

Looking Forward to the Centennial of KWCTU in 2023

Jung Joo Kim, 2nd Vice President and Field Worker to the Korean Missionaries of the WWCTU

Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

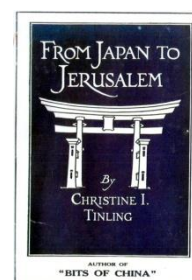
Ms. Christine Tinling from England founded the KWCTU in 1923. Her commission as WWCTU missionary appears in the 'History' section of the WWCTU website (<http://wwctu.org>) as follows:

At the sixth convention in Geneva in 1903, the title of all individuals serving at mission fields was changed from 'field worker' to the **"World's White Ribbon Missionary."** Simultaneously, nine individuals were appointed with this title: J. K. Barney, Addie Northam Fields, and Kara Smart, USA; Harrison Lee and Cummins and Vincent, Australia; Ethel Beedham and Christine Tinling, England; and Olafia Johannsdottir, Iceland.

Ms. Tinling came to Korea in 1923 and stayed in Korea for six months. During her time in Korea, she visited many schools including Ewha University, my alma mater. Eventually, Ewha became instrumental in the foundation of the KWCTU. In 1926, Ms. Tinling published a book titled, *From Japan to Jerusalem* (National Woman's Christian Temperance Publishing House, Evanston. 1926. 144 pages), reporting on her experiences as WWCTU missionary in the Far East, in countries including Japan, Korea, Manchuria, Philippines, Burma, India, Egypt, and Jerusalem.



Photo: Ms. Tinling (third from the left) with Ms. Apenzeller, the principal (second from the right) and students at Ewha School in 1923.



She was a good worker for the Lord, as well as a talented writer. During her trips, she gave lectures almost daily on the harms of alcohol, nicotine, and narcotic drugs; rampant wherever she went. Responses of the audiences were great. Hence, where national unions were not yet formed, people were willing to organize new national unions. This was also the case for Korea, which was founded by Ms. Tinling in 1923.

In 2023, the KWCTU will celebrate her centennial, having reached out to Korean missionaries founding temperance unions in mission fields for the last 100 years. As of 2015, 28,326 missionaries were serving in 170 countries, sent by the Korean Church. After the 41st World Convention in Finland, many reports came from temperance unions, newly founded in various countries by Korean missionaries. Among them, I will share with you three reports below, of Paraguay, Philippines, and Vanuatu.

Missionary Chang Keun Yang founded St. Paul's High School and Tribal Chiefs' School in Paraguay. He invited medical doctors to give temperance lectures, and delivered temperance pamphlets translated in Spanish, to 99 tribal chiefs and 10 children, who attended the Tribal Chiefs' School.



Photo: The first temperance seminar, held at the 23rd Tribal Chiefs' School during November 4-8, 2019.

The tribal chiefs showed so much interest in the temperance lecture that Missionary Yang asked us to pray for them to share with their tribes the importance of total abstinence from alcohol, cigarettes and drugs; and to prevent addiction among them. Here ends the report of Missionary Chang Keun Yang in Paraguay.

Missionary Eun Ho Kim who attended the 41st World Convention of the WWCTU, said, "We focused on the areas notorious for having many youth with drug addictions; we taught them about the harms of alcohol, nicotine, and drugs. We delivered temperance pamphlets translated in Tagalog, and thanked the Lord for the good impact given to the youth. Currently, this work to me is occurring in the golden time of my life and will probably last about 10 more years. We should all the more sow the seed of the Gospel. We invited a licensed

nurse, Pastor Bboy, to serve as main lecturer for the temperance seminar. Pastor Bboy was responsible for translating the temperance pamphlet into Tagalog. We also had small group discussions. Please pray for us as we undertake this holy ministry of God.” Here ends the Philippines KWCTU’s report.



Photo: The three day event, ‘Evangelism for the Youth’ (October 29-31, 2019) where 50 counselors and helpers in yellow shirts served 151 young participants.

On Oct. 1, 2019, I got a report from Missionary Nanjoo Kim, saying, “The Vanuatu WCTU held our first national convention successfully by the grace of God.



Photo: The 1st National Convention of the Vanuatu WCTU (Sept. 27-29, 2019). 50 ladies from Santo and four other islands, 30 pastors and youth participated. Altogether, around 80-90 people participated.

For this convention, some came from quite a distance, even two days by boat ride. The first session lecture, “The Influence of Narcotic Drugs on the Brain” was based on the PowerPoint presentation of Dr. Bertha Madras, which was given at the 41st World Convention. Members from the VWCTU’s three branches challenged those from other islands, and those who visited the temperance conference for the first time, to work together with us. On the last day, women from four islands decided to start small group prayer meetings to awaken homes and local societies about the need for a drug-free life. At this convention, 10 women signed the pledge, and now the VWCTU has more than 50 members. Due to geographical conditions, it may be very difficult for everyone to get together. We still plan to have a biannual conference because by coming together, we learn more about the temperance movement, gain new knowledge about the harms of narcotic drugs, and strengthen and encourage one another. If possible, I will visit all the islands next year where the temperance ministry has just started.” Here ends the VWCTU report.

When Ms. Margaret Ostenstad, World President, asked me to serve as Field Worker to the Korean Missionaries for the WWCTU in 2003, I gladly accepted her offer. However, I did not expect the eagerness with which Korean missionaries would respond to the call of the temperance movement. The Spirit of the Lord poured His amazing grace in each contact, and missionaries who felt God’s calling were willing to start the temperance work in the mission fields. How gracious our Lord is, who blesses us with His steadfast love as Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, Amen.

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.”