



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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I am the light
that has come
into the world so
that everyone
who believes in me
will not live in the dark.

- Jesus
from John 12:46



A Prayer for Hope in 2023

Dear Lord God, heavenly Father

Thank you for helping us to make it through these difficult times.

Thank you that you've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. We are constantly aware of how much we need you; your grace, your strength, your power working through even the toughest days.

Help us to keep our focus first on you.

Thank you that your power is made perfect in our weakness.

Help us to remember that the gift of Christ, Immanuel, is our greatest treasure, not just at Christmas, but the whole year through. Fill us with your joy and the peace of your Spirit. Direct our hearts and minds towards you. Thank you for your reminder that both in seasons of celebration and in seasons of brokenness, you're still with us. You never leave us. Thank you for your daily powerful Presence in our lives, that we can be assured your heart is for us, your eyes are over us, and your ears are open to our prayers. Thank you that you surround us with favor as well as with a shield, and we are safe in your care. Thank you for preserving our much-needed organization despite many trials and adversity.

We choose to press close into you today, and keep you first in our hearts and lives. Without you we would surely fail, but with you, there is great hope.

Thank you for your healing power, thank you for bringing us into the new year ahead. Bless our plans, dear Lord, as we prepare to grow in newness and grace. We look forward to all that You still have in store for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear all,

May the peace, love and joy of the festive season be with you all! Despite the pandemic during the last three years, I am pleased to report that the World WCTU has had admirable development worldwide. Of special notice is India where seven new unions have been started.



Also World Fieldworker for Korean Missionaries, Dr. Jung Joo Kim, has been diligent to God's call to bring the gospel and temperance education work to 17 countries.

Progress around the world is due to good leadership and people with a open hearts for all people.

It is important to give encouragement not to be afraid of the future, but to trust in God. It is because when you let the light of God's word shine on you and your situation, dark thoughts, fear and evil imaginations cannot continue to remain in your mind. Work before night falls for God, Home and All Humanity.

Now the change/decay is great and everything is allowed when the boundaries are broken; the normal is abnormal and vice versa. What does it lead to? Violence, war, evilness, lies and deceit, division, hatred and finally food crises.

The Bible records that Abraham "looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10).

If this is not the case, we will go the way we are now, and blessings will be lost in our nations. This is very serious. But we still have hope in faith in Jesus Christ who is the only way to God, if we encourage all to repent and pray. 2 Chronicles 7, 14.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. AMEN

The WWCTU has a job to do, probably its most important! We thank God for his blessings over our organization during our 148 year continuous existence.

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

Love and prayers,

Margaret Ostenstad
World President



Be Inspired by Tanzania WCTU!

A REPORT from TWCTU
By Pastor Matilda Dondo, President

Introduction

The Tanzania branch was launched quietly, informally and by word of mouth around 2015. We are grateful to God who introduced us to this global divine assignment that calls on women to refuse to engage in alcohol and all kinds of substance abuse, pray together for generations and invite others to do so. We came to know about this Ministry through Grace Turner, a Korean sister working as a Missionary in our country Tanzania, East Africa.

The process

We started by inviting fellow Christian women for prayers. In the first few meetings we shared ministry materials provided by sister Grace Turner on the physiological effects of substance abuse. Each member would write down the name(s) of family members who are suffering from addiction. We compiled a list of these loved ones and asked the whole team to pray for them. We also agreed to pray for our nation, regions and communities, asking God to touch government leaders so as to adopt positive policies and laws that can curb substance abuse and addiction that was a big problem at the time. Specifically, to tackle the problem of rampant drug dealers and put in place interventions for rehabilitation of the victims so that our people would be free from this bondage. We also each chose territorial regions within the country to pray for against addiction to substance abuse including alcoholism, smoking and illicit drug trafficking. Over time, our intercessory prayers covered other ungodly addictions in our communities.



Our meetings initially started as gatherings of ten women from different churches and organizations. We agreed to share the word and prayer items daily by weekly roaster so as to enable us to be connected and pray the word of God over our afflicted loved ones and nation. We also agreed to meet once per month for a fellowship and testimonies. These modalities settled in gradually. We wanted to have a base of prayers before we move out to reach out to others. God was good to us and our loved ones. Testimonies started coming in and afflicted families joined our group as we share herein below.

After three years, we started to move out and minister to young people

in schools whereby teachings and prayers were offered for school pupils. God opened doors for us. Schools received our mission enthusiastically and arranged entire school assemblies for us to make presentations and answer questions. We are grateful for the LOGO banner which we received from Korean Women Christian Temperance Union group (KWCTU). This helped us to invite and mobilize students easily after displaying the Banner.

Outreach Ministry:

We have managed to reach out to different schools and give presentations, teachings and motivational speeches to students. We prayed for them and most of them signed the Freedom From Alcohol and Drugs Form. We prayed that they adhere to the vows made.

Here are some photos taken in November 2020 at Mnazi Mmoja Secondary School where we reached over 500 students (first left). Other schools reached are Kisauke Secondary School, Mbweni Teta Secondary School, Mivumoni Secondary School and Patrick Mission Patrick Secondary School; all in Dar es Salaam city.

In our local church we have translated the KWCTU fliers from English to the local language, Kiswahili, with permission. We distributed them to teenagers in the congregation and taught them about the dangers of drug abuse. Moreover, we have been distributing these fliers along with evangelistic tracks and found them to be popular to youth groups and commuter buses popularly known as daladalas. The youth groups included work clubs of artists. Some of the outreaches are displayed in these photos that are attached herewith. All the Glory goes to God.



Outreach and Testimonies

We are grateful to God that through this ministry we get responses that we can unhesitatingly say that the hand of the Lord is with us, and that He answers prayers. Since we started these prayers, we have witnessed several miracles in our families and communities. Many of our loved ones who were addicted to alcoholism have either been set free completely or remained temperate. Others have at least become committed church goers and become receptive to the gospel and prayer practices. In some cases these changes in the target group of our prayers have impacted the extended families for the glory of God.

On the other hand the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania embarked on a crackdown on illicit drug dealers and established as well as revived rehabilitation centers and services for victims. In 2017

the Drug Control and Enforcement Act, 1915 was extensively amended to institute restrictions on drug trafficking and distribution. Moreover, in 2019 the Drug and Enforcement Act, 2019 was enacted for the purpose of making robust legislative rules for efficient and effective control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic



substances, to provide for the establishment of the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority for the prevention and control and drug trafficking. A number of prominent suspects, coupled with destruction of massive tons of drugs that would have been offloaded into the country or transited abroad. We glorified God for these developments.

On March 12, 2012 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) commended Tanzania on its success in controlling drug trafficking. Citing James Kaji, the Acting Commissioner General for the Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA), said the UNODC report for 2019 showed that Tanzania has controlled drug trafficking especially of heroin, by 90%. The statement said, the achievement made by Tanzania in controlling drug trafficking is a result of three consecutive years (2018-2020) of concerted efforts in fighting the illicit trade". The said official said that Tanzania was among a few African countries that has succeeded in fighting drug trafficking and drug abuse. He said as a result of the achievements made by Tanzania in collaboration with international security agencies a number of African countries have requested the UNODC to help them learn from Tanzania on how the country managed to control the illicit business. As for us we know prayer has been silent weapon that accomplishes much at the throne of grace.

We believe that through this ministry God is going to release many who are bound and many will be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Noontide prayer

Around the world, someone is always praying

TAKE HEART

If you're going through a difficult time in your life right now, you're not alone. In fact, 100% of people in the world will experience some type of hardship or difficult season in their lives. Whether you're in one now, are coming out of one, or will be going into one, they are a part of life. No one enjoys going through hard times. Think about it—have you ever met someone who enjoyed going through a challenging time? Probably not.

There's no medicine we can take to keep troubles away nor is there any amount of positive thinking or self-talk that will prevent us from going through hard times. So, while it may feel like we are the only ones going through our tough situations, we're not.

We can find encouragement in what Jesus taught.

He told us in John 16:33,

“You will have trouble.”

He understood what we'd be up against—a world full of depravity, sin, hatred, lies and a spiritual enemy who wants to destroy us. But thankfully, He also said that we can “take heart”

because

“He has overcome the world.”

We don't have to live discouraged in a discouraging world. We can still live a full, rich life knowing that in the end, we'll be victorious.

Jesus came to earth for one reason—mankind.

He came to save us and offer us eternal life. And many are often taught that if we say yes to Jesus and accept Him as our Savior, that trouble and difficult times will miss us altogether.

That's simply untrue.

Reading this Plan won't eliminate the real challenges you're facing, nor will it remove any heartache you're enduring. What we hope it'll do is offer you some strength and courage to keep taking the next step. You don't have to take twenty steps today—just take the next one. And then tomorrow, take another one. We'll talk about some of the whys behind our pain and how we can navigate the daunting roads that they bring.

Hopefully, as we discuss this topic, you'll embrace just how much God loves you, how He will use your pain for His purposes, and how He'll change you from the inside out.

He has good plans for you, even in and through your pain. We encourage you to keep going to see just what they are. RPG



Anne Bergen
Organization Secretary

As I write this at the beginning of December it is difficult to believe that 2022 is almost gone. In spite of COVID disruptions, much has been achieved by WCTU around the world. I am looking forward to receiving the Annual Reports from all WCTUs. I pray that you will all experience a blessed Christmas and a happy and productive year in 2023.

WORLD NEWS

The United States WCTU is continuing to follow the theme **“Rise Up and Build”**. A membership campaign was launched last year and we continue to gain new members across the nation. The children and youth work is now under new leadership and the programs are outstanding. The officers are grateful to Natalie Duvenary (LTL) and Madison Davis (YTC) for their enthusiasm and talent to get us back on track with the very important goal of reaching our youth with the total abstinence message.

A giant project was begun to give the WCTU headquarters building a facelift and a renewed purpose. Since the invention of computers and the internet, WCTU administrators have had the luxury of working from their home offices. This change not only allowed more women to work in the national WCTU leadership positions without moving to Evanston, Illinois, but also enabled us to continue to work as we had for years when the pandemic caused many shutdowns. However, due to this change, the Administration building was neglected for many years even though it continued to contain the Signal Press Office (WCTU's publishing house), the WCTU's extensive archives and library. We continued to welcome researchers interested in Christian women's work and how they improved living conditions in the US and around the world.



With a new slate of officers elected in 2019, the shared vision was to reprogram, revitalize and repurpose these historic properties. Over the past year, work began on the historic Administration building to bring it into the 21st century with a new purpose. We are creating a more welcoming environment for WCTU staff, researchers and visitors.

Inside the beautiful foyer hangs a stained glass window of Frances Willard that originally hung in Kellogg Hall in Chautauqua, New York. It was moved to the WCTU Administration building in 1946. It had been damaged several years ago but now hangs fully restored due to the efforts of our own Signal Press manager, Nancy Schultz. She was passionate about restoring this beautiful piece and gained anonymous donations. We are surely grateful to her.

We have begun to lease office space on the first floor and work has continued on the second floor. Two states have voiced their intent to underwrite the renovations of office space. We give praise to our God for His help and answer to the many prayers that have gone up for the work in the US. Despite the frustration of legal matters, we have arisen to the task of “Preserving the Past” while “Transforming the Future” of the WCTU in the U.S.

Merry Lee Powell



Photos from round the world:

Above: **Cambodia;**

Top right: **New Zealand KWCTU;**

Right: **Vanuatu WCTU**



6 Things you should know about vaping

Vapes, or e-cigarettes, were introduced as a healthier, non-addictive alternative to smoking cigarettes in about 2006. Since then, these battery-operated devices that produce vapour instead of smoke have exploded in popularity, particularly in young people.

What you might not be aware of is that vapes have never gone through a rigorous health and safety review, and there has been no testing. They are widely available and popularity is soaring, but there has been no formal investigation into the impact of vaping on our health. The testing is on the populace; now. Don't worry, there are plenty of people making noise in this space, including Teen Challenge. For now, this is what we do know:

1. Young people who vape are four times more likely to smoke cigarettes when they are older than those who don't.

The hand-to-mouth action and the drawing of vapour into the lungs creates

a muscle memory that predisposes them to picking up a smoking habit later on.

2. Vapes contain nicotine, just like cigarettes. And just as in cigarettes, nicotine is extremely addictive.

3. Vapes or e-cigarettes are being marketed at our young people.

In 2015, the U.S. Surgeon General reported that e-cigarette use among high school students had increased by 900%, and 40% of young e-cigarette users had never smoked regular tobacco. This is particularly disturbing due to the rapid growth of the brain up until a person hits their mid-20s. Disrupting this process with nicotine use (which inhibits synapse formation) can result in serious, long-term health problems including memory loss, poor mood control and behaviour disorders.

4. Vape pen coils are laced with many harmful chemicals including acrolein (used in fertilisers and chemical warfare), formaldehyde (used for embalming bodies), diethylene glycol and heavy metals like nickel, chromium and lead. Read the research on this [here](#).

5. Propylene glycol and diethylene glycol are ingredients used in vapes to create the appearance of smoke.

They are the same chemicals found in radiator coolants to cool a vehicle's engine. Look at the smoke from someone vaping and compare it with that of an overheated car engine and you'll see the disturbing similarity.

6. As of March this year, the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revealed there have been 68 deaths and 2,807 cases of e-cigarette and vapour associated lung injury (EVALI). Daniel Ament is one such person who, after vaping for less than a year, required a double lung transplant and was on life support for 29 days. Read his story [here](#).

So, there you have it, six things you should know about vaping, and I'm sure you'll agree that it's a compelling list to back

the reality: vaping is dangerous. It took 120 years for researchers to show how dangerous cigarettes are. Let's not wait that long this time. The evidence is already clear, which is why Teen Challenge Tasmania continues to deliver the truth about vaping and other addictive substances into schools across Australia in a way that is relevant and impacting for young people. Learn more about our NotEvenOnce program [here](#).

Source: teenchallengetasmania.org

An important message also today!

Arise and Shine!

(Sermon by Younghoon David Kim at the 34th Triennial World Convention of the WWCTU, May 10, 1998)

Prayer:

Loving Father

Today we have gathered at the banquet on this last day of the 34th World Convention of the WWCTU. Thank you for giving me this blessed opportunity to share with worldwide WCTU delegates and members what you revealed to me about how we, as Christians, must prepare for the 21st century. I ask that you fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit so that our hearts may overflow with your grace and Truth. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, I pray. Amen.

1. Introduction

Today is the last day of the World Convention of the WWCTU. I pray that God will anoint each and every one of you here with the fullness of His Holy Spirit, just as the Holy Spirit was with Jesus' disciples at Pentecost. On such a significant day as this, I feel it is very suitable for us to look deeply into the essential elements of our faith. The current political, economic, and social state of disorder has fostered great trials and tribulations around the world. For example, the economic situation in Korea under the IMF may be considered worse than it was during the Korean War. At least during the Korean War, our people were able to seek refuge in the south. But there's no hiding from the IMF. It is important for Christians today, especially Christian women of the WCTU, to learn anew what the bible teaches about facing hardship and crisis. We will examine three questions about the Christian walk of faith.

- What are the characteristics of a Christian women who is filled with the Holy Spirit?
- How will Christian women conquer the world?
- How will the WWCTU be used to expand the kingdom of God?

Let us turn to the Book of Ruth to find God's answer to these questions.

2. Body

(1) A Biblical Woman: A Women of Inner Strength

In the Bible, there appear many women of faith. Proverbs 31 describes especially well an exemplar women of the Bible. In Proverbs 31:10 it is written:

A wife of noble character who can find?
She is worth far more than rubies.

This passage describes the characteristics and personality of a virtuous woman. It seems the women described in Proverbs 31 is not measured by worldly standards.

The Hebrew word for virtuous woman is esheth hail, which literally means 'strong woman'. Women of the Bible such as Sarah, Deborah, and Esther all had characteristics of a strong woman. But it is Ruth alone who, in the Bible, is referred to as esheth hail, or 'strong woman'.

Let us then examine how Ruth demonstrated her strength. **First**, Ruth was resolute and decisive. She left her motherland, her home, in order to accompany Naomi. In her time, once a person left her motherland she was never permitted to return. **Second**, Ruth was patient. She set out with her mother-in-law Naomi to Bethlehem, where she knew no one and knew not of one person from whom she could seek help. Marriage to Gentiles was forbidden according to the law in Israel. So Ruth, a Moabite did not receive any sympathy from the Israelites. Nevertheless, she endured all her hardship, joyously served her mother-in-law, and gleaned and gathered among the sheaves what was left after the reapers. **Third**, Ruth had inner beauty. Her beauty was detectable not to the naked eye but by the heart. It was this inner beauty, spilled over from a sense of inner strength, which allowed for Ruth, a Gentile, to win heart of Boaz and to become to only the great grandmother of King David but also be blessed to appear in the genealogy of Jesus.

(2) Ruth's Character: Full of Grace and Truth

'Where then did Ruth's resolute decisiveness, patience, and inner beauty come from? Such strength came from her character. Ruth was kind and faithful. When Naomi told Ruth to return home, Ruth answered as follows:

"Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.
Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people and your God my God.
Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.
May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely,
if anything but death separates you and me."
(Ruth 1:16-17)

Ruth's resolute decisiveness, patience, and inner beauty overflowed from her kind and faithful character.

(3) The Source of a Kind and Faithful Character

Where then did Ruth's kind and faithful character, which formed the foundation for her inner strength, come from? The Bible teaches us that such character is a gift from God. It is written in John 1:17:

For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The Greek words for grace and truth are charis and aletheia respectively, and these words originate from the Hebrew words hesed and ameth.

Hesed refers to goodness, kindness, and love; ameth carries the meaning of faithfulness, gentleness, resolute decisiveness, and truth. John 1:14 gives a description of Jesus:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling
among us. We have seen his glory,
the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Put simply, Jesus is kind and faithful; and at the same time, His kind and faithful character is His glory. In Exodus 33:18, Moses prays for God to show him His glory. And in Exodus 34:5-6, God manifests His glory and proclaims that He is God, full of grace and truth. Ultimately, God and His Son Jesus Christ are One. God is, in essence, kind and faithful. Ruth was a daughter of God who received such a character as a gift from God. Ruth's inner strength was a result of God's kind and faithful character that she was given. This character she received from God was her greatest blessing. Despite being a weak woman in the eyes of the world, Ruth was a daughter of God who rejoiced in God's blessings, even in the midst of difficulty.

3. Conclusion

Alcohol, nicotine, and other kinds of narcotic drugs have become the social evils of our time, inflicting pain and suffering in countries all around the globe. In spite of continuing threats, we must all the more show the world our true inner strength and help the world see a new path of life. Let us shine our light, as children of God, to cast away the darkness with our God-given character of grace and truth. Grace and truth combined are love. A person who is full of grace and truth is also full of love. I believe that God's will for the WWCTU at this time is to overcome the evils of the world and to turn the world back to Christ, with a heart of love for Him, for our neighbors, and for our enemies. Are you ready to go forward into the 21st century as His servants, equipped with grace and truth? God wills for us to be ready to radiate His light in the midst of the coming darkness. As God spoke to His people through Isaiah, He continues to speak the following words to His people today:

Arise, shine,
for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you,
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn
(Isaiah 60: 1-3)

The Christmas Shoes

It was almost Christmas time, there I stood in another line
Tryin' to buy that last gift or two, not really in the Christmas mood
Standing right in front of me was a little boy waiting anxiously
Pacing 'round like little boys do
And in his hands he held a pair of shoes
His clothes were worn and old, he was dirty from head to toe
And when it came his time to pay
I couldn't believe what I heard him say
Sir, I want to buy these shoes for my mama, please
It's Christmas Eve and these shoes are just her size
Could you hurry, sir, daddy says there's not much time
You see she's been sick for quite a while
And I know these shoes would make her smile
And I want her to look beautiful if mama meets Jesus tonight

He counted pennies for what seemed like years
Then the cashier said, "son, there's not enough here"
He searched his pockets frantically
Then he turned and he looked at me
He said mama made Christmas good at our house
Though most years she just did without
Tell me Sir, what am I going to do,
Somehow I've got to buy her these Christmas shoes
So I laid the money down, I just had to help him out
And I'll never forget the look on his face when he said
Mama's gonna look so great

I knew I'd caught a glimpse of heaven's love
As he thanked me and ran out
I knew that God had sent that little boy
To remind me just what Christmas is all about....

Sir, I want to buy these shoes for my mama, please
It's Christmas Eve and these shoes are just her size
Could you hurry, sir, daddy says there's not much time
You see she's been sick for quite a while
And I know these shoes would make her smile
And I want her to look beautiful if mama meets Jesus tonight

At Christmas time we are reminded of the One who gave Himself to serve us. He took on the form of humanity that He might serve by His death on the cross. For the joy that was set before Him, He served. Christmas time is a time of living service. There are many lonely people. We can serve without loving but we cannot love without serving. Find a needy family and serve them. Find a child in need and lovingly serve him/her in Jesus' name.

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:11

