



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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Merry Lee Powell, National WCTU President; Margaret Ostenstad, World WCTU President; Loreta Jent, National WCTU Education Director; Larry Jent, Honorary WCTU Member.

150th Annual National WCTU Convention Held in Reno, Nevada

Reno, Nevada, August 7-11, 2023. The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union held its 150th Annual National Convention at the Whitney Peak Hotel in Reno, Nevada. In the delegation representing Illinois were members of the Normal WCTU, Loreta (Pres.) and Larry (Honorary) Jent.

WCTU delegates and members took a step back in time during a pre-convention event. They traveled to Virginia City which was a Mining Town in the 1880's.

The opening ceremony began with all State Presidents, dressed in their white gowns, marching into the convention hall carrying their state flag, which has always been their tradition. It was an honor to have World President Margaret Ostenstad travel from Norway to participate.

The national winners of the kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade and 3rd grade coloring contests were announced, as well as the winners of the national poster and essay contests. Ribbons and prize money was awarded.

On Thursday evening the elected officers were sworn into office and given the "White Ribbon Salute" during a formal banquet.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) is a non-partisan, non-denominational, non-profit organization. For 150 years, the united "mother's love" has educated against the use of alcohol and other drugs. It's "Do Everything Policy", allows for national, local and state unions to work on any issue they believe necessary to protect the family. Please visit WCTU.org for more information.

President's greeting

Dear all,

I recently had the privilege and pleasure of being the Guest Speaker at a very successful 150th National WCTU Convention held in Reno, Nevada from 7-11 August. (Read REPORTS in this issue)

These quotes were foremost in my mind when I spoke: The duty is ours; the results are Gods! (John Quincy Adams 6th US President; Benjamin Disraeli said Duty cannot exist without faith.

So we must be encouraged and stand firm in all circumstances.

There is amazing power in trusting in the Lord with all your heart.



Margaret Østenstad
WCTU World President

If the future feels uncertain right now, and worry keeps occupying too much room in your heart, in your mind, remember this: God is already in all of our tomorrows. He knows our way, and He has a plan. And we can be assured it's always the best one for us.

God never asks us to figure it all out on our own. He just asks us to trust Him, to recognize His leadership and Sovereignty in our lives. And He promises to make our pathways straight. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

We may not always see what's ahead, but He does.

According to Professor Bertha K. Madras, the "next challenge" is hallucinogens- it is following the same strategy as marijuana - medicalize then legalize. If young people think it's a medicine, they perceive the drugs to be safe. Caution them about hallucinogens- the future is bleak if we allow another class of drugs to become normalized.

To anyone who is struggling:

Dear friend! Because God's glory covers the past, you don't have to let your past rob you of today's joy. God can take the tears of yesterday and transform them into the miracles of tomorrow. He can restore to you in all abundance what you may have lost. He can cause all things, even the painful events of the past, to work together for your good.

Be blessed! Psalm 121:4 "

... he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep."

Blessings love and prayers

Margaret





NWCTU Presidents speech *“Stay on the Wall”*



The book of Nehemiah tells the story of a Jewish slave, cupbearer to the king of Persia, and his mission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Rebuilding is very much a part of life. Things often fall apart, and it seems we are always starting again. I think we can all agree, rebuilding is hard work. Once Nehemiah convinced the residents of Jerusalem to join in the effort to rebuild the walls, they had to deal with all sorts of obstacles. Today, walls that once provided protection against the enemy's schemes are crumbling all around us – in our families, our churches, our schools, our culture. God is calling His people to be men and women who, like Nehemiah, will trust Him with their lives and work to repair the damage in our world. Let me assure you: we will face the same obstacles faced by Nehemiah.

DISCOURAGEMENT

Tobiah, Sanballat and Geshem, fellow governors, wanted Nehemiah to fail because they saw Jerusalem's restoration as a threat to their own power. They mocked the Jews as feeble and claimed the wall could not even stop a prowling fox, much less an attacking army. I suppose one could say this was psychological warfare intended to demoralize the laborers. Consistency turns small beginnings into real progress. The prophet Zechariah said, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." (Zech 4:10) Whatever you may be trying to 'rebuild': remember how Nehemiah dealt with the hecklers. He turns the voice of discouragement into a prayer. Fear and discouragement have a mute button. That mute button is called faith. Turn off the negative voices and give them to God. Listen to the voice of God's truth instead.

DEBRIS

Before they could even get to the broken walls, they had to dig out the stones that had been knocked down 150 years earlier. Nehemiah 4:10, "Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, 'The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.'"

Rebuilding is more difficult than building because one must deal with all the junk (rubble) that came before.

Let's think for a moment about the WCTU. We have a beautiful 'campus' located in Evanston, Illinois that includes "Rest Cottage", home of Frances Willard that is a National Museum, two houses with two apartments on either side AND a brick three-story building long known as the Administration building. For many years this large brick building was left unattended with no upkeep, and we were told we did not have any money to keep it up. Following a change in leadership, a manager was secured, and things began to look different.

At no cost to the WCTU, the monies from the rent on the apartments were sufficient to begin updating rooms on the first floor. Updating was completed on the first floor and we were able to rent out two offices to women who have counseling practices. Then came the present day Tobiahs, Sanballats, and Geshams, and work was stopped as we were making plans for the second floor. Again, notice how Nehemiah dealt with his hecklers. In Nehemiah 4:4 he turned the voice of discouragement into a prayer. He let God deal with them. Turn off the negative voices and give the hecklers to God. Determination for a better day is what kept the people of Jerusalem motivated and it will do the same for us in this our 150th year.

DISTRACTIONS

Nehemiah 4:7-9: "But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, they were very angry. They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat." Nehemiah adjusted his plan so that he could accomplish his purpose. Things will come up that we cannot anticipate, and Nehemiah teaches us to make flexible plans around a firm purpose. What he did not do was stop working!

DANGER

Change, even good and needed, brings with it opposition.

Ten times Nehemiah received reports that people were planning to attack and kill them to stop their progress. Here's how he responded: Nehemiah posted whole families, fully armed, near the weakest places in the wall. During some of the rebuilding process, he tells us that the people held a weapon in one hand and built with the other. Each group had a trumpet so they could call for help when under attack. Threats of warfare did not stop the work. They just had to assume a posture of readiness. They carried their weapons even when they went to get a drink of water. Nehemiah also called the people to remember their why: "Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes." (Neh 4:14b)

Whatever you may be trying to rebuild, always keep in mind WHY it is important to you. This is what led to Nehemiah's success. In just 52 days, the people of Jerusalem restored the walls of the city. I am inviting you to join me in rebuilding the WCTU. We have been through some tough hardships and setbacks in the last few years. We can restore much of what we have lost but I need you to be very faithful to your local WCTU and find your

niche, your purpose. God used Nehemiah because he was willing to be used and rebuilding the wall was important for his people. The only thing that really troubled Nehemiah was the opposition, the naysayers and the critics, but he never lost sight of where he was going and what he was about. Don't think for one minute that Mother Thompson, the women of the Crusades, Mrs. George Carpenter, Frances Willard, and Annie Wittenmyer had it easy.

Nehemiah's had one final challenge. He said, Sanballat and Geshem sent him a message, "Come and let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they intended to do me harm."

"They sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner . . . I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it to come down to you?" He stayed on the wall! They sent him an unsealed letter full of lies. He sent a reply: "Nothing like what you are saying is happening: you are just making it up out of your head." He stayed on the wall! They tried to frighten him, saying "Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed." But he prayed, "Now strengthen my hands." And he stayed on the wall!

Stay on the wall, people. Don't come down giving in to the lies of our enemies; don't come down to reason with the Sanballats, the Geshams or the Tobiahs.

We are building something that the world needs. We are building something that your children and grandchildren need. We are building something that the children in your neighborhood need. We are building something that the young mothers in your church and community need. Are you willing to stay with the business of building for the world what it needs?

Merry Lee Powell, President NWCTU



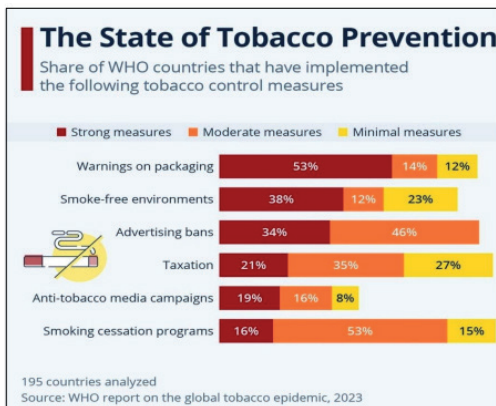
WCTU-Asia

1 Sep 2023



The ninth WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic tracks the progress made by countries in tobacco control since 2008 and, marks 15 years since the introduction of the MPOWER technical package which is designed to help countries implement the demand reduction measures of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

As the chart shows, around 79% of WHO member countries have introduced warning labels on packaging. At the same time, almost 38% of the surveyed countries have implemented strict regulations on public areas where drinking is not permitted, while a similar share have strict ban on tobacco advertising.



Protect people from tobacco smoke.

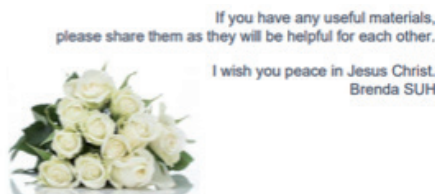
To: *White Ribbon sisters*

Please accept my greeting in the name of the Lord. I pray that your physical and spiritual health remains strong in the Lord. The following WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic in 2023 is worth our attention and I would like to share it.

'The report shows that many countries continue to make progress in the fight against tobacco, but efforts must be accelerated to protect people from the harms of tobacco and second-hand smoke.

(Full report download link..

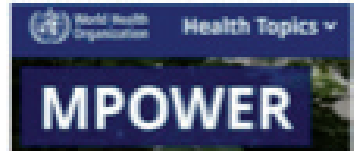
An estimated 8.7 million people are killed from tobacco each year, according to the WHO. Of these, 1.3 million people don't use tobacco directly themselves but are exposed to it second-hand. Therefore, protecting people from tobacco smoke should be a national project.



What is MPOWER?

6 measures are intended to assist in the country-level implementation of effective interventions to reduce the demand for tobacco, contained in the WHO FCTC (WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control).

The 6 MPOWER measures



(1. Monitoring tobacco use; 2. Protecting people from tobacco smoke; 3. Quitting tobacco; 4. Warning about the dangers of tobacco; 5. Enforcing tobacco advertising, promotion & sponsorship bans 6. Raising taxes on tobacco)

From Jing Joo Kim:



WCTU South Korea has had many visitors at White Gallery during their Thanksgiving holiday.



World President's Light Line greeting in Nevada

HOPE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Believe in God. Believe in the Inherent goodness of people.

Maya Angelou said: "When a person shows who they really are, believe them." We need to bring hope to the young generation. For in the midst of an evil world there are three things that remain firm - FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. The greatest of these is LOVE. God is love.

We are concerned at the moment that the unseen effects of the post pandemic period will be much greater and permanent.

In celebration of the United Nations International Youth Day, 11.08 with the theme of Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World, the event will highlight the role of young people in coming together to amplify engagement and leadership in all areas of decision making and action, especially in creating an environmentally sustainable and climate friendly world. Youth must be at the forefront of obtaining green skills for the future as they can contribute to a green transition for a longer period of time

The Keynote speaker at the last World Convention held in Helsinki Finland in July 2019, Professor Bertha K. Madras recently wrote to me that the "next challenge" is hallucinogens -it is following the same strategy as marijuana -medicalize then legalize. If young people think it's a medicine, they perceive the drugs to be safe. Caution them about hallucinogens -the future is bleak if we allow another class of drugs to become normalized.

The duty is ours; the results are God's! (John Quincy Adams 6 US President Benjamin Disraeli said Duty cannot exist without faith.

Gal. 6:9

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

We have always shown that we care.

H.E. Wisløff, a well known Norwegian priest and author, had just begun his priestly ministry in the Trinity Church in Oslo. After a short time he made contact with one of the city's original figures. He was called "Fille-frans". (Ragged Frans) A Bag lady equivalent. For many years, he had been part of the city landscape in the central streets of Oslo. And he was well remembered for walking and pulling his old cart with rags and sacks. One day, Frans approached the priest and asked if he could go to the altar on a weekday. Behind the question lay an awareness that he could be a nuisance to others. They agreed on a day to meet at the church. Frans showed up with flowers for the altar. When the priest lit the candles on the altar, Frans asked: "Am I to have candles too?" And when the priest put on his priestly clothes, he asks: "Are you going to wear the priests clothes too?" "Yes", replied Wisløff, "everything will be as in the service".

A small speech was given and Frans received the body and blood of Jesus. Then Wisløff walked around the altar ring, knelt next to Frans and partook of communion. Then he heard Frans pray: "Gud som har oss småbarn kjær, se til meg som liten er." "God who loves the very small, look at me the least of all." It was a poignant moment for both of them. The priest and "Ragged Frans", both on their knees before the God who is rich enough for all who call on him...

Kneeling at the manger, you learn to know God's heart. It burns with boundless love for the lost, he descended to save the broken and rose again the shattered. You will see that this great love applies also to you and WWCTU.

Togo - West Africa



Seminar: "CONSECRATE yourself to IMPACT the Next Generation"

Cambodia



200 student gathered for the Temperance Education on the harms of alchohol, tobacco, and drugs.



Vanuatu

3rd Women's Christian Temperance Vanuatu National Conference

Date: Mon 17 – Wed 19 July 2023
 Place: Buluinda Presbyterian Church
 Million dollar point
 Theme: Teen drug Abuse
 Contact: 5423004, 7661518



**Yumi ol mama
 Yumi mas stanap strong
 blong agensem long drug
 I spoem ol youth blong mifala**

**Awareness blong
 Alcohol, Kava, Smoking, Mariana**

For God and Home and Every Land

New Zealand



Japan



2023년 8월 11일 – 8월 15일 (4박 5일): 참가비 무료

일본에서 차별과 핍박 속에서도 우리말을 배우는 조선학교 아이들!
 일제시대 그 후손들이 알아버지 할머니의 고향 땅을 밟는 "하나의 꿈"
 그 두번째 여행이 시작됩니다

세 부 일 정

8/11(금) 입국, 국립박물관, 서울 야경
 8/12(토) 삼성전지, 부여 유적 탐방
 8/13(일) 인천/송도, 한국학생들과 행사
 8/14(월) 서울고궁, 문화체험, 불놀이
 8/15(화) DMZ, 출국



South Korea



Australia



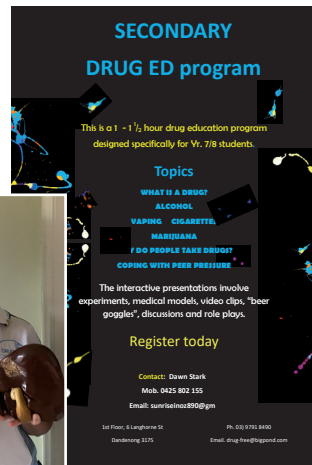
WCTU Drug-Free Lifestyles
to make it easier to get into schools



Video that plays in a loop all day every hour in 5 doctors' surgeries.



Dawn Stark showing a model of a healthy liver and a liver that has been seriously damaged by alcohol.



FASD Warning on the back of buses

Democratic Republic of Congo



Seminar June 6. The theme: "The population needs food and not tobacco."



Noontide prayer

Around the world, someone is always praying

India



The second is a report from Missionary Jing Ha Won, on July 1, 2023 who visited an orphanage for girls, run by Anglican Church, to share the Gospel and WCTU education material with much food for the children outreach.



India WCTU



Happy delegates at the 150th National Convention in Reno Nevada 07.-11. August. Listening to «We can see clearly now».