, IN 46902, USA
Email: loislynn@gmail.com

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Congratulations to the New Zealand WCTU, especially Annette Patterson who has done a wonderful job keeping NZ and government mindful of Kate Shepherd and the involvement of the WCTU in the suffragette movement at the time.