

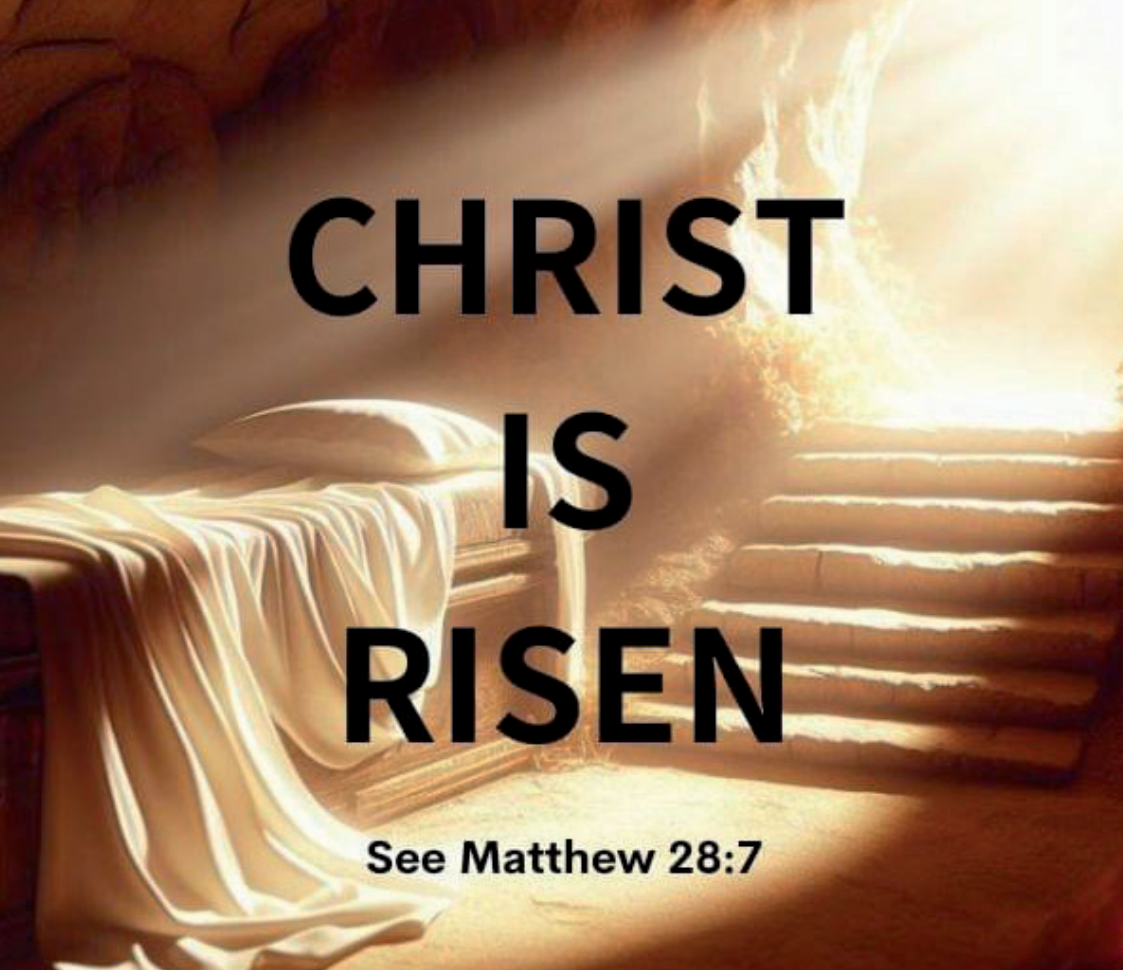


# White Ribbon Bulletin

World Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Volume 121 • Number 2

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# CHRIST IS RISEN

See Matthew 28:7

## Gethsemane

Jesus climbed the hill  
To the garden still  
His steps were heavy and slow  
Love and a prayer  
Took Him there  
To the place only He could go

Gethsemane  
Jesus loves me  
So He went willingly  
To Gethsemane  
He felt all that was sad, wicked or bad  
All the pain we would ever know  
While His friends were asleep  
He fought to keep  
His promise made long ago  
Gethsemane  
Jesus loves me  
So He went willingly

To Gethsemane  
The hardest thing that ever was done  
The greatest pain that ever was known  
The biggest battle that ever was won  
This was done by Jesus  
The fight was won by Jesus  
Gethsemane  
Jesus loves me  
So he gave His gift to me

In Gethsemane  
Gethsemane  
Jesus loves me  
So he gives His gift to me  
From Gethsemane

<https://youtu.be/ZWlx24J00Wc>

Einstein once said, "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think." These words encapsulate a fundamental truth about education: it goes beyond the mere accumulation of knowledge and focuses on nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills - in our case, lives maybe improved, even saved. There is a lot to learn here! **ENJOY!** 🍷💖

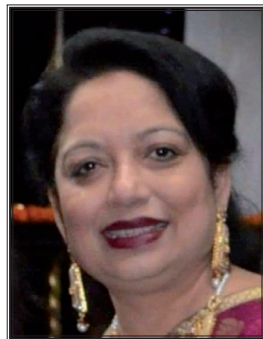


Please circulate this White Ribbon Bulletin and have a blessed Easter!

Margaret 🍷  
[margaretostenstad45@gmail.com](mailto:margaretostenstad45@gmail.com)



## President's Easter Greeting



**Hallelujah! Christ our Saviour is Risen!!**

He lives forever to be our strength, our guide, our driving force, and as promised, our ever-present God. Do not be discouraged, dismayed or disheartened. In this world we have trials and tribulations, but He has won them all. Our identity is that we are His sons and daughters. We are made for victory, eternity and thus what we do or choose impacts eternity. So be strong and courageous.

We celebrate Easter because it did not end with the cruel death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. He conquered death, and according to *Hebrews 12:2*, He is now seated at the right hand of the throne of His Father. The real message of Easter is the redemptive love of God. As God provided a path through His Son for the fallen grace humanity and gave them hope and salvation. We too are given this privilege through W.W.C.T.U. to work for the broken and chained people of our society and of this world. We see the storms, fire, calamities, and wars around us and we become lazy, forgetting that at this hour, amongst all these problems, we can be the anchor in the lives of many people around us.

Do not miss these opportunities. God's double portion of blessing, grace, and loving protection is waiting for you. *Isaiah 61:1-7*. May the living and loving Prince of Peace reside in you and fill you with His light and goodness to transform lives and change the world to make it a better place. May the Easter morning light and grace surround you and comfort you in your most challenging and lowest moments. May Easter morning renew your strength to run your race of life and service with perseverance. Christ has broken all the chains and commissioned us to reach out to people in His name. God bless you all as you celebrate Easter, the day of Christ's resurrection, with your family and friends.

*Dr. Mrs. Sheela Lall  
WCTU World President  
sheelalall@midindia.com*

Dr. Sheela Lall  
(President WWCTU)



## Warning as Love: Faith and Education for Prevention (2025 World Education Report)

By Sarah Soyeon Oh, PhD



**Professor Sarah Soyeon Oh**

Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment at Yonsei University. Professor Sarah Soyeon Oh is a very gifted young woman and her contribution has been vital to the expansion and continuation of our work which is now established in 62 countries. She has also represented our organization at the United Nations for UN DPI/NGO conferences and given lectures at world conventions in Finland (2019) Canada (2016) and Australia (2013).

### Faith as the Foundation

The World Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU) has long championed the belief that temperance is not prohibition but compassion. To warn of harm is an act of love — a moral duty rooted in empathy rather than judgment.

“Let all that you do be done in love.” — *1 Corinthians 16:14*

For more than a century, this philosophy has guided temperance education worldwide — from classrooms to clinics, from church basements to community halls — nurturing the belief that prevention is not punishment, but protection.



### Science Guided by Grace

Using data from the **Collaborative Initiative on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (CIFASD)**, our research team has applied machine-learning models to analyze information from **590+ women across five U.S. sites**, predicting risk based on alcohol use, age, and demographics to identify women at risk before harm occurs. **CIFASD is a multidisciplinary, NIH/NIAAA-supported consortium** that coordinates basic, behavioral, clinical, and translational research to **inform and develop effective interventions and treatments for FASD** and to foster collaboration across investigators and projects (see [cifasd.org](http://cifasd.org) for program details). This data-driven approach reframes prevention as proactive care— combining scientific precision with compassion. Rather than reacting to tragedy, it empowers healthcare providers to offer early counseling, universal screening, and timely intervention. When science serves love, prevention becomes an act of grace. This data-driven approach reframes prevention as *proactive care* — combining scientific precision with compassion. Rather than reacting to tragedy, it empowers healthcare providers to offer early counseling, universal screening, and timely intervention. When science serves love, prevention becomes an act of grace.

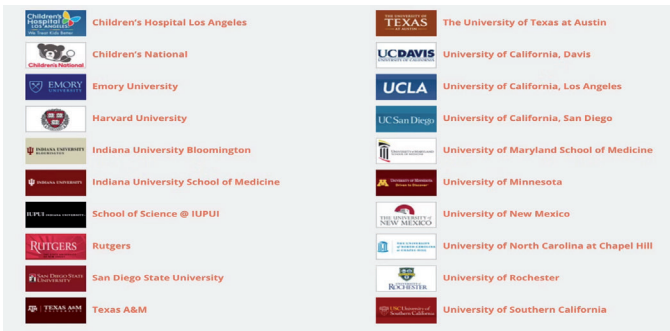


Figure 1 CIFASD homepage (cifasd.org). Image courtesy of the CIFASD consortium; used *for educational/reporting purposes*.

## Alcohol as a Teratogen: The Unseen Danger

No level of alcohol is safe during pregnancy. The brain begins forming between weeks 3 and 8 — often before pregnancy is even recognized — and damage sustained during this time is irreversible (Figure 2).

<p><b>No Safe Level</b></p> <p><i>No known safe alcohol amount during pregnancy. Risks begin at conception.</i></p>	<p><b>Lifelong Impact</b></p> <p><i>FASD affects brain, learning, behavior, and physical health. Effects are lifelong.</i></p>	<p><b>Hidden Epidemic</b></p> <p><i>FASD is often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed. Many lack proper support.</i></p>
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Figure 2 Alcohol as a Teratogen

## Learning from Global Models of Temperance Education

Across the world, temperance education takes many creative and culturally attuned forms.

- **In Australia**, WCTU's *Drug-Free Kids* program reaches primary-school students through interactive magazines and digital content (Figure 3).

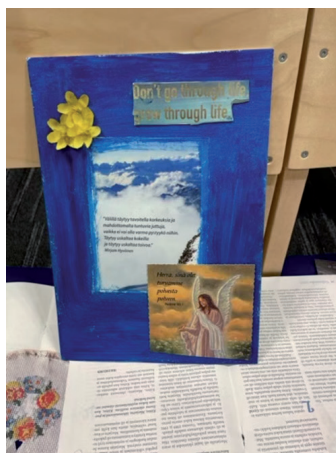


### WCTU Australia: Educating the Next Generation

1. **Victorian Program**  
*50+ year drug education program for Grades 5-8.*
2. **"DRUG FREE KIDS"**  
*Quarterly newsletter for 6-12 year olds (print & online).*
3. **Digital Outreach**  
*Updated "Drug Free Kids" website with games & news.*

Figure 3 WCTU Australia in Action

- **In Finland**, Valkonauha leads nationwide *Sober Summer* and *Sober Christmas* campaigns, substance-awareness seminars, and intergenerational outreach programs that connect youth and the elderly (Figure 4).



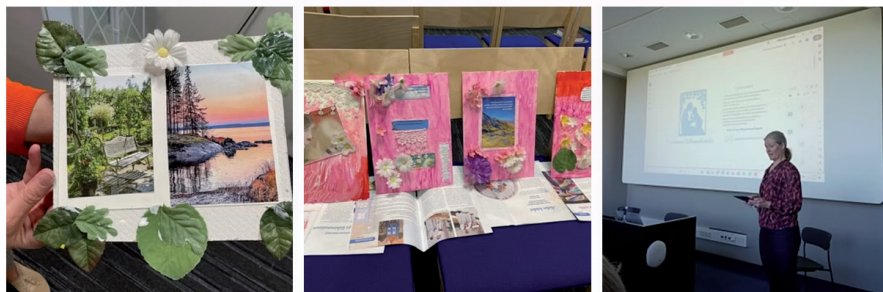
## Valkonauha Finland: Educational Work

- 1 Nationwide Campaigns  
*Annual "Sober Summer" and "Sober Christmas" campaigns.*
- 2 Comprehensive Seminars  
*Free multi-hour seminars on substance awareness and wellness.*
- 3 Elderly Care Focus  
*Support for substance abuse and alcohol-related dementia in nursing homes.*
- 4 Valkonauha Magazine  
*Distribution of "Valkonauha" magazine to health and social centers.*

*"The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." — Proverbs 2:6*

**Figure 4 Finland's Educational Work**

These programs remind us that sustained, empathetic education can transform culture far more effectively than punitive approaches (Figure 5).



**Figure 5 Seminar programs; Angel paintings by prisoners; Dr. Koivisto lecturing to Memory Experts.**

## The Korean Model: Faith in Action

In Korea, the **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention Centre (FPC)**—established by the KWCTU and Ewha Womans University Mokdong Hospital—embodies this union of faith, science, and service. Situated within an obstetrics and gynecology department, the Centre provides prenatal counseling, digital education, and free public lectures. By integrating church-based compassion with hospital-based expertise, temperance becomes a tangible health service (Figure 6).



Figure 6 Asia's First-Ever FAS Prevention Center

The KWCTU also translated Ann Streissguth’s book “*Fetal Alcohol Syndrome: A Guide for Families and Communities*” into Korean and other Asian languages — expanding access to knowledge and empathy across the region (Figure 7).



Figure 7 FAS Book Translation

### Warning as Love

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” — *John 10:10*

To “warn as love” is to educate early, gently, and persistently. It means curing the environment as well as supporting individuals — merging evidence and empathy to protect life. When faith, science, and education converge, prevention becomes not only possible, but inevitable.





Joy Marie Butler,  
World Organization Secretary  
[pres.wctuaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:pres.wctuaustralia@gmail.com)

**Greetings to all my sisters around the world. It has been thrilling to hear from WCTU leaders in parts of the world we haven't heard from before. It shows us that God is at work. We urge you to keep praying, for this is the key in the hand of faith to unlock Heaven's storehouse. Let's pray for each other as we see difficulties arise everywhere - but we know God is over all.**

## Report from Ghana

Nana Kim Choi writes to us from Ghana WCTU, Africa.

"We will continue to provide the gospel, biblical entrepreneurship, and temperance education to middle and high school students through Wednesday chapel and Thursday lectures each week. We also continue to hold a 30-minute teaching session before Sunday worship each week. Our congregation on Sunday service is made up mostly of young adults in their twenties. In addition, our children's

ministry helps the younger ones grow in God's Word by writing down Bible verses and learning them each week. The children who attend church are different from the students at MIS, so we make sure to guide them carefully. also emphasize the dangers of alcohol and drugs, helping them build strong values for their future."



## Report from Cambodia

Unrest in Cambodia with surroundings nations has caused some disruption to schools but WCTU there continues to present the temperance message to hundreds of students at various schools. The WCTU president, Lee Mihae, keeps us up-to-date with their activities.

In November, 2025, after some months of school closures due to unrest, five WCTU members visited the Chea Sim Samaki high school and delivered the temperance lecture to 170 students.

On Saturday, February 14, 2026 the 76th temperance message was delivered to hundreds of students at the Westline School in the Santhor Mok Province. Three hundred grade 7-12 students heard the messages at the school while 1940 students watched online. Some important government officials also attended the lecture.

Then on Saturday, March 14, the 77th temperance lecture was held at the Indra Devi School in the Toul Kork District where 160 students in Grades 7-8 attended.

Just imagine the impact this must make on these children and young people. If this could be replicated all over the world in the many countries where WCTU has a presence, it would be a powerful movement. God bless those leaders and all the children who have heard these important messages.



## KENYA

Doctor/Pastor John Macharia is a recently retired man of integrity and courage is based in Nairobi, Kenya, Africa. He has taught the temperance message since he learned about WCTU in 2008. He has traveled throughout Kenya and spoken to thousands of children and youth. Most of them have now signed the pledge and have the chance to know a better way to live.

In recent years he set up a Drug Rehabilitation programme called 'WCTU Turning Point' and has seen many people, mostly men, turn from drug addictions. Right now the programme is held in a suitable rented house with committed leaders and trainers. There is opportunity to purchase the house for continued ministry but the finances are hard to come by.

Every year John conducts an Alternative Rite of Passage for boys aged twelve. Traditionally boys are circumcised at this age and taught 'manly' ways in the village or ghetto. He provides a safe environment in a school where the boys stay for a week. The surgery is performed by doctors and they are instructed by John and his team in the ways of God and true manhood. A graduation service is held at the end of the week where the parents and guardians celebrate their entry into manhood.

### Report from South Australia, Australia

In South Australia the WCTU members are very active and have recently acquired a property and large house with nine bedrooms. This has been a quarters for seasonal men workers and WCTU has provided accommodation for young men and taught them Christian living and shared the temperance message.

Now they are renovating the property to make it more suitable for women. They are currently supporting the Uniting Church Emergency Housing Department for women who have found themselves homeless. Some have been living in cars, caravan parks and other unsuitable places due to various and unhappy situations often exacerbated by alcohol and drugs.

The new caretakers, Chris and Erlinda, are both WCTU members and hold weekly Bible studies at the house. They understand the issues with alcohol and drugs and also have backgrounds in evangelism and drug and alcohol counselling. Please pray for this excellent outreach and ministry.



*A boy who has just completed the Alternative Rite of Passage programme.*



*Pastor Macharia and youth who have said NO to drugs.*



*Sign for the Drug Rehab House*



*Quarters House in Blyth, South Australia*

**Alongside the official business meetings, several insightful and inspiring workshops were conducted, including:**

1. Women, Youth, and the Next Generation: Bridging mental health and substance-use prevention across the life course.
2. Building Resilient Youth and Families for Effective Drug Prevention.
3. Advancing Collaboration for the Continuum of Care in Drug Demand Reduction.
4. Civil Society Responses: Promoting online safety and positive youth behavioral health through sensible media engagement with digital content creators and online communities to address the normalization of substance use and crime.
5. Intersectionality in Action: Strengthening evidence-based and human-rights-centered drug strategies.
6. People-Centered Approaches: Strengthening public health and security through the African Union's drug control and prevention strategies.
7. Synthetic Drugs and Youth Protection: Evidence-based strategies for prevention, resilience, and sustainable development.
8. Public-Private Partnerships on Social Integration: Highlights from the FOCTALI project.
9. Youth Prevention Influencers (YPI): Peer-to-peer prevention training led by umbrella youth organizations.
10. Youth Recovery and Resilience: Addressing stigma and strengthening prevention pathways for adolescents.

## **Overall Goal: Advancing toward a multi-approach drug strategy.**

I was able to attend only a few online sessions, as they were day-long events, and I was also occupied with end-of-school celebrations at our school and college, along with evening cottage prayer meetings during the 40 days of Lent.

**In addition to these, I also attended a seminar led by One Voice One Message (OVOM) who were promoting the Eindhoven Declaration which seeks to protect children from illicit drug use and securing a drug free society by encouraging the UN to restrict the access of harmful drugs in society. They are seeking to obtain 10000 signatures by next year which will enable them to approach the UN. I am attaching the QR Code they shared for people to sign the petition and learn more about the declaration.**

I hope this report encourages you and helps you realize the importance of the work we are doing. We can be victorious only by holding firmly to God and His grace. May the Lord bless each one of you as you labor faithfully for His kingdom at home and in every land.

Dr. Sheela Lall  
WWCTU President



## The key points from the discussions included:

1. Harm-reduction approaches alone are not sufficient to stop illicit drug use.
2. According to Article 33 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the easy availability of drugs around children violates their right to grow up in a drug-free environment.
3. Early prevention acts as an “insurance policy” for the next generation. Preventive education should begin at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
4. Collaboration with like-minded individuals and organizations is essential to sustain resilience in prevention efforts, as this is a matter of national priority, public health, and social welfare.
5. Long-term impact requires patience, perseverance, and consistent effort, rather than short-term policy measures.
6. Effective policies must be grounded in factual evidence. To protect children and youth from illegal drugs and narcotics, proper healthcare programs and physical-education initiatives for different age groups are essential. These provide positive engagement and strengthen both mind and body.
7. Translating political commitments into concrete action remains a major challenge. Multisectoral collaboration is vital to raise awareness and support marginalized and vulnerable communities.
8. Accountability, transparency, and coordinated commitments from thousands of organizations across 154 countries are necessary for effective training programs and youth engagement.
9. Today’s youth face numerous challenges worldwide. Although circumstances vary from country to country, the consequences—devastation of lives, addiction, or even suicide—are similar. With strong commitment and compassionate action, we must guide them toward the right path.
10. Prevention is our lifeline, yet it is under threat today. Our journey as champions of change is not merely an aspiration but a determined necessity to actively shape a better future.
11. We must carry this mission beyond conference rooms and reach communities everywhere. By overcoming ethnic differences and working together with shared goals, we can respond effectively to global challenges.
12. Prevention activities should be skillfully integrated with social and emotional early learning. WFAD has also developed a three-day training program to strengthen these efforts.
13. A comprehensive cascade approach is needed—one that maximizes resources, contextualizes strategies for different countries, and goes beyond limited methods such as television campaigns alone.
14. Building resilient youth and families is our collective responsibility, achievable only through consistent, long-term, and holistic prevention policies.



# World No Tobacco Day 2026

## World No Tobacco Day 2026:

Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction

The World Health Organization (WHO) today announced the theme for World No Tobacco Day 2026: “Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction.” The campaign will expose how the tobacco and nicotine industry continues to reinvent and repackage its products to hook a new generation, particularly children and adolescents, while evading stronger tobacco control measures worldwide.

In light of decades of progress in reducing tobacco use, the tobacco industry’s tactics remain relentless. Companies are aggressively marketing new and emerging nicotine products such as e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches, and synthetic nicotine devices – often disguised as “innovation” – to sustain addiction and recruit new users. These strategies threaten to reverse hard-won gains in tobacco control and public health.

Startling new data reveal the scale of the crisis: at least 40 million children aged 13–15 globally report current use of at least one tobacco product. Of these, 20 million smoke cigarettes and 10 million use smokeless (oral/nasal) tobacco. Also, at least 15 million adolescents aged 13–15 years are already using e-cigarettes, and in countries with data, children are on average nine times more likely than adults to vape.

“Young people are being targeted by design,” said Vinayak M Prasad, Head of the No Tobacco Unit, WHO. “Flavours, slick packaging, and deceptive marketing are being used to make highly addictive and harmful products seem fashionable. The result is a cycle of addiction threatening to undo years of tobacco control progress.”



31<sup>st</sup>  
MAY



# WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

STOP SMOKING!

Smoking gives you the pleasure of a moment but kills you in the process. Warm wishes on World No Tobacco Day!

## The 2026 campaign aims to:

raise awareness of the tobacco and nicotine industry's evolving strategies, including the use of synthetic nicotine, nicotine salts, and analogues to increase addiction potential while appearing technologically advanced;

advocate for stronger policy action to protect youth through bans on flavours, advertising and promotion (including on digital and social media), and regulation of packaging and product design that increase appeal; and

prevent addiction and reduce demand by equipping the public – especially youth – with the knowledge and tools to resist industry manipulation and access evidence-based cessation support.

Building on the momentum of the 2025 campaign, World No Tobacco Day 2026 highlights WHO's continued commitment to exposing industry tactics and advancing policies to protect young people and communities from nicotine addiction. The campaign calls on governments, partners, and civil society to strengthen regulation, close policy gaps, and safeguard future generations from the harms of tobacco and nicotine products.

Each year on 31 May, World No Tobacco Day unites governments, health organizations, civil society, and youth voices under a shared mission: to end the tobacco epidemic and secure a tobacco- and nicotine-free future for the next generation.

# Easter Devotion



**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Mathew 5:8).**

There is no life without change. Between life and death are a myriad of things that do not remain the same. Next week we remember the events of Easter. It is the biblical accounts of Jesus's resurrection and the miracle of the empty tomb that testify to its change. The events of a couple of days previously at Golgatha had been bleak and without consolation. The death of Jesus seemed to wipe away all the good and precious things his followers had experienced. The meaningless of it all felt overwhelming. Yet this was not the end.

The change expressed by the empty tomb – the resurrection of Jesus – was powerful and far-reaching. We still celebrate Easter, because it is a change affects this world. Thanks to what happened on Easter morning, darkness becomes light over and over again, fear becomes courage, despair becomes hope, and death becomes life.

Easter invites us to participate in this change towards the light, both in ourselves and in the world. Because death is defeated, reality takes on a very special hue – that of eternity.

***"But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, just as he said.'" (Matt. 28.5–6)***

***Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. (Psalm 16:10)***

*Devotion by the late Dr. Pusjpa Lall*



**Noontide prayer**

*Around the world, someone is always praying*

## **CHILDREN**

WHEREAS children are precious, vulnerable and require guidance and care and are influenced strongly by social media and peers RESOLVED that WWCTU continues to regard their education as one of the basic and most important elements of our work and FURTHER that WWCTU continues to find better and more effective ways to use Social Media, along with proven methods such as teaching in schools and church groups, to make a bigger impact on their lives and FURTHER that the use of the pledge card for children and youth be emphasised everywhere

## **CLEAN DRINKING WATER**

WHEREAS poverty often displays itself in the form of chronic hunger and thirst and is prevalent in many parts of the world RESOLVED that WWCTU acknowledge that access to water is a human right and therefore will help facilitate the accessibility of clean water in countries everywhere they can

## **ILLCIT DRUGS**

WHEREAS illicit drug abuse is a problem worldwide causing immeasurable suffering, poverty and loss of life while ruthless traffickers and mafia gather large profits from addicted victims RESOLVED that WWCTU continues its work for a sober society where total abstinence from all non prescribed drugs, including alcohol, is promoted and advocated at the government and public levels.FURTHER that we find ways to help parents, teachers and health care providers to educate young people about the dangers of drugsFURTHER that WWCTU, wherever there is representation, urge their government to take measures to eradicate drug use

## **VAPING**

WHEREAS vaping was originally promoted as a harmless way for people to stop smoking harmful cigarettes, a new generation of young people has become addicted to nicotine, mainly because of the rampant vaping black market.RESOLVED that WWCTU continues to provide information about the dangers of vaping to young people and to those who can exert influence over young people. FURTHER, that WWCTU, wherever there is representation, urge their government to design public education campaigns about the dangers of vaping, with the help of young people, to create messaging that resonates with young people, thereby discouraging vaping.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS Domestic Violence has a strong association between alcohol consumption, with alcohol playing a significant role in a substantial percentage of incidents, including homicides RESOLVED that WWCTU continues its work for a drug-free world by building awareness of the adverse impact of drugs and alcohol on families, with emphasis on Domestic and Family Violence FURTHER that WWCTU provide women, who are affected by domestic violence due to alcohol and drugs, support in the form of counselling and established/reputable referrals. FURTHER that WWCTU urge governments to fund research into the effects of drugs and alcohol and help this inform policies

## **RECOVERY**

WHEREAS recovery for those who are battling with alcohol and drug addiction is a problem for many RESOLVED that WWCTU continues its work for a drug-free world by building awareness of drugs and alcohol and how it can destroy individuals and families FURTHER that WWCTU, provide recovery programmes which are affordable or free i.e. 12 step programmes, counselling and referrals to other specialised organisations which can assist with the recovery process.

# Remember.. I AM THE Alpha and the Omega.

Nothing happens  
without ME.  
I WILL TAKE  
Care of you.

Stay strong.  
Have faith.  
Trust God.  
Keep believing.  
Never lose Hope.

*Amen*

