



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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Blessed Christmas



*And they came with haste,
and found Mary and Joseph,
and the babe lying in a manger.*

Luke 2:16



Sarah F. Ward

FRANCES E. WILLARD **1839 - 1898**

Since many of us have observed the 175th anniversary of Frances Willard's birth, it seemed appropriate to end the year with a brief review of her significant accomplishments.

- First woman college president to confer degrees upon women
- First Dean of Women, Northwestern University
- First National Corresponding Secretary of the WCTU
- Second National President of the WCTU
- Founder of the World's WCTU (WWCTU)
- Second World President of the WWCTU
- Co-founder (with Susan B. Anthony and May Wright Sewell) and First President of the National Council of Women
- First woman to be honored with a statue in Statuary Hall, U. S. Capitol, Washington, D. C. (and the only woman for over fifty years)
- Editor of the WCTU's weekly magazine, *The Union Signal*
- Wrote *Occupations for Women* which suggested many vocational options besides homemaking and teaching, such as banking, beekeeping, piano tuning, civil engineering
- Wrote her autobiography, *Glimpses of Fifty Years*, which sold thousands of copies
- Member of the Board of Commissioners of World's Columbian Exposition (1893)
- Memorialized in many church stained glass windows
- Chosen as one of twelve famous women of the century 1833 – 1933 by the *Ladies Home Journal* poll
- Initiated the honor system in school government (now popular as self-government in educational institutions)
- Leading suffragist (Susan B. Anthony referred to her as a "general with an army of 250,000")

Under Willard's leadership the WCTU promoted woman's rights (including equal pay for equal work), eight-hour work day, protection of women and children in the workplace, matrons in jails, raising the age of consent, stiffer penalties for sexual crimes against girls and women, higher education for women, uniform marriage and divorce laws, dress reform, travelers' aid, legal aid, and world peace. Women were taught to think on their feet, speak in public, and run an organization.

Sarah

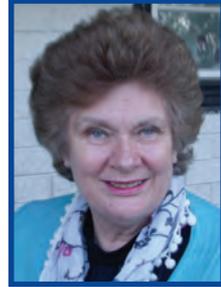
President's Message



Dear all,

During 2014, I have been delighted to hear of the work that you have been doing. It is truly encouraging and no doubt beneficial to many.

What are your plans for the New Year? Around the world there are thousands of children living in homes where there is alcohol and other drug abuse. These children are particularly vulnerable during the Christmas season when liquor sales double and triple. In addition, research shows that children are affected whenever the adults drink, even in moderation.



Margaret Ostenstad

Children notice when mum or dad are “different”. They note when mum gets increasingly “happy” or when Dad laughs or gets angry at “nothing.” This is inconsistent behaviour, and can be scary for children. Children want adults to be PRESENT, WITHOUT THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL.

There are campaigns in many countries asking for support for the right of children to have a “white” (alcohol-free) Christmas. Perhaps this is something you could start in your country by encouraging people to drink alcohol-free beverages, especially during the holiday season.

Life is not measured by the number of breathes we take, but by the number of times we experience events which take our breath away! Members in the WCTU in Korea have just sent an additional gift of \$18,900 to help support the wonderful project run by the WCTU in Guatemala.

I recently read: In this life be kinder than necessary for everywhere someone is fighting some kind of battle. How we behave reflects our organization. We are all given opportunities to show that WE CARE in some area.

As long as one baby is affected by its mother's drinking during pregnancy, we will continue to fight.

As long as one family is destroyed by alcoholism and domestic violence, we will continue to fight.

As long as one young person dies of an overdose, we will continue to fight.

In order to do the best we can, we ALL need to pray for a servant's heart. A servant leader is a person who focuses on enriching the lives of individuals and improving the organizations and communities they serve. There are many types of servant leaders, but the best have the abilities to heal communities with their inclusive visions. By God's grace, we can do it. To Him be the glory always!



On behalf of the World Officers, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Love and prayers,
Margaret



2nd Vice President



Dr. Dora de Barrientos

Gift of Salvation

Christmas is a time when we celebrate the Love that God has given us. Christ came to this world to save humanity. In the Bible we read “For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) It was the best way to show His love for humanity; however this love has not been appreciated.

Imagine Joseph and Maria knocking on doors, going from place to place, and not finding anyone who would open their doors and allow them to stay the night, so that our Saviour Jesus, who would later be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace could be born. (Isaiah 9: 6)

In these days, many people find it difficult to permit Jesus into their lives, even though He is knocking at the door! This is because they have lost their way and forgotten how to believe. But the Lord doesn't want to lose anyone. Instead He is patient, not wanting anyone to perish but to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9 b)

As you can see, there is no difference between that time and today. People today as well as yesterday have little or no faith. For this reason it is necessary that we allow Him to re-enter or enter into our hearts because when we do this, He also enters into the doors of our lives, our families, communities, church and the Temperance's chapter and all will improve.

The devil tries to confuse humanity, making us believe that the purpose of Christmas is to give glory to Him by exchanging gifts, dancing, drinking and worshipping His image instead of rejoicing for the real reason of the First Christmas, which was to give honour to the fact that Jesus came to save humanity.

The devil also leads us to believe that we are not worthy to stand in front of God and be accepted no matter what sins we may have committed. When we ask for forgiveness, “God is merciful and extends his arms of forgiveness and welcome.”

The birth of Jesus is the reason we come together. Celebrating Christmas stands as a way of remembering that He was born in order to give all human beings the “Gift of Salvation.”



And for those you know who haven't accepted Christ into their heart, you should help them invite God into their lives. When we permit Jesus to be the King of our lives, we are given the privilege to be called saints of God.

Our challenge as White Ribbon Sisters is to unite for salvation and to share the love of Christ. We are witnesses to share as part of the body of Christ, and to follow the commandments set forth.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders."

Love,
Dr. Dora de Barrientos

From Guatemala's White Ribbon Sisters



Merry Christmas

Organization Secretary



Desiree Lanigan

These are eventful days in our world and in the work of the WCTU. September 28, 2014 marked the 175th anniversary of Frances Willard's birth and I am sure there were many celebrations around the world. The USA WCTU reports their celebration events as follows: "The Frances Willard Historical Association, Evanston, Illinois (USA) observed the 175th anniversary of Frances Willard's birth with a Willard Leadership Weekend.

On Saturday excellent speakers reviewed Willard's overall influence in addition to her temperance work. Speakers in the Evanston community spoke about their missions to provide leadership and empowerment for women.

On Sunday afternoon, September 28th, a birthday party was held with a special exhibit at the Willard House. An attractive outdoor sign was unveiled which highlights events in Willard's life and in the work of the WCTU.

In other observances, the Friends of Frances gave a wreath which was displayed in front of Willard's statue in Statuary Hall, Washington, D. C.

A program and birthday party was held at the Winchester, Indiana, school named for Willard."





In Canada, on Sunday, September 28, 2014, a historic commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the unveiling of the Frances Willard plaque in Stanley Park, British Columbia, Canada took place. The plaque and tree planting on September 28, 1939 commemorated the 100th birthday of Frances Willard, founder of the WWCTU. Historian Chris Hay discussed the historic importance of the plaque and women winning the vote.

Sierra Leone's national president, Cynthia Clarkson, reports having an FASD Awareness Day meeting despite the stress of the Ebola virus. Sierra Leone's WCTU request prayer for God's protection from the deadly Ebola virus. Please remember this request.



Reena Kumar, WWCTU Education Director from India, reports a World No Alcohol Day activity in a slum area with interaction among the people and discussion about the damage caused by alcohol. She reports that many came forward to take a pledge to lead a drug-free life.

Egypt's WCTU also reports work and outreach to one of the most afflicted urban slum areas. They held special programs to observe World No Tobacco day.

These reports represent some of the important work which is being done around the world by our White Ribbon Sisters. Thank you to each one who has shared their reports. Let us pray for each other and ask our Lord to bless and multiply all efforts of temperance work being done worldwide. These are definitely eventful days.



Florence Einwechter

DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR OR READ!

An article from CNN, (Cable News Network) Sept. 26, 2014 says "Beer may be good for your brain."

According to five studies done on mice, a type of flavonoid found in beer seems to help cognitive function in young mice. Not so much in the old mice! Hmm, so where does that leave us that have been around for a while? Let it be known the dose they gave the mice was so high that we humans would have to consume 2,000 liters of beer a day to equal that of the dose given to the mice. In short, the research showed that this needs to be studied closer! I really resent being compared to a small furry animal that has fun going around on a wheel. Of all the supposedly similarities these rodents have to me, there is one they don't have. They don't have the Spirit of the Living God directing them not to do something harmful to themselves.

Another article from CNN, Sept. 26, 2014 says "E-cigarettes are better than regular cigarettes."

(Just to explain what e-cigarettes are: they are a cartridge the size and shape of a real cigarette, which contains a flavoured liquid.)

A study published in the journal, *Cancer*, disagreed with the above statement. The study showed that the people using the e-cigarettes were no more likely to quit smoking than the ones using regular cigarettes. The e-cigarettes still contain liquid nicotine which can be lethal. Many calls have been made to poison control centres regarding the use of e-cigarettes. Unfortunately, over half of those calls involved accidental poisoning of children under the age of 5. E-cigarette users were more dependent on the nicotine and tried to quit more times than the regular cigarette smokers.

I believe there is no substitute for total abstinence from all things harmful. The New Living Translation says "Teach your children to choose the right path and when they are older, they will remain upon it." (Proverbs 22:6)

What a great consolation to know that teaching, and I might add, showing our children the right path is not in vain. Mothers, be encouraged by this verse as you raise your children or have influence on your grandchildren. You may be protecting your children from many heartaches growing up or you may not see the results until they are older. Either way, our faithfulness in teaching our children/grandchildren the right path will be worth it. As women, we have an awesome responsibility to make a godly impact on our families. Let's never stop praying for our children!

Florence



For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. (John 3:17)

God is compassionate and merciful. That's why He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins. We are people that have received this amazing gift and love. Then how should we live our lives?

We have received this gift of love and compassion free of cost. Then shouldn't we, too, share compassion with others? As God was compassionate toward us, we too must be compassionate toward others. It is God's nature that we must copy.

It means:

1. Shifting our attention toward our neighbors.
2. Listening to their hearts.
3. Observing their needs.
4. Approaching them.
5. Sharing what we have with them.
6. Stopping what we are doing and giving them a hand.
7. Listening to their needs.
8. Thinking about what and how we can help them long-term.
9. Helping regardless of their race, gender, belief, age, or nationality.

As the Christmas season draws near, it is time for us to remember why Jesus came to this earth and what He wants from us. I hope and pray that we will be thankful for Jesus' love and that we will share the blessing with others.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21)

Hyun



Hyun Sook Lee

*Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Christ, the Savior, is born.*



Dr. Elsa Masaku

Adolescents Smoking

All youth possess strengths such as the capacity to change their behaviour, develop new cognitive abilities, cultivate different interests, acquire new behavioural skills, and establish new social relationships. It is essential, therefore, to be able to hone and enhance these strengths through our effective interaction with the youth in our families, communities, and schools.

A certain community had just ended a seminar that was meant to prevent female youth from pregnancy out of wedlock. The seminar seemed to be a big success. The irony was that there were more pregnancies that year than before. When the adult members of the community reviewed the results they were shocked. One older member asked, “Do you know these young people by name?” Most people confessed that they didn’t know even one of these youth by name. The old man replied, “You have to know each one of them by name for effective relationships. Only then can you impact their lives.”

Recent research explained that the maximum risk for smoking initiation occurs during the early teen years. The researchers suggested that it was essential to implement the strategies they recommended before and during adolescence.

Among numerous suggestions, two stood out:

- Parents who refrain from smoking and more importantly exhibit a negative attitude toward and disapproval of smoking may be very successful in preventing youth smoking initiation. In turn, youth who perceive smoking as a negative behaviour will be less prone to seek out smoking friends.
- Friends who smoke are very influential. Youth under-estimate how difficult it is to quit smoking. They think they can smoke for a year or two and quit. Adolescents who have the knowledge that tobacco is addictive are less likely to become smokers.

Let’s do our part to reduce teen smoking.

Elisa



Prayer Calendar for 2015

Cut out this page and follow the suggestions to pray daily.

1. World WCTU President, Margaret Østenstad
2. World political leaders – courage, wisdom
3. WCTU National Presidents especially yours – direction, vision
4. The Government of your country – integrity, honesty, stability
5. World WCTU Christian Outreach Department Director, Irja Eskelinin
6. Your local church – faithfulness to the Gospel
7. People suffering from drug addiction
8. The special needs of WCTU in your region
9. Children who are abused because of alcohol and other drugs
10. Fundacion Debora in Guatemala – provision of funds, effective work
11. Pray for more young women to join WCTU around the world
12. Persecuted Christians in many countries – faithfulness and courage
13. Planning for the next World Convention in Ottawa in August 2016
14. World WCTU Organization Secretary, Desiree Lanigan
15. United Nations to make wise decisions on family and drug policy
16. World WCTU Field Workers
17. World WCTU Recording Secretary, Susanne Curry
18. World WCTU Home Protection Director, Florence Einwechter
19. World peace, especially in the Middle East and Eastern Europe
20. Pacific Island WCTUs –Fiji,Solom. Is,PNG,Tuvalu, Kiribati,Vanuatu,Tonga
21. Good governmental alcohol and other drug policies in your country
22. World WCTU Treasurer, Dorothy Russell
23. WCTU in Norway, Iceland, Finland, Germany, England
24. World WCTU Social Service Director, Hyun Sook Lee
25. WCTU in USA and Canada, Asia and Africa
26. World WCTU Vice Presidents – Anne, Dora, Young Joo, Joy
27. World WCTU Education Department Director, Reena Kumar
28. World WCTU Children’s Director, Glenda Amos
29. Planning for WCTU activities for 2015
30. World WCTU Youth Director, Elsa Masuku
31. Thanksgiving for the Lord’s provision and guidance in all things

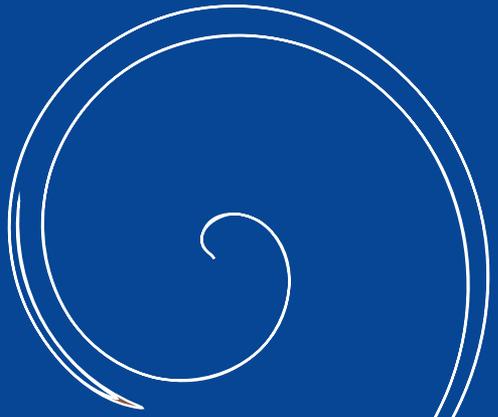


Anne Bergen



Noontide prayer - Matthew 11:28
Prayer changes not only situations,
but also those who pray.

*Children are our
greatest resource!*



*Let the holidays
be alcohol-free.*