



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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WWCTU IS ALIVE and ACTIVE

Alcohol is a very
effective dissolving
agent.

It dissolves families,
marriages, friendships,
jobs, bank accounts,
and neurons, but
NEVER problems.



Irja Eskelinen
1st Vice President

When I was a little girl, I used to sit with my dear mother in church. I used to wonder why she shut her eyes every now and then, and so one time I asked him. My mother answered, "When I pray to God, I don't want to look at anything else. I close my eyes so that I can talk to God in peace."

We can, in the words of the well-known hymn, "turn our eyes upon Jesus", but God is always greater than what we can see with our eyes.

Sometimes we, too, wish we could find soundproof or a guarantee of God's existence and his significance. We want to be able to see with our own eyes and be convinced.

But perhaps we are fortunate not to be able to see God in the same way we can see each other or this square. God is a mystery.

Even though we do not see God, He sees us. Though we do not always believe in God, God always believes in us. Is there anything greater in life that we could wish for? Is there anything more comforting than God, who is our help turning his caring gaze on us and watching out for us wherever we are?

There is no place we can hide with our shame and our anxiety that Christ cannot find a way down to us.

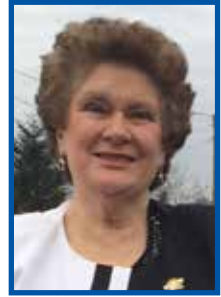
God's gaze creates life. It is under God's gaze that we have hope and a future.

Yours in White Ribbon Bonds
Irja



Dear all,

Noontide prayer is our organizations greatest resource and God has shown that He answers way over what we have asked him for. Everyone who attended World Convention in Finland marked the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in so many ways. Praise the Lord! I'd like to share a passage from the Bible with you. There is so much need in the world today and nothing is impossible for God.



"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
(Romans 12:12, NIV)

We need to pray for and with each other and share when prayers are answered. In all things, thanks be to God! Amen!

As well as praying for all who are struggling with addiction to open their hearts to Jesus, please pray for:

- 22 Christian missionaries in Afganistan who are sentenced to be executed
- National disasters as a result of climatic changes and health crisis spreading worldwide.
- World unrest, especially member countries like INDIA and KOREA; USA, NEW ZEALAND, AFRICA, EQYPT, GUATEMALA and where you are.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and He will answer. To Him be the glory!

Dear Lord God! As we pray, we claim your full protection. Let the blood of the Lamb which was shed for us on the cross, stand between us and all the wrougths of the enemy. Any arrows coming our way, he returned to the sender with love. Amen!

Please share your prayer needs with others and don't be afraid, just believe! Mark 5:36

Easter blessings,

In Christ's love,

Margaret





Leena Harake

The theme of the **WORLD WCTU CONVENTION** in July, 2019 was “Going forward! Thinking globally, acting locally”

A workshop on “Tools for hope – tackling locally and globally obstacles to the Sustainable Development Goals” was conducted by Leena Haraké Executive Director WOCAD Women’s Organizations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues, Stockholm, Sweden.



Some segments to prompt thinking:

To work locally and think globally Important actors locally, for example mothercare, childcare, school, youth centres, working places. Churches and the like:

- The local authorities have to support this instances and staffs with best possible knowledge and practice
- Mutual analysis of needs of the population
- Mutual strategies for organizing early and accessible support and services
- NGO's are an important resource and can offer services that the authorities can't/don't
- The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

- They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.
- The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/#>

- Increase knowledge about ill health in the population
- Resist stigmatising of people with psychiatric ill health
- Resist prejudice, ignorance and discrimination of vulnerable people
- Both among professionals and population in general
- Children and youth, an important target group
- It is time to not repeat the history of treating women as men in prevention or in rehabilitation.
- A modern primary prevention has to be done simultaneously on many new arenas and must be coordinated.
- Including alcohol and other drug issues.
- Requires comprehensive responsibility from all stake holders in the society.





*Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson
talk about the
POWER of PRAYER and GOD*

“God is mysterious, but God works every day.”

Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson are one of Hollywood’s most beloved couples. After 30 years of marriage, their love is rock solid. The two are not only committed to each, but also committed to God. Their belief in the power of prayer is a testament to their unwavering faith.

Hanks and Wilson talk about God and the power of prayer. Wilson shares how she prays every day and how important praying is. She prays individually. She also prays with her husband and her children. Prayer is a foundation in her family’s life.

“God is a part of my life,” Wilson said. “Every single day I prayed to God for I don’t know how many years – that he would bring me somebody that I loved, that loved me in the same way and he brought me Tom. I believe in that.”

“God is mysterious, but God works every day,” Hanks said.

Hanks and Wilson are both strong people of faith. Hanks joined the Greek Orthodox Church when he married Wilson in 1988. The church is really where Hanks’ faith matured.

The couple has relied on their faith, even during trauma and hardship. In 2015, Wilson was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy, and their son Chet Hanks was also battling substance abuse. During this trying period, Hanks was also trying to control his type-2 diabetes and its side effects, in addition to also being hit with a lawsuit as a result of his son’s actions. In spite of all they were going through, the couple leaned on pray and faith to provide them the strength and hope that saw them through. While their faith has been put to the test, they still trusted that God would see them through their darkest valley, and He did.

Despite Hollywood’s endless splits, their marriage has stood the test of time in Hollywood and a lot of this has to do with their faith in God. As Christians, we know that there is power in prayer and with God all things are possible.

Prayer is a powerful tool for communicating with our Heavenly Father. It is an opportunity to become one with the Creator and Giver of all things. Another incredible thing about prayer is that it helps us to find strength for today and hope for our future. We should actively pray and trust in its power to change our circumstances for good. Your faith life directly correlates to the quality of your prayer life. Prayer has the power to change not only the people and things around you. Prayer also has the power to change you from the inside out.

When you're in need of strength, remember that God is the number one healer and can guide you in endless ways. If your heart and life are centered on God, His Word and His Holy Spirit, you can rest assured that He will direct your path.

Many of us are facing impossible situations where we need a breakthrough in our lives. Yet, most of us sit and wait for God to make it happen, and then we wonder why it is that we don't experience breakthrough as often or as fast as we'd like. What we need to know is that breakthrough is not something we sit around and wait for. Breakthrough is God waiting on us to respond in obedience to what He has already commanded and already promised. Breakthrough happens when we pray vehemently and trust God's outcome. Breakthrough happens when we say that we are going to trust that God is going to supernaturally do what is impossible. God does the breakthrough, but He's waiting for us to take that first step of faith. We have to believe in God's goodness, that God has already willed the breakthrough for our life.

Prayer is a force that touches eternal powers and sets them in motion. It is so powerful that Satan wants to keep you from it because it interferes with his power, disturbs his plans and destroys his kingdom. That means that prayer is a powerful weapon and a dangerous one that can be used against the forces of evil that we face daily.

Whatever you might be going through today, whatever circumstances you're facing, trust that you can turn to God in prayer. Instead of stressing about your next decision, ask God to lead you and guide you. There is nothing you can pray about that is too big or small for God. Ask God for the wisdom and discernment to teach you how He wants you to pray and for what He wants you to pray for. God has the power to equip you with strength as you face your biggest challenges. You just have to trust Him.



Noontide prayer

Around the world, someone is always praying



Anne Bergen
Organization Secretary

For my pages in this first edition for 2020 I am using material from Joy Butler's excellent Newsletter for South Pacific and Africa.

These regular newsletters are designed to inform, inspire and encourage the WCTU members in those areas and they can also bring blessings to members all around the world.

Greetings to everyone as the new year unfolds. Australia has been very hard hit over this year end with massive bush fires - 1,000s of buildings destroyed, millions of wildlife killed, people burnt to death and thousands of hectares of bushland scarred. Please remember to pray for Australia. The fires continues as I write this newsletter. (Thanks to concerted prayer by Christians, heavy rain is now falling in the bushfire- ravaged areas and bringing regeneration and new growth –Anne).

In Sydney Australia, four children have been killed while innocently walking on the footpath. Other children are seriously injured and are in hospital. A 'drink driver' crashed into them because his judgement was impaired. How utterly tragic when this could have been averted. ALCOHOL damages and murders people everywhere. We must continue to speak against it - we must continue to teach our children and youth about the dangers - we must keep urging them to sign the pledge of total abstinence - we must urge our governments to make stronger laws against ALCOHOL and how it is made and distributed. Across Africa and in the South Pacific Islands, families suffer, people are hurt, children die because of ALCOHOL. Use every opportunity to teach.

The following **countries in Africa** have WCTU representation - Burundi, DR Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

The following **countries in the South Pacific** have WCTU representation - Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

If you need or want to talk to someone in any of those countries, please ask Joy for the details. Share your stories and learn from each other. TELL US YOUR NEWS so we can all benefit and gain inspiration.



The picture shows people from the Highlands of Papua New Guinea. They live in the mountains and most are very poor with no access to towns or higher education. They need to know that God loves them, that He has a purpose for each one and they can live clean, pure lives by God's grace. **A meeting of WCTU will convene Feb 13 in Port Moresby, PNG.** The New Year is a time to make NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. Here are some guidelines: Ask God to lead you. Make them reasonable and achievable

- Start with only a few - 3-6 might be enough for you
- Establish a pattern - do something 21 times and it becomes a habit
- Write down categories - Spiritual life, Health life, Service Life, Social Life
- Under those headings write your resolutions
- Pray over this list and ask God to help you achieve these resolutions and goals
- Pray every day for help and victory



Just as the amazing flowers of the Pacific regions bloom into something always beautiful, so should our children and youth. They need our support, acceptance and unconditional love. They need to know how to behave, how to serve others, how to make good decisions. We are commissioned, by God, to help them. Check out these websites - Facebook - Wow Unlimited; Facebook - I'm Worth It; Pinterest - WCTU Drinks; www.wwctu.org; www.wctu.org.au

People may not remember exactly what you did or what you said but they will always remember how you made them feel. - DIAM NOBIS

Looking Forward to 2020 & Giving Thanks for 2019

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16).

Dec. 18, 2019

1. Christian Outreach (Superintendent: Dr. Jung Joo Kim)

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”: Why does God love the world, which is so rebellious and wicked? Genesis 1:1 gives the answer saying that God created the heavens and the earth. He loves what is His own. In His love, He had to give up His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay for the penalty of our sins (Isaiah 53:5-6). What pain God must have felt when He sent His one and only Son for our redemption. In order for Him to forgive us righteously, He could not but condemn all our sins in the flesh of His only Son (Romans 8:3-4). The last part of John 3:16 says, “...that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” It reveals the solemn truth that not by our observance of the law, or by our good works, but by faith in Jesus Christ who died on the cross and rose from the dead in three days, will we be saved and receive eternal life. We White Ribbon Sisters must first believe the Gospel and that by faith in the crucified and risen Christ alone can one be saved. Only then can we learn about God’s steadfast love towards His creations, which is the foundation of the temperance movement. By the blood of Jesus shed on the cross, we received forgiveness for all our sins, and were delivered from all the temptation of narcotic drugs. By sharing the Gospel, we will be able to reach out to people to prevent them from addiction to alcohol, nicotine, and other addictive drugs by informing them of these substances’ harms. Then, the grace of Jesus Christ will make the temperance movement grow and bear fruits unto the glory of God by the power of His Spirit. When we do not see direct results of our efforts in the temperance work, we should not get discouraged. Instead, we should look up to Jesus now risen and sitting on the right hand of God, for He will drive out all fear, and dwell in us with His perfect love (1 John 4:18). What joy and gladness our hearts will feel, when we live in Christ and Christ lives in us (John 15:7). In the last chapter of his book, *The Addicted Brain: Why We Abuse Drugs, Alcohol, and Nicotine*, Michael Kuhar concludes that the best solution for drug addiction is prevention; confirming the aim of the temperance movement. Every month, the KWCTU holds Bible study sessions to learn what God’s will is for us White Ribbon Sisters today. The sessions are led by Reverend Nam Hyun Cho. May praise, glory, and honor be to God our Father, and Jesus Christ, His only Son, and the Spirit of God now unto eternity.

2. The Best Event of the Year 2019: the 41st WWCTU World Convention

The 41st WWCTU World Convention motivated all the delegates, especially first-time observers to start anew the temperance work back home. We



thank the Lord for all the blessings and Mrs. Margaret Ostenstad for her leadership and the Finnish White Ribbon Sisters' hospitality.

3, Education (Superintendent Mrs. Duk Ja Nahm)

Dr. Won Ho Kim, Director of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease at the Korean National Institute of Health, Korea Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, shared his research on how alcohol is dangerous not only during pregnancy but even before pregnancy occurs. Women must abstain from drinking even a drop of alcohol, lest the fetus be harmed. Similarly, men should abstain from drinking even a drop, lest alcohol harm his brain. All glory be to our God!



In order to found the Prevention Center of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (PCFAS) at Ewha Woman's University, Ms. Young Joo Kim, the president of the KWCTU, is donating 50 pieces of her paintings, for a Solo Art Exhibition (February 16 - March 16, 2020) to the gallery of Ewha Woman's University Hospital (EWUH) in Korea. The KWCTU aims to raise enough fund to support the running of a research center at EWUH. The research center will aim to educate the Korean public about the harms of alcohol, as a teratogen, and the necessity of abstaining from it to prevent the onset of FAS.

4. YTC (Superintendent Mrs. Hyung Kyung Kim)

In addition to monthly Bible studies, YTC students at Yonsei University had an annual campaign at the school's Songdo campus on Oct. 19,



2019, which was during the university's midterm exam week. They shared temperance pamphlets, ballpoint pens, wet wipes, educational books on prevention, and soft drinks along with temperance brochures to 200 first. That day, the Korean Mathematical Olympiad was being held on campus so there

were many elementary students, who also received educational materials from YTC. No to Alcohol! No to Nicotine! With that message, the KWCTU and YTC support the abstinence of students at Yonsei University.

5. Social Service (Superintendent Mrs. Kyung Ja Choi)

For the last 50 years, the KWCTU has been supporting many middle school, high school, and college students in need of scholarships, including defectors from North Korea, students in the seminaries in mission fields, and MKs. Many of them have grown to become strong supporters of the temperance work.

6. LTL (Superintendent Mrs. Young Ja Kim)

The Child-Care Centers at the KWCTU serve for the temperance work among children. The center in Seoul has become very international, as their parents come from abroad to work in Korea, giving a good opportunity for international mission work through temperance education.



7. Promotion (Superintendent Mrs. Jee Young Ha)

The national annual campaign took place with the publication of a leaflet for temperance education. In order to spread the temperance message, we support the Messiah Ballet of Ewha Woman's University each year, and share advertisements of various messages regarding FAS prevention. God sent NK defectors, Hyunmin and Hyunjoon to share temperance pamphlets.



8. New WCTU Unions' Reports (Superintendent Mrs. Ye Jin Kim)

1) Cambodia WCTU (Missionary Mi Ja Han, the President)

On November 19, 2019, held the Temperance Lecture at Cambodia Presbyterian Seminary to 120 students. The students were workers who serve at the local churches. "It was moving for us to see them listen

with much enthusiasm and take notes of the lecture. We give thanks to the Lord and give Him glory for allowing us to give a lecture at such a beautiful place.” Said Mrs. Mi Ja Han.



2) Paraguay WCTU (Missionary Rev. Chang Keun Yang, the Founder)
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.

The first temperance seminar, held at the 23rd Tribal Chiefs' School during November 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.

3) KWCTU in Philippines (Missionary Rev. Eun Ho Kim, the Founder,)
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.

Missionary Eun Ho Kim, who attended the 41st WWCTU World Convention, said, "We focused on the areas notorious for youth with drug addictions; we taught them about the harms of alcohol, nicotine, and drugs. We delivered temperance pamphlets in Tagalog, and thanked the Lord for the good impact given to the youth."



Rev. Eun Ho Kim says also, "Currently, this work meets the golden time and I think it will probably last about 10 more years. We should all the more sow the seed of the Gospel. A licensed nurse, Pastor Bboy, served as main lecturer for the temperance seminar, who translated the temperance pamphlet into Tagalog. Small group discussions, followed. Pray for us as we undertake this holy ministry of God." Please pray for him, who is building dormitories to accommodate these young in danger of drug addiction.

4) Thailand WCTU (Missionary Spring Chunye Kim, the Founder)

At every Christmas season at the university, MFU, all Christian mission groups and local churches are invited to present the Gospel messages and share about their activities and God's love. On November 22, 2019, in the name of Bethlehem Church and the Thai WCTU, TWCTU were given a booth. They held the event from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., sharing the Gospel and the temperance message with extra warnings about FAS. First, Professor Ayu greeted students and made Gospel tracks together, sharing the Gospel and her testimony. Missionary Kim informed the students about the harms of alcohol, nicotine, and drugs. An exchange student from Indonesia, Fisca interviewed with students to see the state of addiction on campus with questionnaires on alcohol, nicotine, and games.

They give all the glory to God, who, in the nation of Buddhism, opened a door for them to share the Gospel in public so freely during the Christmas season. Seeing the students listen to the Gospel carefully and respond with open hearts at the temperance message, they experienced anew that the Word of God is never bound. They were filled with joy, seeing the church members cooperate actively as coworkers. They offered thanksgiving prayers to God for being with them.



5) Vanuatu WCTU (Elizabeth Molly Dorodoro, the President)

The Vanuatu WCTU held her first national convention successfully from September 27 to 29, by the grace of God and by the help of financial support from many others. 50 ladies came from Santo and from other 4 islands, while 30 pastors and youth also gathered, all together 80-90 people gathered. For the first session, a lecture was given on the Influence of Narcotic Drugs on the Brain (based on the lecture of Dr. Bertha Madras of the 41st World Convention).

Three branches of the VWCTU gave reports on their works, challenging the first comers from various islands. By God's grace, their introduction of the temperance union




at the National Women's Missionary Union in August on the serious state of drug addiction seemed to motivate the women of the islands to attend the temperance conference. At the end day of the conference, women

from four islands decided to start small groups to pray together, returning home, to awaken homes and local societies, to lead a drug free life. At this convention, 10 women signed the pledge, and now the VWCTU has more than 50 members all together. They were truly grateful for the convention, seeing their work expand step by step. Due to geographical conditions, it seems not easy for everyone to get together at the same time. For this convention, they spent most of their fund for the transportation fees of participants from other islands and other areas. Nevertheless, by coming together, learning about the necessity of the temperance movement, and sharing knowledge on the harms of narcotic drugs, they said that they got so much strength and encouragement from one another.

Missionary Nanjoo Kim, the founder of VWCTU, is planning to visit next year all the islands where the temperance ministry has just started. They plan to hold national convention every two year. Though there may be many difficulties financially, they still see the need and effectiveness of holding conference. Missionary Nanjoo Kim is so grateful to see Martha, who attended the 41st world convention, because Martha after returning from the world convention, work harder with pastors and their wives at Talua (*The Presbyterian Seminary in Santo, Martha serving as wife of the President). They hope that God may use these weak women to cultivate this little and beautiful island Vanuatu not to be contaminated by Kava, nicotine, and marijuana, but to overflow with the tide of the Holy Spirit.

***** Please find more activity news of KWCTU branches in Australia, New Zealand, the U.S.A., and of national WCTU unions KWCTU planted in Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Senegal, Wales, as well as information about contact points of the KWCTU in China, India, Japan, and Vietnam in the fieldwork reports of Dr. Jung Joo Kim at the 41st World Convention in Helsinki, now accessible in the KWCTU homepage under the World Convention (kwctu.org). The KWCTU praise the Lord for His blessing of the temperance work overseas through Korean missionaries in over 175 countries around the world - over 27,500 missionaries were sent to fields in 2015. I pray for Christians in all nations and White Ribbon Sisters for the temperance work as Paul prayed for the saints in Ephesians 3:14-19. "For this reason I kneel before the Father from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." *****

Mrs. Young Joo Kim,
The President, KWCTU



YOUNG JOO KIM SOLO CHARITY EXHIBITION The River of Life

**17 Feb. - 19 March 2020
EWA WOMANS UNIVERSITY
SEOUL HOSPITAL 2F ART CUBE
RECEPTION 2PM, 20 Feb.**

We cordially invite you to the Solo Charity Exhibition of Painter Young Joo Kim. The purpose of the exhibition is to raise funds for the establishment of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Center at Ewha Womans University's School of Medicine. We welcome you to come to the exhibition and share this cause with your friends. Your encouragement for the temperance movement, which works to and prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, will be greatly appreciated. The paintings exhibited will be available for sale. All of the funds raised will be spent on the establishment of the center and for the research and education of the public on the harm of alcohol which causes FAS.