

WORLD'S WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION



# *White Ribbon Bulletin*

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## *WCTU of Germany*



Left to right: Dr. Hannelore Cyrus, author of the book, *Give the torch on and on! The German Women's Union for non-alcoholic Culture of 1900 in Bremen*; Gisela Lindner, treasurer; Wilma Brodtmann, Vice-President; Gertrud Meyer, advisory council; Anneliese Hormann, President - all from the WCTU of Bremen/Bremerhaven; Ursula Krämer, President of Germany WCTU and Marianne Häuschen, Secretary and Vice-President of Germany WCTU; and Ingrid Strothhoff, member (WCTU of Bremen/Bremerhaven).

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Same as President

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# The President's Page . . .

*Sarah F. Ward*

Dear White Ribbon Sister,

For those of you who attended the World Convention and watched the swan on her nest, I am happy to report that in my last trip to the hotel two weeks after the Convention, I saw six fluffy baby swans bobbling in the water!

Margaret Ostenstad and I had a memorable visit to Bremen, Germany, after World Convention. We express our thanks for a wonderful experience. We were graciously entertained and provided with a guide/translator to enable us to better enjoy the city as well as the special anniversary celebration. Please refer to pages 5 and 6.

The Bremen musicians came alive for us.



During the World Convention I also presented the President's Honor Roll to countries for successful participation.



Left to right (front row): Sarah F. Ward, World President; Young Joo Kim (**Korea**); Desiree Lanigan (**Canada**); Ellen Chandler (**Australia**); Masako Sato (**Japan**); and Muriel Buga (**Solomon Islands**)

(Second row): Aud Bodil Brekka (**Norway**); Erma Harijati (**Indonesia**); Rita Wert (**USA**); and Mitroy Sapul (**Papua New Guinea**)



*On behalf of the World Officers and Directors  
I wish you all a blessed Christmas season and a  
Happy New Year. Isaiah 9:6-7*



## 1st Vice President

*Dr. Jung Joo Kim*

Dear White Ribbon Sisters in the Lord!

Romans 12:11 "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

There is much zeal for temperance work among young members who attended the world convention in Norway.

Soloist, Mrs. Sung Eun Kim, opened a culture class in her church for evangelism and temperance work for neighborhood nonbelievers.

Suchitra Rozario from Bangladesh made the temperance work known in her country by campaigning against smoking and organizing a tea time fellowship under the banner of the WCTU in Bangladesh.

Missionary Ms. Myoung Hee Koh started an elementary school in Jesus' name in Nepal where she actively carries out temperance education.

Rev. Hae Kyung Kim visited with a group of 40 high school girl students to Nepal to have a mission outreach during summer vacation.

Mrs. Hyun Sook Lee and Mrs. Hyun Og Kim, missionaries from Indonesia and East Tamor respectively, invited Mrs. Young Joo Kim, the president of KWCTU, to speak at the annual conference for women missionaries in Seoul. Missionaries from many countries want to start the temperance work in their own mission fields. KWCTU provided the temperance pamphlets and power point materials to help them.



## 3rd Vice President

*Dr. Dora Judith Coloma de Barrientos*

**When there is no reason for living.....**

Violence increases daily. The United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) states that at least one of three women in the world have been exposed to violence; they have been sexually coerced or have suffered other kinds of abuse during their life. This is an epidemic that destroys lives, shatters communities, and hinders development. Guatemala is second to Russia for the highest number of women murdered.

Many young people who we support suffer violence. Lesbia is a teenager who suffers interfamily violence because her father is an alcoholic. Elida, another teenager, sadly relates "my aunt was murdered by her partner; he was drunk and high on drugs; now I have five cousins who are orphans." We should equip ourselves to fight against violence and addictions.

In Mathew 22:37-39 Jesus gives us the solution to this great problem. First: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind" and second: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." We cannot reach the whole planet, but we can share Christ with those who are close to us; so that it will be God who reigns in their heart. Only in this way can we change the actual condition of our world. May this be our "reason for living."



## 2nd Vice President

*Brita Nilssen*

### **Be properly dressed – be a Soldier**

In Ephesians 6: 10-18 the Lord calls Christians to fight in His battle and get dressed for this battle. As women and mothers we all know the necessity of being properly dressed at every occasion. We know how to dress our children according to the weather conditions.

Do the first thing first: “Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” Then, “put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” We need to be strong **IN THE LORD**, and not underestimate the power of the enemy. But, before we start the battle, be aware of and realize that the Lord is strong and mighty. His very **NAME** is strong! “The name of the Lord is a strong tower!” the Old Testament states. While working as missionaries in Ethiopia we experienced the power of **JESUS` NAME**. In His name the evil had to let go of the person it had possessed.

To be strong in the Lord should be enough, you may say. Why put on the full armor? We have to be aware of our enemies, how powerful and subtle they are and how they are always looking for weaknesses in Christians. “Therefore,” put the full armor of God on and keep it on so that “when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground.”

First we are told to put on the full armor of God. Second, we receive specifications on how to cover up each part of our body, belt around the waist, breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, God’s Word.

Christians often become weary and are tempted to feel utterly hopeless. The enemy tells us to give up and to give in. Fight the enemy when he tries to discourage you because “we have an anchor within the veil,” our Christian hope and God’s Word.

Remember it is God’s battle, not ours. Look at yourself and be discouraged, look at Him and keep up the battle to glorify and honor His holy name. To gain power is to get to know Him!

May the Lord bless you!

## Bremen, Germany

On May 29, 2010 the WCTU of Bremen, Germany celebrated its 110th anniversary with a program and reception. World President, Sarah F. Ward, and World Organization Secretary, Margaret Ostenstad, were invited guests. Also attending was the German National President, Ursula Kramer. Many organizations sent representatives and brought greetings of appreciation and congratulations. The smallest state in Germany is Bremen and the Bremen Union now represents the two towns of Bremen and Bremerhaven. Following is a brief history of the Union.

In 1890 an exhibition of industrial products took place in Bremen. Forty workers who built the pavilions had accidents because they consumed great quantities of alcohol. Otilie Hoffman, along with others, organized her own pavilion and offered milk, coffee, and soup. The number of accidents decreased. Thus the idea of the non-alcoholic inn was born. Step by step, starting in 1894, 13 so-called Otilie-Hoffmann-houses were established. It became the custom to say, "Let's go to eat to Otilie!"



Some of the inns were destroyed during World War II. Gradually the remaining ones were closed, pulled down, or used for other things. The last preserved one, the "Milchhauschen" - the little milk house - was sold in 1984. Today the restaurant is known as Ambiente on the Weser River where we enjoyed lunch and a lovely view of the river.

On July 17, 1900, Otilie Hoffman, at the age of 65, established the German Union of Abstinent (or teetotal) Women in Bremen, Germany. The German affiliate to the WCTU is now called the German Women's Union for Non-Alcoholic Culture. Hoffman actually had organized a temperance group ten years earlier in which both men and women were members. Other unions were formed in Germany and Hoffman served as the first national president from 1900 to 1912.

The work of these temperance women was recognized as "Organized mother love." The purpose of their work was described as a fight against alcoholism with all the methods women could use. They had these goals: abstinence from all alcoholic drinks by all the members; educational work,

including teaching about how alcohol affects the body; promote prevention; rehabilitate drinkers; and combat the prevalent drinking customs.

To honor Otilie Hoffman and her legacy, in 1986 the local Union commissioned a sculpture dramatically representing Hoffman reaching out to an alcoholic. The sculpture is located on the main street of the district where Hoffman was born and lived.



Left to right: Margaret Ostenstad, World Organization Secretary; Christine Holzner-Rabe, guide/translator; Gertrud Meyer, Advisory Council for Bremen/Bremerhaven WCTU; and Anneliese Hormann, President, Bremen/Bremerhaven WCTU.

Today Anneliese Hormann serves as the local President. She still strongly advocates the necessity of promoting the idea of an alcohol-free life. The Union sponsors lectures, seminars, and cultural events. They develop programs to prevent alcohol misuse, especially for teenagers. They also assist people to stop drinking.



In 1956 the WWCTU Convention was held in Bremen at the Die Glocke (The Clock) which is still in use as a concert hall. Anna-Klara Fischer was the German President at the time and also served as a Vice President of the WWCTU. One of her greatest joys was to welcome the delegates to the 20th World Convention. She had been instrumental in saving the Unions during the Nazi-regime. Her granddaughter, Cecilie Eckler von Gleich, met with us and is researching her grandmother's role in the WCTU.



## Home Protection Dept.

*Desiree Lanigan*

A Little White Ribboner (LWR), the youngest member of the WCTU, is a child from the age of birth to six years whose parent has on his behalf signed the Little White Ribboners' Promise, which is "I promise, with God's help, to teach my child to abstain from alcohol and other drugs harmful to the body, mind, and spirit." The LWR is a very important part of the WCTU. It is the beginning of the temperance message for this new little life and the continuing of the temperance message for the one who shares it. We know that children are a gift from God. Like all of God's gifts, they are a blessing and a responsibility. The Bible teaches us to bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

A new approach to share the temperance message and to increase membership in the Little White Ribboner department is the White Blanket Campaign. The White Blanket Campaign is a tool designed to be used as an invitation to WCTU and an avenue to distribute WCTU literature. It can be used by individual members or as a local union project. The invitation can be for the child to become a Little White Ribboner and also as an invitation to the mother to join the WCTU. The White Blanket Campaign gives you the opportunity to give and share in the celebration of a new baby and at the same time share informative literature with the parent.

The White Blanket Campaign involves getting a white blanket, folding or rolling it, tying a white ribbon around it and attaching a tag with the WCTU name. You can tuck a Little White Ribboner's promise card under the white ribbon. You can also add FAS material. It can be given as a gift as soon as the parent makes the announcement of the coming baby with the FAS material. As an individual WCTU member, you could make this very personal and special by giving the White Blanket as a Little White Ribboner invitation to each of your new grandchildren. It is a way of passing down your WCTU lifestyle to the next generation. The White Blanket Campaign is designed to help you to reach out to those around you with the temperance message. Don't wait for others, go ahead and start using this idea now. Share the temperance message and see how many new Little White Ribboners you can reach in 2011 with this White Blanket Campaign.



## Social Service Dept.

Hyun Sook Lee

We live each day with many problems, many of which are the countless disasters that take place all around the world—floods, earthquakes, starvation, diseases, accidents, and wars. How often did these disasters take place during the last 10 years compared to the last 20 years?

There are countless numbers of people who are becoming ill, suffering, and dying because of these disasters. In the Bible it says that not only humans, but all of creation will also moan and undergo the pains of childbirth (Romans 8:22). The reason is because the world that God created in the beginning has now drastically changed.

There are many disasters that overcome man's limitations. Regardless of that, the God we believe in still is amongst us and He carries out His work. That is why I believe that we must become workers for God. Our hearts must be like that of the Lord's, who rejoices when He finds a lost sheep. God created us and He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for us. We must remember His love and remind ourselves of the important things of life. We should not be ignorant and unconcerned when more disasters take place. Let's become God's fragrance in the very place we stand. Let's become the Lord's hands and feet and help those in need and comfort those that need comforting and earnestly pray for those that are ill and are suffering. No one know if these disasters will continue. Our calling cannot stop until God's kingdom is restored. Let us continue to serve.

Two years ago I visited a hospital filled with patients that were suffering from injuries because of an earthquake. Their houses had collapsed and they were covered with wounds. There weren't enough hospital rooms so many of the patients were just lying on the hospital floor waiting for their turn to be treated. I asked, "Are you all right? Is your family safe?" I can still remember the people that thanked us for being with them and comforting them. I believe that when our hands and feet approach those in need, their sadness and hopelessness can be restored into comfort and hope. I am reminded of the following poem:

### **Christ Has No Hands But Our Hands**

Christ has no hands but our hands to do His work today.  
He has no feet but our feet to lead youth [people] in His way.  
He has no tongue but our tongue to tell them how He died.  
He has no help but our help to bring them to His side.



**Youth Director**  
*Dr. Yetunde A. Odeyemi*

## **PUSHING the FRONTIER OF SERVICE**

Self-discipline, restraint, and self-motivation are key words that stand out daily for front-liners who promote **Temperance** and **Abstinence**. WCTU's continued determination to work for and in the interest of youth is in effect pushing forward the frontier of service. Guiding the footsteps of youth will sustain the world's future as the upcoming youth of the next generation need to be provided enduring hope and a sense of worth.

Interestingly young minds are readily prone to exploring and experimenting. More amazing is their eagerness to step into the world of excitement and "fun" without weighing the consequences. As adults we forever wonder why there is never a pause before the leap.

Today's aggressive advertising technology is far-reaching and mind-captivating. Through its various techniques, continuous and inviting promotions are given for the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs through such ensnaring phrases as "responsible use" or "positive use."

WCTU's mode of promotion through abstinence is not less efficient or effective. We are ready to provide information on how and why abstinence is the key that can prevent the first timer, convince non-users, and as well stop the regular abusers. Through the WCTU Youth web page and various planned programs for Youth across the world, the WCTU intends to promote and highlight the risks and disadvantages of using tobacco, alcohol and other drugs as well as point out the advantages of abstaining.

My hope is that as part of the WCTU team you will be ready to work with young people with the mind set that there is one young mind who

- The messages of abstinence will touch,
- Will develop an inner control of the mind over the body,
- Will live a balanced, healthy life and participate in decision-making for self and society.

For effective outreach the WCTU youth website will soon undergo a major overhaul to make it responsive and interactive as well as to engage all youth so the message will reach the doorstep of everyone we intend to reach.

*Anyone who sets his/her hand to the plough of compassionate work does not look back. Let us forge ahead, Sisters.*



## 4th Vice President Field Worker for Africa

*Joy Butler*

### **Developing the Work of WCTU in Africa**

The growth of WCTU in Africa has potential for massive expansion. The continent is vast with over 1 billion people in 61 territories. Christianity has had a massive impact on this continent and there are over 380 million Christians as of 2000. It is estimated there will be 633 million Christians by the year 2025. David Livingstone would be amazed if he could see it today.

At the same time as the huge growth of Christianity, there are also evil influences from inside and beyond the continent. Along with all good, comes the bad and we cannot escape it. Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are here in Africa and the fight is on. Thousands of young people every day succumb to temptations and the influence of the drug companies – spewing out promotions and advertising alcohol and poison.

In huge slums and rural areas women brew beer and spirits to help get enough money to buy food for their children. Students take drugs and alcohol offered to them at schools and universities just like any other part of the world. Poor, abandoned, street children sniff glue and take drugs to dull their miserable lives and keep with their friends.

Rehabilitation programs are few and far between and totally out of price range for most parents and few even know about such help. Churches and schools don't talk about drugs or sex – these are taboo subjects in most places, yet millions die in the meantime and mothers despair and cry every day over wasted lives.

This is the perfect opportunity for the WCTU to be known and heard. The women of Africa are so responsive to the message of temperance when they know someone cares about them and their children. When they hear the message of temperance and how they can teach the children and youth, they are thrilled and respond in huge numbers. They are glad to know that God cares and has resources available for them to use.

So far, since I returned to Africa in 2008, by constant speaking and writing about the WCTU and temperance issues, I have managed to raise awareness in more than 10 countries where there was no WCTU presence or knowledge before. The countries where we have WCTU representation now include: Benin, Cameroon, DR Congo, Congo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Zimbabwe.

Uganda leads in the consumption of alcohol in Africa and the world with a per capita consumption of alcohol of 19,47 liters per year according to a 2005 World Health Organization report. We have no representation in Uganda at present.

### **Some countries where WCTU is working well:**

- In DR Congo, a war-ravaged country, alcohol is provided and promoted by unscrupulous western nations, yet the war against drugs is on with WCTU right there to counteract their miserable work.
- In Ivory Coast the work has begun in a small way. More literature in French is needed and a project to help women who sell alcohol is being emphasized.
- In Kenya, which is in a strategic place in Africa, we have been able to start 2 unions and are poised to start more. We are working closely with NACADA (National Campaign Against Drug Abuse Authority) and schools, universities and churches.
- In Sierra Leone a vocational training centre for girls exists and temperance is taught. A new training camp for children is being set up along with other Christian groups.
- In South Africa there are a number of Unions and more about to be set up. Opportunities present themselves across this country everywhere. In the western Cape province, they have the highest rate of FASD in the world.
- In Tanzania, one enthusiastic woman is speaking about WCTU and temperance in the churches she visits and looking for others to join her. She craves our prayers.
- In Zimbabwe, a good start at Solusi University has begun and they are spreading the word beyond the university to other parts of the country – temperance contests have been a huge success.



**African Attendees at World Convention**