

# REFORMATION GUIDELINES for the WCTU

Miss Sarah Ward

*World President*

1. Many of us have prayed for a revival in our country - a return to more godly ways and to a prominence of Christianity displayed in the lives of our people. The better choice of a word is probably reformation rather than revival. Reformation may be defined as the improvement or intended improvement in the existing form or condition of institutions or practices. In other words, the intention is to make a striking change for the better in social, political, or religious affairs.

2. For the basic steps of reformation which I will present, I am indebted to David Barton, Founder and President of Wall Builders, a pro-family organization in the US that emphasizes the moral, religious, and constitutional heritage enjoyed by US citizens.

3. There are 4 keys to reformation - the steps we need to take to improve our organization, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU).

## 1. DUTY

4. We need to restore a sense of duty. Many of us grew up with this concept but it is severely lacking in today's society. Duty may be defined as "that which a person is bound by moral obligation to do, or refrain from doing; that which one ought to do."

5. About two weeks ago in New York City a homeless man came to the rescue of a woman who was being mugged and then he was stabbed by the attacker. The homeless man tried to run but collapsed in the middle of the sidewalk. For almost 90 minutes the fatally wounded man laid face down on the ground while pedestrians continually walked by seeming not to consider that the man needed help. When at last help arrived, it was too late. Since then there has been much self-examination about how so many people could wait for someone else to take action. The homeless man did his duty but no one else did.

6. Jesus' disciples asked Him to "increase their faith." Christ responded by talking about jobs and the duties required to perform them. He concluded by saying "So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, [you] should say 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'" (Luke 17:10) NIV By asking God to increase our faith, we are asking Him to show us what He wants us to do and then we need to do it.

I am offering several statements about duty because hopefully at least one of them will speak to you.

*Duty is ours; the results are God's.* (John Quincy Adams, 6<sup>th</sup> US President)

7. He further stated that we need to be duty-bound rather than result-oriented. Perhaps we do not get the crowd we hoped for at a meeting, but the key person we need may be in that smaller than hoped for group. Yes, we want to grow but do not forget how God used Gideon. After reducing Gideon's army to a very small group, it became apparent that the victory came from God, not from the efforts of the army.

*Without duty life is sort of boneless; it cannot hold itself together.* (Joseph Joubert)

*Duty cannot exist without faith.* (Benjamin Disraeli)

8. *You can never do more than your duty. You should never wish to do less.* (Robert E. Lee)

*I slept and dreamed that life was beauty; I woke and found that life was duty.*  
(Ellen Sturgis Hooper)

9. *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* (Paul) (Galatians 6:9)

A ship wrecked off the New England coast many years ago. A young member of the coast guard rescue crew said, "We can't go out. We'll never get back." The grizzled old captain replied, "We have to go out. We don't have to come back."

What is our duty?

What can we see that needs to be done?

Are we willing to invest the effort to make a difference?

The WCTU needs each member to be engaged in our work and goals.

## 10. **2. INCREMENTALISM**

We must "chip away" at our goals. In Deuteronomy 7:22 God declared to the Israelites that He would not allow them to eliminate all the foreign nations at once but rather He would drive them out, little by little.

The question we need to ask is, "Have we accomplished as much as we can?" Looking at various aspects of our organization, we may ask what we want it to look like in 10 years.

11. A great example of incrementalism is the work of many of our countries in promoting the observance of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Awareness Day, September 9 each year. I have often said that if we prevent just one FAS baby from being born it was worth our effort. I am confident that we have been responsible for many babies being born without FAS. No, we have not eliminated all drinking by pregnant women but we have helped many pregnant women choose to be alcohol-free throughout their pregnancy.

12. Now let's look at a call to action within our organization. We have challenged you to appoint department directors and to try projects in each department. We are not yet where I want us to be but significant progress has been made in many countries. I challenge each country to appoint all six department directors on the national level and encourage each Union to have the six department directors. Our goal is for each Union around the world to complete a project in each department before the next World Convention!

I realize this is a change in the way many of you have conducted WCTU work in the past.

You may be surprised to learn that the largest enemy of change and leadership is not "no" (or we've

never done it that way before) but rather it is “not yet.” It is safer to wait and do nothing. Wait until it’s too late and the opportunity will be gone. That is also true of waiting too long to ask someone to become a member.

13. **3. OFFENSIVE-MINDED**

We need to initiate programs rather than hide behind the popular stance of the day and hope no one will ask us our position. “A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.” (Proverbs 21:22) NIV

14. James Bryant Conant reminds us, “Behold the turtle; he makes progress only when he sticks his neck out.” We need more turtles.

We spend too much time being defensive about our position of total abstinence or remaining silent instead of promoting our cause and projecting our goals. Even those who drink can agree with many of our goals:

- no one wants young people to drink and harm themselves.
- no one wants people to drink and then drive, and
- no one wants people to become alcoholics.

We have the only safe and simple answer to every one of those concerns - don’t drink!

Take pride in the choice you have made to be free from alcohol and other drugs and their inherent dangers. Many years ago a member told me the response she gives when asked why she does not drink. She states, “I am waiting for someone to tell me one positive result that comes from drinking.” She is still waiting.

15. Part of taking the offensive mode involves leadership. I have gleaned some ideas about leadership from a book entitled *Tribes - We Need You to Lead Us* by Seth Godin. He defines a tribe as a group of people connected to one another, connected to a leader, and connected to an idea or belief. Every group has two requirements: a shared interest and a way to communicate.

16. We need leaders. We have been conditioned to say no to leadership. The biggest fear is not of failure but of receiving blame. Great leaders focus on the tribe and only the tribe. Genuine or real leaders are servants.

The leader needs to find those who are eager to follow. The good news is that people long to belong - to be connected, and they want to contribute. They eagerly engage when they want something to improve. Here’s an interesting idea about growth. “Almost all the growth that’s available to you exists when you aren’t like most people and when you work hard to appeal to folks who aren’t most people.”

There is a warning for us issued by Paul S. Williams. “Few things survive when simply *against* something; lasting movements identify themselves as being *for* an idea of significance.

Every successful movement or organization has three elements:

- a) a narrative that tells who we are and the future we want to build
- b) a connection between and among the leader and the tribe
- c) something to improve - a project

Anyone can influence people about anything. Anyone can be a leader. I am not suggesting that everyone should be an officer or even a department director but everyone has a sphere of influence and unique talents. When they are freely offered, the organization moves forward.

17. **4. TRANS-GENERATIONAL**

God continues to raise up new generations. Elijah was a wonderful prophet but he mentored Elisha who performed twice as many miracles as Elijah.

We need to teach and equip younger adults. We must reach out to children and youth.

At the wonderful WCTU conference held in Fiji last summer I suggested to those new members that they may some day be missionaries to our older established countries where the membership is declining and the challenges are mounting.

The following example illustrates Incrementalism but also gives us a reason to hope in the next generation. A recent article published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that though gradual, the drinking behavior on college campuses is decreasing after years of increase. In some cases the decrease is quite dramatic. A wide range of tactics, strategies, and social options have been implemented.

The reported decrease of drinking on college campuses points to a change in the mind-set of some college presidents. I believe the WCTU played a role in this. I want to share a very personal example of making a difference and influencing those who are involved with the next generation.

For many years the National WCTU in the US has promoted a yearly project, asking each Union to participate. In 1991 when I was serving as National President, we adopted the following project.

18. Four post cards, each a different color and with a different message, were prepared for members to mail to the wives of college presidents. On each one the same four ideas were presented as solutions to help reduce drinking on college campuses. Then a petition was circulated asking the presidents of the universities to adopt these solutions. Some of these solutions, also offered by others, are being used on college campuses today. They are as follows:

- Do not accept promotion of events or advertisements by the alcohol industry.
- Provide more alcohol-free fun events on the campus.
- Support enforcement of laws against under-age drinking.
- Provide alcohol-free housing on campus.

This positive change on college campuses is even more encouraging because it counters the Amethyst

Initiative which was introduced in 2008 in the United States in an effort to lower the legal drinking age from 21 to 18. College and university presidents numbering 135 at the present have joined the effort but many presidents have been critical of this position and no action has been taken.

19. You have sat patiently and hopefully listened. The question now is, what are you going to do about what has been presented?

The story is told of a time before there were automatic guard systems at railroad crossings. A nice old gentleman was hired as the guardsman to warn of approaching trains.

He knew the schedule but it was late in the night and he became drowsy. Falling asleep, he was suddenly awakened by the rumble of the train. He was not ready. As he looked out the door he saw the headlights of a car coming down the highway. Realizing a collision was imminent, he rushed into action.

He grabbed the lantern off the wall and began running down the road, waving the lantern in a wide arc. But the car did not slow down and now the train was almost to the crossing. Waving the lantern more feverishly, he yelled at the top of his lungs, "Stop! Stop! Please stop!" Only at the last minute did he jump out of the way as the car raced to its destruction.

20. Because lives were lost, the old man was put on trial. His lawyers proved he was well thought of and believed to be sincere. The teenagers in the car had been drinking. The old fellow might have been set free had the prosecuting attorney not asked this devastating question: "My good sir, in your hurry to warn the car, did you think that night to light the lantern?" He had not.

Let us be sure we light our lanterns and keep them burning brightly as God's lights in a world filled with darkness. "Ye are the light of the world." Spread the light of the temperance message wherever you go.

**REFORMATION**

**GUIDELINES**

**for the WCTU**

**by**

**Sarah F. Ward**

David Barton

Founder and President of Wall  
Builders

**FOUR PRINCIPLES**

**or KEYS of**

**REFORMATION**

- **A Sense of DUTY**



**Luke 17:5 – increase our faith**

**We need to know what God wants  
us to do and then do it!**

Duty is ours; the results are  
God's.

We need to be duty-bound  
rather than result oriented.

Without duty, life is sort of  
boneless;  
it can't hold itself together.

Duty cannot exist without faith.

You can never do more than  
your duty.

You should never wish to do  
less.

I slept and dreamed that life  
was beauty;

I woke and found that life was  
duty.

Let us not become weary in  
doing good, for at the proper  
time we will reap a harvest if  
we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

- **INCREMENTALISM**

**one step at a time**

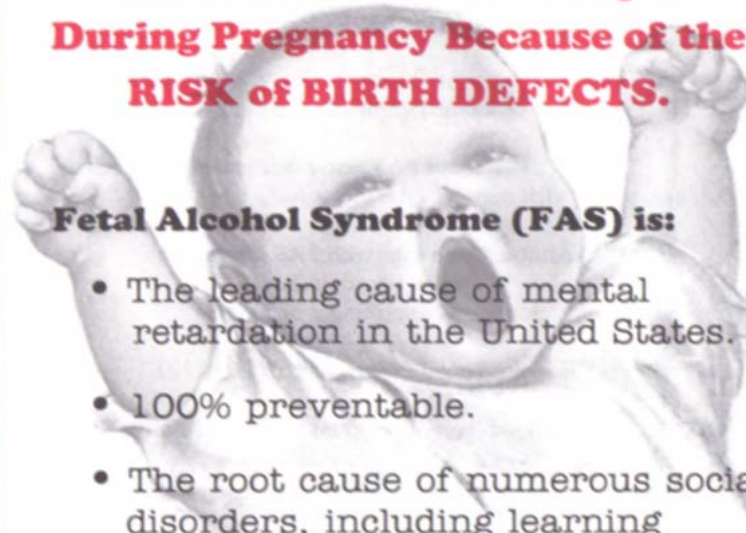
**(not all at once)**

**Deuteronomy 7:22**

FAS  
Awareness  
Day  
September  
9

# Government Warning:

**According to the Surgeon General,  
Women Should NOT  
Drink Alcoholic Beverages  
During Pregnancy Because of the  
RISK of BIRTH DEFECTS.**



## **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) is:**

- The leading cause of mental retardation in the United States.
- 100% preventable.
- The root cause of numerous social disorders, including learning disabilities, juvenile delinquency, school dropouts, homelessness, unemployment, mental illness, and crime.

**FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME...**

**DON'T PASS IT ON TO YOUR BABY!**

# DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

“NOT YET”

- **OFFENSIVE – MINDED**

**opposite of defensive**

**Proverbs 21:22**

“Behold the turtle;  
he only makes progress  
when he sticks his neck out.”  
James Bryant Conant



***Tribes***

***Seth Godin***

LEADERS

LEADERS

LEADERS

LEADERS

LEADERS

- **TRANS-GENERATIONAL TRAINING -**

**work with the next generation  
so it will continue**

**Proverbs 22:6**

# **WARNING:**

## **There is a Killer on Your Campus!**

Alcohol kills more teens than all other drugs combined.

Alcohol is a factor in the leading causes of death in 15 - 24 year olds: accidents, homicides, and suicides.

Please do all you can to encourage these partial remedies on the college campus.

- 1) Do not accept promotion of events or advertisements by the alcohol industry.
- 2) Provide more alcohol-free fun events on the campus.
- 3) Support enforcement of laws against under-age drinking.
- 4) Provide alcohol-free housing on campus.

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