



White Ribbon Bulletin

World Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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His name shall be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace



A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to one and all!





Please share this wonderful edition with your members and others. There is a wealth of information here so please be aware that we all have a responsibility to keep our loved ones safe.

Binge drinking, the most common form of drinking among 15-19 year olds, involves ingesting large amounts of alcohol in short periods of time: usually 5 or more drinks within a period of 2-3 hours. This kind of drinking is typical of teenage parties, as well as holidays and festivities like Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Warm wishes for a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year!
Never forget to count your blessings one by one.
They are a real treasure in a trouble world.

Editor M

THE ONE WHO MADE THE STARS CALLS ME BY NAME



President's Christmas Greeting ★

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son to us that who so ever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16



Dr. Mrs. Sheela Lal
WCTU World President
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Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore, he will rise up to show you compassion.... Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18, NIV

Once again Christmas is here. Is it a routine festive time of the year or do you really want to celebrate it differently. Are you looking for God's goodness? Are you expecting His blessings, believing to rise higher, to accomplish what He's put in your heart? Or have you let circumstances suppress your faith, lower your expectations, water down your dreams? Are you thinking it's not what you wanted, but it's good enough? God meets you at the level of your expectations. If you expect nothing, you're going to receive nothing. Good enough is not your purpose, therefore it should never be your expectation. God put greatness in you, and He wants to fulfill your expectation. He doesn't satisfy the doubting soul, the negative soul, the passive soul. Psalm 107 says that He satisfies the thirsty soul with good things. Don't fall into the trap of going through life with no thirst, no passion, no expectations, thinking you've seen your best days. Get thirsty for more again, start dreaming again, start believing again, start hoping again. God is still on the throne. When you're thirsty, miracles are set in motion. God will make things happen that you can't make happen. God wants to be gracious to you. He is all powerful but He gave us His most precious treasure "Jesus" who loved us so much that He gave His life. He gives us His light and power to do good for all. Just obediently, humbly and diligently follow Him.

The God of infinite grace always exceeds our greatest expectations. Believe and pray that we are thirsty for Him to bring out the greatness He put in us through Christ Jesus. So that this coming year we give you thanks and humbly serve you Lord for God, Home and Every Land. Let's illumine His light through our good deeds. May you all have a blessed 2026. Merry Christmas to you and your families. May the joy of Christmas be yours.

“What are the most effective ways of promoting prevention?”



Keynote speaker
Prof. Bertha K. Madrass



My heartfelt thank you to Margaret Ostenstad for inviting me to speak at the World Congress. Her steadfast leadership, resolve in the midst of myriad challenges, has infused WCTU with renewed purpose and vitality. I say a warm hello all those who have journeyed from distant corners of the world and the U.S. to reflect, to learn, to share.

Today I speak to you of drug prevention – the orphan of drug policy. Why is prevention so important?

There is one phrase I dread above all others, and I have heard it far too many times: “If only I had known.”

It is the anguished refrain of a parent, a child, a sister, a husband - left behind after a loved one has died or descended into the grip of severe addiction. This plea can mean only one thing: If only I had known what drugs can do, I might have prevented this tragedy.

- If only I had known that my child could die from swallowing just one fentanyl pill. If only I had known that my teenager could develop psychosis from using high-potency marijuana. If only I'd known the younger someone starts using drugs, the more likely they are to develop a substance use disorder and other problems.
- Parents have the power to serve as a strong, counterbalancing influence in a child's life. We need to help empower parents to be proactive, and equip them with strategies to engage in effective, crucial conversations with your child. We need to provide science-based information so they can more effectively guide and protect children.
- I focus on knowledge and action.
- Knowledge: What factors influence young people's drug use, and the risks of different drugs on the developing adolescent brain. Parents also need to reflect on their own attitudes on drugs and their relationship with their child.
- Action. Parents need to develop a plan to engage in conversations about drugs with their child, after they lay the groundwork for loving and trusting relationships with their child.
- My hope is that you'll never say: “If only I had known”.

Prevention protects individuals, families, and societies from the devastating consequences of substance use. Its significance can be understood across several dimensions:

At the heart of every serious conversation about drug policy lies one truth: **prevention is protection AND Prevention is paramount.** It is the foundation upon which all effective drug policy must rest. Without prevention, treatment becomes an ever-expanding revolving door.

Without prevention, law enforcement is perpetually overburdened. Drug prevention is about safeguarding public health, preserving families, ensuring social stability, and protecting the economy.

In public health, prevention is the most efficient response to preventable diseases. We vaccinate to prevent infection; we encourage physical activity and diet to prevent heart disease. The same applies to drugs. In this area, we have an advantage compared to other diseases: drug addiction is one of the most preventable diseases. Why? Because we know the cause: the drug and we know the most effective form of prevention: abstinence.

Because Prevention protects adolescents: Early drug use dramatically increases the likelihood of addiction, mental illness, and diminished life outcomes. Each year, thousands of lives are lost to the erosion of potential. Crucial parts of the adolescent brain is under construction. Early exposure can rewire their brain and affect their future brain function.

Prevention protects the fetus: the most fragile and vulnerable target

Prevention protects the vulnerable: those with psychiatric disorders, the elderly, the poor, the wealthy.

Prevention is practical. It is easier, less expensive and more effective to prevent than to treat addiction and its consequences. Each case we prevent is a life improved, a family preserved, a future with greater hope, and money saved.

Drug prevention is compassion and foresight: a silent sentinel that stands between vitality and vulnerability, between promise and peril; it guards the promise of a life unburdened by harmful drug detours.

Drug prevention is about human dignity: It proclaims your health matters. Your brain matters. Your potential matters.

My focus on prevention is shaped by who I am:

As a woman, a mother of two, and a grandmother of five, I am driven to protect the future of children and grandchildren everywhere—so they may grow up with dignity, safety, and their full potential.

As a scientist, with decades of experience, I have a deep responsibility to share what I have learned about how drugs impact the brain, the body, and behavior.

As a policy-maker who has served in government, I have witnessed how drug use ripples outward from an individual to erode families, weaken communities, and hollow out the foundations of nations. And drug policy is shifting- not harmless shifts. They are tremors that threaten to destabilize societies.

And let me be clear: The science on harmful drug effects is abundant. What we face instead is willful denial of evidence, an orchestrated effort to recast how society perceives drugs. Laws are rewritten, policies enacted—not in the name of public health or compassion, but to pursue profit through addiction. It is a calculated erosion of social norms that have protected our communities.

New and dangerous fault lines have emerged—those who champion unrestricted drug use from those who call for restraint, for policies anchored in evidence, responsibility, and preservation of public health.

We must craft drug policies with prevention at their very core:

- **Education** that equips young people with knowledge, resilience, and refusal skills.

There are many forms of prevention:

- **Community engagement** that strengthens bonds of responsibility and care.
- **Evidence-based strategies** that reduce risk factors and fortify protective ones.
- **Public messaging** that conveys clearly: prevention is compassion, prevention is protection, prevention is power.
- **Parental knowledge**



There are many forms of prevention:

1. Primary Prevention

Goal: Stop drug use before it starts.

- **Universal programs:** Directed at entire populations (e.g., schools, communities, media campaigns).
 - o Example: School curricula teaching refusal skills, national anti-drug campaigns.
- **Selective programs:** Focused on groups at higher risk (e.g., children of parents with substance use disorders, economically disadvantaged youth).
- **Indicated programs:** Target individuals showing early signs of risky behavior (e.g., truancy, aggression) but who are not yet addicted.

2. Secondary Prevention

Goal: Early detection and intervention before problems escalate.

- Screening in schools, workplaces, or healthcare settings (e.g., SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment).
- Counseling for teens experimenting with drugs.
- Family-based interventions for households where early substance use is detected.

3. Tertiary Prevention

Goal: prevent relapse, overdose deaths, restore functioning in those with established addiction.

- Evidence-based treatment (behavioral therapy, medication-assisted treatment for opioids/alcohol).
- Relapse prevention programs
- Recovery support services (peer support, housing, vocational training).

4. Environmental & Policy-Level Prevention

Goal: Shape norms of society and reduce availability.

- Laws regulating minimum drinking age, tobacco sales, cannabis dispensaries.
- Restrictions on advertising and marketing of addictive substances.
- Drug-free workplace and school policies.
- Policing drug trafficking and diversion.



5. Community & School-Based Prevention

- Life skills training: Teaching coping, decision-making, and resistance to peer pressure.
- After-school programs: Offering structured, supervised alternatives.

Challenges and Key Takeaway

- Parenting programs: Educating parents about communication, monitoring, and setting expectations.

6. Public Education & Mass Media Campaigns

- Raising awareness of risks (e.g., “This Is Your Brain on Drugs”).
- Promoting prevention through TV, radio, digital platforms.
- Social media campaigns targeting adolescents with accurate information.



7. Family-Based Prevention: the role of parents

- Strengthening family bonding and communication.
- Teaching parents to monitor behavior and set clear rules.
- Reducing risk factors such as parental drug use, neglect, or permissive attitudes.

Drug prevention that specifically targets parents is widespread, but its reach and intensity vary considerably across countries and communities. It is recognized globally as one of the most effective strategies because parents are a child’s first line of defense against substance use. Here’s an overview:

Challenges

- **Engagement:** Many parents do not participate due to time, stigma, or lack of awareness.
- **Scalability:** Programs often succeed in small pilots but are harder to expand nationally.
- **Sustainability:** Funding cuts and shifting political priorities can limit continuity.
- **Cultural adaptation:** Parenting norms vary, requiring tailored approaches.

Key Takeaway:

Educating parents about drugs is one of the most powerful tools we possess to protect children.

When parents are equipped with knowledge, communication skills, and clear expectations, they become a shield against the risks of substance use. Informed parents can guide choices, recognize early warning signs, and foster resilience in their children.

Prevention begins not in legislatures or clinics, but at the dinner table, in daily conversations, and in the trust between parent and child.

Empowering parents with evidence-based education is not optional—it is essential if we are to safeguard the health, potential, and future of the next generation.

In the end, the measure of a society is not only how it treats those already afflicted, but how it shields those yet untouched. The highest expression of wisdom in drug policy is foresight—the courage to prevent rather than to repair.

- **Let us resolve, that prevention is not an afterthought. It is the first thought.**
- The science is clear: delaying initiation reduces risk; targeted interventions protect the vulnerable; early responses avert escalation. In every dimension, prevention is the strategy that maximizes lives saved, suffering avoided, and futures secured.
- Let us commit to policies that put prevention at the very center of our collective response to drugs.
- For only by making prevention the cornerstone of policy can we truly honor the sanctity of life, the wellbeing of our citizens, and the promise of generations yet to come.

News from around the World



Joy Marie Butler,
World Organization Secretary
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Another year is nearly over. The 42nd World WCTU Convention, held in Chicago in August, was an inspirational and encouraging time. Delegates from 14 countries gathered to report, share and pray together. After many years of service Anne Bergen has relinquished her role as Organization Secretary for World WCTU and I find myself in this role. I have held many positions in the World and Australia National WCTU. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve. Here are some current reports from three countries.

Footnote:

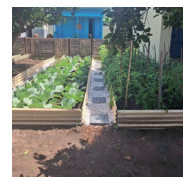
The marketing director for WCTU Australia Ltd has designed a beautiful pledge card for children and youth. If anyone wants copies of these, Tanja Curcic is available and ready to share them with you. Her email is: getintouchwctu@gmail.com



Part of the 200 Children who signed the pledge.

UGANDA

Tanja Curcic, from Sydney, Australia, is a woman of courage who has gone to live in a remote part of Uganda, Africa. Here she has set up a community of blessing - called Little Blue Shed. It all began when she traveled to Kenya, then Uganda, to begin a new life of purpose. She discovered a little blue shed where women were involved with trying to improve their lives. She named her project Little Blue Shed and now has women sewing clothing, making beads and



The Little Blue Shed Project

learning skills that can provide income without resorting to more sordid work. This has expanded and she has gardens, called Garden of Eden, which grows beautiful produce, classrooms for teaching and facilities to hold workshops and lectures featuring the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Her latest development is reaching children and youth with the temperance message and many are signing the WCTU pledge. In early October, after attending the World WCTU convention in Chicago, Tanja returned and taught 200 high school students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. They all signed the pledge card.

Since that time she has also started a recovery addiction programme and uses the 'small group approach to interact, build relationship, cancel and kill the demons of addiction that haunts and kills too many.'



Women who are dealing with addiction

Tanja says "We will be using various methods and programmes, however, the biggest programme is to display the love of God to the lost and broken. God cares."



Tanja with the youth signing the Pledge.

Be encouraged!

Here is the World President's report of her home coming welcome and a brief report of establishing new unions around the world – for God, Home and Every Land

Dr. Sheela Lall was honored and welcomed by different unions of India as they celebrated Temperance Sunday; a cradle roll ceremony; FAS



education world day of prayer; and poster and slogan competitions during the last two months.

New countries starting WCTU work

Burkina Faso with main leaders – Dr. Sheela with husband R. David Lall & Dr. Philippe and Josephine Ouedrago. Head of The Anglican Association for Development support (AEADS).

• **Based at Bukhara** they run a school of 1500 children and work with 6000 (six thousand) preachers (Pastors) working in 11 (eleven) border countries. Sister Josephine is working with single mothers, rape victims, drug addicted violence, and abused families. She immediately joined WCTU and assured me that all 6000 Pastors wives will be members of this wonderful organization and start WCTU unions in their respective churches and countries! I praise and thank God. Chad, Morocco, Egypt, Eritrea: Leaders are very interested in our work too.



Ethiopia – As partners of the Horn of Africa ministry working with their “project zero” we were invited to attend their leadership summit with 28 countries representative of Africa. It was my privilege to speak at their graduation of “Trans – formation” Biblical Academy. These are leaders of the Kingdom working in eastern, middle east, southern and west Africa. They all like the ideology of WCTU and hope to start unions in their respective countries. But it was encouraging to start two unions at Addis Ababa. The capital city.



Ethiopia has unique problem as in remote areas the Arabs come to find petroleum and stay with local poor families since they don't have hotels in those places and at night they rape the unmarried girls and pay the parents extra money to stay quiet but when they leave and if the girl becomes pregnant then parents kick them out to fend for themselves or die. Thus, these girls come to town and sometime deliver the babies on street without any assistance or anywhere to go. These ladies give them an initial safe place to stay and food and provide them with some skills and everything for six months and educate them about the evils of drugs and alcohol.



Because they are first-hand victims of these issues, they listen and obey. WCTU can be very useful here in this tragic situation.

News from around the World

Kenya, Nairobi – We had the privilege to go to beautiful God’s country and be amongst the thousands of animals but more than that we saw God working in Africa. We met the “Masai people”. The ladies didn’t speak English but their children spoke fluent English. They were all Assembly of God Church people. “Samuel” our guide brought his preacher next day and invited us to pray for them. They are also excited about the WCTU work.



Nairobi – It was a great joy and privilege for me to be able to meet our old WCTU Nairobi union ladies through our Africa field Director Joy Butler. I invited them over to our hotel where we had beautiful time of sharing and a fellowship dinner. These ladies and Rt. Pastor John Macharia are doing remarkable work and regretted that they could not attend the world convention. They are doing education and prevention through a radio program and personal outreach. Each new contact signs a pledge card. They have a highly addictive plant apart from other known drugs so they need to make the next generation be aware of it. Poverty and unwanted pregnancy are also the issues their youth face.



New Union Established in Nairobi – The Director of Good News Production International is a sweet and very competent lady, Marcy Odhiabo, and she has done tremendous work during the last ten years making a movie “Tough Choices” which is shown on National Television and still part of school watch list. They show it in school and at their office with Christian and professional counselors with a questionnaire list for the students to fill in. They were told by the youth (students) that they must educate their parents because here they know the truth and facts about these evils but at home

they live with the reality of poverty and absence of guidance from parents who are involved in their own “fun” life activities. This makes them depend on the Internet and “Survival tactics”. There are illiteracy, pregnancy and poverty problems. Here they don’t fear getting pregnant because they can abort the baby legally. The main problem is illicit drugs, so Marcy and her organization hold many workshops for youth and families to discuss their challenges and issues. There is a lot to do with WCTU and UN’s sustainability development program here.

May God help us establish many unions and a powerful worldwide network of WCTU Let’s pray for a great revival.



Noontide prayer
Around the world, someone is always praying



State of the Organization Address 2025, Anne Bergen



Anne Bergen. *With thanks for wonderful service* ❤️

This is my final WWCTU State of the Organization Secretary Report. I have had the privilege and responsibility of being a World WCTU Officer since the Convention held in Auckland, New Zealand in 2004 when I was appointed as Recording Secretary. I continued in that role for three terms and was responsible for preparing the WWCTU Report Book. At the World WCTU Convention in Adelaide, Australia in 2013 I was elected as 1st Vice President then in 2016 at the Convention in Ottawa, Canada, I became the Organization Secretary and have assisted the President in this role for the past nine years. I am disappointed that circumstances did not permit me to attend this

Convention and present my last report in person, but I am grateful to Mrs. Karen Edwards, the active and forward-thinking President of the WCTU in South Australia, who is reading my report.

The past six years since the forty-first WWCTU Convention in Helsinki, Finland, in July 2019, have been difficult ones for the world as a whole, as well as for the World WCTU. This has meant that our President, Mrs. Margaret Ostenstad, has had to shoulder the responsibility for the organization for six years instead of just three and she has worked tirelessly to ensure that the WWCTU fulfilled all its regulatory requirements as well as continuing to work to the best of its ability. It has been my pleasure to support Margaret with practical action and advice through this period. Margaret has also worked closely with the Treasurer, Aud Karin Foerland. **She is looking forward to retiring at the end of this Convention after a total of twelve years as President. She will become President Emeritus.**

Early in 2020 it became apparent that the outbreak of the Covid 19 virus was going to have a limiting effect on WCTU around the world. While some countries had more restrictive policies than others, leaders found that the ability for members to meet and carry out their usual WCTU activities was severely limited until near the end of 2023. It also made it impossible to arrange a World Convention in 2022 and this Convention was further delayed as the USA NWCTU, the founding member of the organization, celebrated an amazing 150 years of temperance work in 2024.

In 2019, when I wrote my previous State of the Organization Report, the future of the NWCTU was in serious doubt as it was in danger of being taken over by the former Frances Willard Historical Association, rebranded as the Centre for Women's History and Leadership (CWHL), which did not share the Christian, temperance, and moral values of the WCTU. World WCTU supported the group of NWCTU members who were fighting to retain their organization, and I am thankful to God that through these efforts and the work of Sally Wagenmaker, the Christian solicitor who helped with the legal fight, NWCTU won, and its historic buildings in Evanston that you will see during the Convention outing, remain in NWCTU hands.

WCTU members can currently be found in approximately 62 countries around the world.

Some of these do not have active organizations but have members who work in whatever ways they can to promote our Christian Temperance values.

At this World Convention about half the attendees are members from the USA. We are grateful for their presence and support. Sadly, current policy in the USA has made it more difficult for members from many countries to obtain visas to attend this convention. This includes most of those who had planned to attend from India, African countries, and even the President of New Zealand WCTU. As a result, we only have 54 delegates present from Norway, South Korea, Cambodia, Finland, New Zealand, Canada, India, Japan, Guatemala, Australia, Uganda, Philippines, Ghana, and Papua New Guinea.

Despite all this, many countries have done wonderful work since the last World WCTU Convention, and I have regularly reported on some of this with pictures of their events in the World Bulletin. These countries include Australia, Cambodia where Mihae Lee, the wife of the former Korean Ambassador to Cambodia is doing excellent work, Finland, Guatemala, India, Japan, New Zealand (including the NZ Korean WCTU), Norway, Philippines, Togo, Vanuatu (thanks to Dr. Jung Joo Kim, Field Worker for Asian Missionaries), and USA. Others, like Germany, were not featured in the WRB but have done good temperance work. They have self-help-groups for women who are affected by alcohol addiction, but also for relatives who are in an addictive situation. They have also been joined by women who support their ideas but have no addiction problems.

The World Bulletin was traditionally printed in hard copy and mailed to those who ordered and paid for it, usually at the World Convention, as the cost of an international money transfer made it uneconomic for people to pay any other way. Margaret Ostenstad has been editor of the WRB in recent years and done an amazing job in transforming it into an informative, attractive and modern publication. It became apparent in the last couple of years that it was not economical to print and mail the WRB to a very limited number of members around the world, so recent editions have not been printed. Instead, they are available digitally and are emailed to every WCTU country to be emailed on to their members. In Australia, everyone on the country's email database receives a copy. This is much cheaper, more efficient, and enables a much larger circulation of the Bulletin. Margaret has been a creative and imaginative editor of the World Bulletin.

It was inspiring to receive an amazing report and power-point presentation recently from Laurentine Mbe Ndala Kitenge in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** in which she described her ongoing work for WCTU. She said, "Over the past five years, WCTU DRC has made significant strides in combating substance abuse across the Democratic Republic of Congo. Despite operating in a complex environment marked by limited resources, cultural barriers, and the destabilizing influence of armed groups, their efforts have:

- **Educated thousands of children in schools about the dangers of drugs and alcohol**
- **Empowered women through awareness programs, helping them break cycles of addiction and poverty**
- **Advocated for policy changes, pushing for stricter regulations on drug trafficking and underage consumption.**
- **Every year on May 31st, The Democratic Republic of Congo celebrates World No Tobacco Day. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU-RDC), participated in this year's march. Their theme was: "Let's expose the tobacco industry's tactics."**
- **They raised children's drug awareness through a TV show.**



To top it all, Laurentine recently travelled to France where she started a WCTU. This is one of several WCTUs which have commenced recently in new countries. Another is in Tanzania where a WCTU was begun by Korean missionary, **Mi Kyung Lee**, who reported how excited the women there are about the temperance work. A third new WCTU has been started by an Australian missionary, **Tanja Curcic**, in **Uganda**.

You will hear more about the great WCTU work that is going on around the world as National Presidents, Field Workers and Department Directors present their reports.

WWCTU was a charter member of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization and our President, Margaret Ostenstad, has been faithful in recent years in preparing the required quadrennial report of our work for the UN. Her most recent report stated among other things: 'As an organization in consultative status with ECOSOC, the WWCTU partners with like-minded members to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WWCTUs' vision aligns with many international organizations that have international frameworks for monitoring and surveillance of alcohol use like the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations (UN), and International Organization of Good Templars (IOGT). The WWCTUs activity framework benefits many of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including 13 of the 17 SDGs associated with alcohol. Alcohol is specifically mentioned in SDG 3 on health and well-being. Target 3.5 reads, "Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol." By following this framework and cooperating with other organizations, we can achieve our goals and vision more effectively and efficiently.'

Our continuing Action Plan sums up the goals and methods we use as follows:

1. To develop and implement alcohol and drug prevention projects while continuing existing projects.
2. To make the White Ribbon an active organization within the drug prevention field.
3. To be informed and up-to-date on international research on drugs and drug abuse.
4. To focus on the connection between drugs and partner violence through campaigns, information and preventative measures.
5. To promote cooperation with other organizations who share the same vision as us.
6. To maintain work for clean drinking water and sanitation. (International project)
7. To maintain and strengthen our work with children and youth
8. To focus on the value of creating a drug-free zone when spending time with children and the family, especially during the holidays
9. To strengthen and develop work in the local branches
10. To take good care of the members and continue membership recruitment.

The motto, "For God, Home and Every Land", still sums up the vision for WWCTU. God, and our faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross for salvation, is the foundation for all that we do. I pray that as new Officers are appointed at this Convention they will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue and grow the important work of WCTU in improving the lives of people around the world.



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 mamma, 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 mamma 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 mamma 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. Mamma'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....

At Christmastime we are reminded of Him who gave Himself to serve us. He took on human form so that He might serve by His death on the cross.

Christmas is a time of living service. There are many lonely people. We can serve without loving, but we cannot love without serving. Find a family in need and serve them. Find a child in need and serve them lovingly in Jesus' name.



New Year Prayer

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us-but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead,
assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches,
help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us-far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

- Billy Graham

World Woman's Christian Temperance Union

promoting a lifestyle free of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in every country through education and example.



1883

World Department Directors and Fieldworkers



Back:

*Dr. Jung Joo Kim, Korean Missionaries – Joy Marie Buttler, Pacific Islands and Africa Correspondent
Nana Kim Choi, Africa – Brenda Suh, Asia – Dr. Dora de Barrientos, Central and South America.*

Front:

*Vandna Charan, Children – Mary Angelina Navidad, Christian Outreach – Prof. Sarah Oh, Education
Dr. Bhavana Arthur, Home Protection – Suzanne Langberg, Social – Madison Davis, Youth Department*



MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a Happy New Year!