

WORLD'S WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION



White Ribbon Bulletin

VOLUME 103

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2008

NUMBER 4



Japanese group at prayer meeting

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*International Code

WHITE RIBBON BULLETIN published quarterly. Subscription rates in **USA CURRENCY** - 3 years - \$21.00; 2 years - \$14.00; 1 year - \$7.00. Send subscriptions, address changes, and corrections to **CIRCULATION MANAGER**, Miss Lois I. Helm, 1527 E. 37th St., Marion, IN 46953 USA, Email: freeman@comteck.com.



The President's Page . . .

Miss Sarah F. Ward

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,

I have been pleased to receive many evaluations of the Program Kits. In the next issue I will announce the World President's Honor Roll.

We have two changes to announce in World Department Directors. Jennifer Jun, Home Protection, and Bunny Galladora, Youth, are unable to continue in these roles due to increased responsibilities in their major fields of endeavor. We thank them for their contributions to our work. Until the upcoming World Convention, Margaret Ostenstad will act as Co-ordinator for Home Protection. We are widening the scope of this department and Margaret will enlist Consultants for the department who have special competence in various areas. The article in this issue on gambling by Frances Wood is one example. Sheela Lall, former Youth Director, will assume responsibility for this department until the Convention. Glenda Amos, with input from Sheela and others, hopes to develop a website for youth. TheWWCTU website is being prepared now.

After the visit to Korea, Margaret and I stopped in Japan to share in the weekly prayer service observed by the members who live in the Tokyo area. I spoke to the group and Margaret sang The Holy City. The group divided into pairs to share the prayer concerns that had been given at the beginning of the meeting. A delicious lunch introduced us to many new foods and then several members shared brief testimonies about their commitment to the WCTU. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and our thanks to President Sato for a well-organized meeting. Her son, Rev. Jun Sato, acted as my interpreter. After the meeting, her daughter, Yoshimi Kumai, took us shopping and entertained us in her home in the evening.

Pictured below are Japan President, Masako Sato, with her husband, daughter, son and daughter-in-law, who all participated at the Prayer Meeting. More photos can be seen on the back page.

Sarah F. Ward



(Left to right) Rev. Yoji Sato, Yoshimi Kumai, Margaret Ostenstad, Sarah F. Ward, Masako Sato, Yukiko Sato and Rev. Jun Sato.



4th Vice President

Rita Wert

USA NATIONAL CONVENTION

I hope your WCTU year is going well so far. As I write, I have just returned from the US national WCTU convention in Burlington, Vermont. We had good meetings and enjoyed an excellent spirit of fellowship. Our Department Directors gave good presentations, highlighting specific projects for our members to do in this new year. A parade around the meeting hall was held to show off winning entries in our coloring and poster contests. This year it was announced that we are adding a new category to our poster contest..... computer-generated artwork. New rules for this category have been written and made available.

Two guest speakers brought informative and interesting presentations for our appreciation. The first was about the life of Sojourner Truth ---- a black woman who was quite well-spoken for the cause of temperance and women's suffrage in America. Some of our unions have carried her name as their identifying union name. This presentation was given by Mary Butler, director of the Sojourner Truth Museum in Battle Creek, Michigan. The other presentation was given by Mr. Ted McKnight, retired district attorney of Clinton County, Pennsylvania, who is an expert on underage drinking. Mr. McKnight has had a large impact in his county with a program called "Wake Up" which provides information and assistance in combating underage drinking and promotes public awareness.

It was also reported that we are actively promoting and participating in the world department projects as outlined at last year's world convention.

We were quite dismayed to learn there is a group of approximately 100 top US college/university presidents who are actively promoting lowering the US drinking age from 21 to 18. They call their project the "Amethyst Initiative." A WCTU counter-campaign was launched to contact every college/university president with new literature and information specially created for this which contains pertinent and current statistics and compelling reasons to keep the drinking age at 21.

We are also in the midst of a huge national project to contact every pastor with a packet of literature to reintroduce WCTU to the churches of America and rekindle the good working relationship WCTU once had with them. Several new books were available for our Reading Course and every member was encouraged to gain 1 new member this year thus doubling our army of workers. We also held a Light Line Service where we had a special time of prayer for various needs and concerns in WCTU around the world.

Please pray for the success of our various campaigns and projects. We look forward to a good year in WCTU.



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



A LETTER TO TODAY'S YOUTH – YOU ARE LOVED! YOU ARE WORTHY!

****Please see introduction to this important letter on page 6. *Ed.***

Dear Youth, It is my honor and great privilege to write to you to acknowledge that growing up today is far from easy and you feel weighed down by a feeling of worthlessness. Don't let this fear get a hold on you as it will stop your growth. All the heart breaks you keep filing away in your heart and mind - like the time you didn't make the cheerleader/football squad; or the way you were teased about your accent; or the fact the you were ignored by the people who are supposed to love you; or your parents fought and didn't think about your feelings and needs. This creates a kind of fear that you are the reason for these problems. Fear whispers "my number one job is to guard you against negative feeling." This perpetuates your inability to accept yourself.

Yet deep down we all want to own our power, strength and courage and live victorious, fulfilled lives. In order to do so, we must accept and embrace ourselves as God does. God has accepted us as His own worthy children in Christ.

Each one of us is given different talents and you all know the parable of Christ and the talents. You are precious in His sight, so tune in your hearts and mind to hear what God and His word tell you about whom you are and how precious and worthy you are. If you listen to the world, you can never measure up as its standards are ever-changing. This brings fear, heartache and the feeling of unworthiness. Be willing to make required changes which lead to true transformation. Our resistance to change is the symptom of how strong a hold Satan has on us through fears of various kinds.

You are so worthy of God's love that He wants you to thrive - not just survive. Don't settle for less, hiding yourself from others --- doubting yourself --- never allowing anyone really to get to know you --- having friends that are more like enemies ---- doing things because you have to, need to, or should ---- waking up and dreading the next twenty-four hours ---- hoping someone will take you away from all this ---- complaining, saying "yes" when you really want to say "No" ---- worrying for no reason at all ---- giving up on yourself before you ever try ---- protecting yourself from being hurt ---- having a ton of excuses why your life is the way it is ---- not asking for support when you need it ---- holding grudges ---- spending money you don't have and getting things you don't need ---- blaming your parents the way you have turned out ---- drinking and depending on drugs ---- not speaking up when you feel ignored, unimportant or undervalued ---- manipulating others to get your own way ---- eating foods that you know are not good for you ---- being ashamed of your body --- priding yourself on not having cried since you were a little child -- the list could go on and on.

If you are living like this, then you need to choose a place to start and someone to start with. What better option than to turn to God who knows you inside out and still loves you enough to give you not just a second chance but lifelong chances because you matter the most to Him "Your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, is of great worth in God's sight."(1 Peter 3:4)

God has created everything good but He has also created a boundary within which to live. If we cross His boundaries, many good things can become bad. You are worthy in the sight of God and in the sight of His people. **May God bless you to understand your worthiness.**

NEWS FLASHES FROM

Organization Secretary

Mrs. Margaret Ostenstad, NORWAY



Margaret Østenstad and Brita Nilssen from **Norway** represented WWCTU at the United Nations 61st **ANNUAL DPI / NGO CONFERENCE "Reaffirming Human Rights for All,"** held for the first time at the UNESCO Headquarters in **PARIS, France**, 3 – 5 September 2008.

Many good workshops were offered but the one most relevant for us was **"Water as a Human and Universal Common Good."** The lack of clean drinking water in struggling countries forces people to drink very potent alcohol in order to quench their thirst. We need to do all we can to support the effort to make safe drinking water available. We tell of the dangers of drinking alcohol and this is the only thing that some countries have to drink because their water is contaminated.

Dear Readers,

In the letter on page 5, Sheela Lall addresses a very critical issue which is radically undermining the lives of our youth – their sense of worthlessness. Sheela writes: "The hearts and minds of our youth are influenced by various crises and circumstances of loved ones which tell them that they are "worthless" and "don't measure up to anything". Their fear of being not accepted, approved or understood becomes the gatekeeper of their comfort zone which can lead them to a life they really don't want to lead."

*You can share this article with young people you know to help shine the light of hope in their lives. **The youth of today are our next generation of leaders.***



*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men."
Luke 2:14*

The World Officers wish you and yours a blessed Christmastide and a happy New Year!

AROUND THE WORLD

FAS Awareness Day – 9 September at 9:09 a.m., was marked by the WCTU in many countries around the world and it was wonderful to hear the reports. Dr. Kyung-il Park, **KOREA**, is continuing her outreach about FAS. In many communities throughout the **USA**, church bells and bells at city halls were rung. In **NORWAY**, we used newspaper advertisements and our White Ribbon Bulletin to spread the message. **GHANA WCTU** conducted two surveys in various parts of the country. These revealed that, of the 150 women of child-bearing age surveyed, 129 drank various brands of alcoholic beverages during pregnancy. Therefore, on September 9 the members (pictured) visited some of



the compound houses in the communities and told the message about alcohol and the unborn. They are praying for funding to enable them to print leaflets in their own language on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and addictive drugs to be distributed in areas where FAS is on the increase.

GREAT NEWS! AUSTRALIA – A women’s Service Club has been celebrating the Centenary of Women’s Suffrage this year. Their historical research has led them to recognise the role WCTU members played in gaining the vote. Prior to each event this statement was read: “Out of respect, for the women of the Victorian Christian Temperance Union who worked untiringly alongside other womens’ organizations to gain the vote for women, there will be no alcohol at this event.”



Brigadier Minnie Rawlins

(Mabel Elizabeth)

November 21, 1911 to March 30, 2008

Brigadier Minnie Rawlins (Canada) passed away March 30, 2008 at The Salvation Army Sunset Lodge, Victoria with her two daughters at her side. She was elected WCTU World President in the Philippines in 1986 and served for six years. During her presidency she traveled to many countries in almost every continent where she impressed people with her warm personality and gentle manner. Our sympathy is extended to her family.



Home Protection

Frances Wood, U.S.A. Consultant

GAMBLING

Gambling has become a global concern with very few countries escaping the lure gambling makes at so-called easy-money for their government's treasuries. Australia's Senator Xenophon has made statements about gambling in that country, much of which is applicable to all our countries. "Today, in this country, there are hundred of thousands of Australians who, in some direct way, have been damaged by the poker machine industry. I've seen so many good people whose lives have been ruined by these machines. According to the industry's own figures, poker machines make more than 50% of their revenue from problem gamblers. Their arguments, their denials, all echo the tactics used by the tobacco industry in decades past. And I say enough is enough! These machines are unsafe and need to be removed from the community. Poker machines are a litmus test of good government. If governments are willing to sacrifice their own citizens for gambling taxes, what else are they getting wrong?"

In Quebec, **CANADA**, there is a class action suit against Loto-Quebec with an estimated 119,000 plaintiffs (addicts) involving Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs). "We claim that VLTs are as dangerous to people's health as cigarettes and we want Loto-Quebec to warn people properly," said Jean-Paul Michaud, who represents the gambling addicts. Seniors lost their homes. Lawyers lost their practices. Families lost their children to suicide.

KOREA reports that the number of gambling addicts increased five times during the last five years.

GREAT BRITAIN has opened up its first National Problem Gambling Clinic.

NAMBIA'S, Africa, Women's Action for Development executive, Veronica deKlerk said, "With the legalization of gambling in certain entertainment facilities, women have simply taken over." She discouraged women from engaging in gambling activities, adding that some mothers gamble away the money meant for the maintenance of their children.

In **NORWAY**, Bishop Ernst Baasland's son, Bjarte, gambled away NOK 60,000,000, (US\$10,000,000) on the internet instead of investing this money in a computer project as was promised. Now the bishop and his wife have enormous debts because of their son and have declared bankruptcy. The son still does not see himself as an addict and the nation called the incident "a family tragedy."

Gambling on the internet is a big threat world-wide. With on-line gambling it is now possible to lose your home without ever actually having to leave it. This currently unlawful in the United States but there are bills before the Congress to reinstate this activity.

NEW ZEALAND has initiated a unique program called "Gambling Free Day." It occurred September 1 for the fourth year. This is a day set aside to raise public awareness and knowledge about the harm gambling causes in New Zealand society. Patterned after the Smoke Free Day, other countries are considering observing it, **Nova Scotia** being one of them.

As with alcohol, tobacco and other addictive drugs, we are safest in abstaining from any form of gambling.



Social Service

Hyun Sook Lee

GOD IS LOVE

There was a mission team that was sent to a tribe in Africa. They lived there with the tribes' people without sharing about Jesus to them. When the people worked, the team also worked with them. They helped the people carry things, build bridges and houses, went logging together, and ate and drank with them. When the people were sad or when they were sick, the team was always with them. One year later, the mission team left the tribe. After they left, the people started to think about them and wondered who they were. One of the people in the tribe said that they were Christians. Later on, the tribes' people received Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Perhaps nowadays Jesus and Christians are known by many people around the world. When we do good things, people think that we have a certain goal for trying to convert them into Christians and sometimes they refuse our good deeds. However, we can't stop doing good deeds because God is love and we have received His love and we want to share that love with the people around us. Although there are different nations, races, religions and communities, we have to help the people around us, just as Jesus did. He was always concerned with the people who were weak and those who were in need. He wants us to do same as his disciples. Starting from Frances Willard, who is the founder of WCTU, and on to all of our WCTU sisters, we are doing the work that Jesus wants us to do.

I think our six different departments are doing the work with different modes. It is indeed beautiful! Praise the Lord! For Program Kit III, the Social Service department suggested that you be aware of opportunities to care for people who are sick or weak. I believe that is what you are doing.

Here in Indonesia, we had good opportunity to help by bringing an oriental medical team for the sick people. Because of the current economic problems, this is the right time to encourage them as many of them can't afford to go to hospitals. Two months ago, I visited a small island called Sumbawa. It is indeed primitive and very poor. I heard that there were many uneducated women living there so I thought we could help make a difference in their lives by educating them so that they could read and write. I believe that is the WCTU's work as well. We can help people so that they can change their homes and their societies. We need to continue to pray and ask God to show us what He wants us to do and where we need to share His love.

I hope that our lives will glorify God and that He will use us as His tools. May God bless you!

38th World Convention
May 12-17, 2010 - Stavanger, NORWAY



Devotion

Henrietta Griffith

PREPARED FOR CHRISTMAS

Luke 1:76 "...prepare the way of the Lord" **Luke 2:11** "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Is it possible to go through the Christmas season and miss the true glory of Christmas? Is it possible to go through the Christmas season and never see the Christ? What is Christmas? Is it the joy of giving and receiving? Is it the spirit of friendliness and goodwill? No! Christmas is the birth of Christ! **Christmas is the "Word made flesh" to dwell among us.** Christmas is Christ coming anew to your heart and my heart in a special way. He is God's "**unspeakable Gift**" to us. He is come to seek and save us from our sin.

It took God centuries to get ready for Christmas. The first promise was given in Gen 3:15. "...the seed of woman would bruise the serpent's head." It was centuries before it was fulfilled. There are 38 prophecies of the coming of the Christ. But "**In the fullness of time He came.**"

Bethlehem was astir with activity but Bethlehem was not ready. The Inn keeper had never been busier but he was not ready. The religious leaders were not ready. Thousands never saw the star. **Zachariah was ready** - he was the first to receive the angelic message. **He was prepared by prayer and longing, by meditation.** The angel appeared to him. The prophets had told of a king; he believed to see the fulfilment. The angel told him that his wife would bear a son who would be the forerunner, a Morning star to Him who would be the Sun of Righteousness. **Zachariah had the sweet assurance that the promise was his. The Desire of all nations was to be born.**

Mary was prepared by costly obedience. The angel appeared to her. She bowed and said, "**Be it unto me according to thy word.**" Her soul magnified the Lord. It was not easy! There were times when she felt the sword piercing her soul. She knew, "to obey is better than sacrifice." Her obedience was costly! The Saviour was born!

It may be costly for us to say yes to the will of God. In our obedience, we prepare the way for Christ to come. Our sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, **our obedience to His will, may prepare the way for richer and fuller revelations this Christmas for us and others.**

Joseph, too, had a part. He had questions and difficulties in understanding. He laid them aside and did as the angel said. "Fear not to take Mary ..." He loved Mary. He believed God. **He trusted when he did not understand. Trust prepares us for His coming.**

The Shepherds saw the star. They heard the angelic chorus. They believed and hurried to see! They had no gifts to take. They had hearts to give, poverty of soul to give. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God." **They believed the angel song and promise. They received salvation!**

The wise men of the east were heathen from a Gentile nation. They saw an unusual star! It seemed to lure them beyond and beckoned them on. **They were rich enough, had plenty to live on but not much to live for.** They followed the light. It led to Bethlehem and stood over where the young child lay. They rejoiced with exceeding great joy and worshiped Him. They presented their gifts.

We, who know the Christ, can have a fuller revelation. Forget the tinsel; forget the glitter of a modern Christmas. **Prepare for Christmas by - prayer and meditation** as did Zachariah; **submission and obedience** as did Mary; **trust** as did Joseph; **believe**, as did the shepherds; **follow the Light** as did the wise men and **May this be your greatest and most spiritual Christmas ever!**



Christina Naylor, a former missionary in Japan and current translator for JWCTU Bulletin and Program Kit material, was honoured by the New South Wales (NSW) WCTU as a FairGo Champion Campaigner in 2007 for her tireless work of writing Australian politicians regarding health warnings about alcohol. She learned that the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) would accept submissions concerning warning labels on alcoholic beverage containers against drinking during pregnancy and on alcohol drinking guidelines. She also wrote the Senate about alcohol toll reduction and ready-to-drink alcohol beverages known as Alco pops as well as making submissions to the NSW government on protecting children from tobacco. Naylor shares some of her thoughts about our WCTU work and what Australian government officials are thinking. We commend her activist spirit. Ed. Her report below has been condensed.

To be an active member of WCTU is to be a conspicuous non-conformist - even in many churches these days. When total abstinence is derided as “old-fashioned” and the only desirable norm consistently being held up is “moderation” and “responsible drinking” at the same time, as government bodies continually postpone promised remedial measures, we can feel isolated and frustrated. This is accentuated when influential people ignore the inherent dangers of alcohol and other drugs, claiming that we can divert people from their “excessive” use simply by providing adequate housing, health services, education for children and hope for the future.

In 2001 Australian Aboriginal leader Noel Pearson argued that our worst **mistake** has been to regard addictions as **symptoms** of underlying social and personal problems, instead of recognising that epidemics of binge drinking gain their own self-perpetuating momentum.

People begin using alcohol and other drugs because other people do - given ready availability, money, spare time and general social acceptance. Binge drinking and addiction are fostered by group pressure to bond together by drinking.

The Premier of Western Australia has recently pledged to close the bar at Parliament House, to improve the behaviour of politicians. (The Australian, 23/8/08). Successful professional and business people become addicted to wine, which is fashionable, and is sanctioned by claims of the “health benefits” of moderate drinking, despite evidence to the contrary, and unpleasant memories of immoderate drinking.

Once established, addictions take over. “Life-support” programs are offered instead of mandatory rehabilitation, allowing addicts to continue their destructive behaviour, ruin their health, spread misery all around, and infect others with their addiction.

