

# Woman's Christian Temperance Union

APRIL, 2016

## FRIENDS & SISTERS

The year flies by and I think of and pray for you that you will be encouraged in your work of temperance, sharing information, telling good news and teaching wherever possible about freedom from the DAT poisons. It is imperative that we teach our children and youth how to be free in Christ and stand up for what is right and true. The world needs fine young people to lead.

## REPORTS

Thank you to all who have shared information and reports about your work - this includes - Egypt, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe. We would love to hear from more African countries. Your country will be included in the report at the World WCTU Convention in Ottawa in August if you tell us what you are doing. If you are planning to attend you should be booking and registering now. Registration forms are on the [www.WWCTU.org](http://www.WWCTU.org) website.

## ALCOHOL

Whenever I see a newspaper there is something about alcohol and the problems it brings. It is our responsibility to do what we can in our nations and towns about this great scourge. In Papua New Guinea there is a province where alcohol is banned. In The National newspaper, April 27, it was reported "the province was witnessing peace unlike previous years when tribal fights erupted continuously." If this could be repeated all over the world imagine the good outcome. We can help our nations work toward that.

## HISTORY - WCTU

The history of the WCTU can be of enormous encouragement to us. The women who began this organisation had an infilling of the Holy Spirit and went forth with great power and persuasion and saw amazing results - but not without prayer first then hard work. Prayer was their secret and it is ours too. This month I am sharing WCTU History Lesson-2 with you. It is about Francis E Willard, the most famous of the WCTU pioneers. Please read and be inspired.

## WISDOM

In closing let me share some words from Francis E Willard who said: "*We think that the very best way to make a woman of you is that you should begin just where you are to work for the Cause.*" This is what you can do - just do what you can where you are and use the tools we send you. Stand up, speak up, pray up and God will bless you.

Yours very sincerely always



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# FRANCES E WILLARD

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Frances E Willard is considered to be the mother of the WCTU (Woman's Christian Temperance Union). She was the World WCTU President from 1891-1898 and led with passion. Some words describe her as - clear, determined, enthusiastic, firm, generous, honest, innovative, outspoken, peaceable, progressive, spiritual, sure, tender, unique, optimistic and well dressed. She was a charismatic leader. She believed the WCTU was 'a high and holy calling.'

Frances grew up in North America in a Christian family. As a teenager she, with her family, signed a pledge to abstain (keep away from) all alcohol and always drink 'cold water from the well or spring.' She became a teacher and taught in many schools. She wanted to see more of the world and she had an enquiring mind. For nearly two years she and a companion travelled to many countries and studied at various institutes. When she returned she became the first President of the brand new Evanston College for Ladies. She spoke to 1,000s of people about things that mattered to women, to families and the world.

Eventually she resigned from her teaching profession and gradually became involved with the growing Temperance movement. She was convinced that this was the place God wanted her to be. She became the leader and president of the WCTU in Chicago city (1874), Illinois State (1878), America National (1879), then World President in 1891. Along with the active temperance work, she campaigned for women's right to vote. 'The WCTU became the most broadly comprehensive organisation the world had ever known.' (Sarah F Ward)

Frances Willard was a magnetic personality and a brilliant speaker, not requiring written notes. She read, studied, prayed and delivered powerful speeches to thousands of people in Europe and America. Her influence spread throughout the world. 'From her thousands of women learned what to pray for, organise and work for, talk, write and publicly speak for. She inspired a world of women.' (Carrie Chapman Catt)

The National Council of Women was organised by Frances Willard, along with some other prominent women, in 1888. She was elected as the first president. This council saw the need for a 'clearing house' for women's activities in America and in other nations around the world. They also saw it as an opportunity to enhance and spread the work of the WCTU to other women's groups. Indeed the temperance message belonged to every woman for the sake of her family. Frances Willard maintained that the home and family were of topmost importance.

She met with many important people - Presidents, Queen Victoria, the Pope, the Kaiser, Sultan of Turkey and other world notables. She learned to ride a bicycle at 53, she set up a gym for women. She was always at the front of new ideas and technology and urged her helpers to keep up with telegraph, typewriter and telephone. (She is our example)

When she died on February 17, 1898, 30,000 people came to honour her at Chicago and Evanston (her home town) where the flags were at half mast. Thousands attended her funeral. She has been honoured and remembered in many ways throughout the United States of America and around the world. There are statues, plaques, pictures, fountains, schools, parks, stained glass windows, a train carriage and a postage stamp in honour of Frances Willard. Children bore her name. She is not forgotten and never will be.

Quotes from Frances E Willard -

- Sow an act and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character, sow a character and you reap a destiny.
- Mother-love works magic for humanity, but organised mother-love works miracles.
- The three requisites for success are ability, availability and responsibility.

**We think that the very best way to make a woman of you is that you should begin just where you are to work for the Cause.**

- Alone, we can do little. Separated, we are the units of weakness; but together we become batteries of power. Agitate, educate, organise - these are the deathless watchwords of success.

- The supreme duty of the hour is to convince the moderate drinker that he is doing himself harm.

- God grant that we may be so divinely led that history's verdict upon our work shall be: By God's blessing they helped to make the world wider for women and happier for humanity.

- Let us fling ourselves out into the thickening battle; let us live the life of action, which is the only true and happy life.

FRANCES WILLARD