



White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Volume 119 • Number 4

November • December



*Wishing you a blessed Christmas
and a bright and Happy New Year!*

New Year Prayer

Dear God,

As we begin a new year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom.

We seek your blessings as we set out to achieve our goals and dreams.

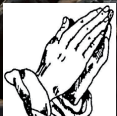
Help us to stay focused on what is truly important,
and to always remember the importance of your love.

We pray for peace and healing in our world,
and for an end to the hatred and violence that seems to be so prevalent.

We ask that you bless those who are struggling,
and give them the strength to carry on.

We give thanks for all the good things in our lives,
and ask that you continue to bless us in the coming year.

In Jesus' name, Amen



Noontide prayer

Around the world, someone is always praying

President's greeting

Dear all,

This Christmas, may we rediscover the miraculous mission of our Savior and join in this beautiful, redemptive work of proclaiming Good News and showing God's love to all people.

**God,
may we, like Jesus, have clarity in our mission to fight the war on drugs. We know what you have called us to do. Please help us to never forget our primary mission of proclaiming Good News and showing love. May our methods honor and glorify You.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.**



Margaret Østenstad
WCTU World President

We are excited about the 42nd World WCTU Convention to be held at the Downtown by Hilton Hotel in Skokie, Illinois, USA 19-23 August, 2025. Hope as many as possible plan to attend. It is also important that we all begin to pray earnestly. Prayer points include:

- **God's guidance and protection in every aspect of preparations and the Convention.**
- **Wisdom and good health for the World Officers and USA Executive as they plan.**
- **For safety and security in the USA and ease of obtaining the necessary visas to attend.**

Wonderful speakers will inspire us to continued our effort for "God, Home and Every Land."
- Professor Bertha Madras, Professor Sarah Oh, Joy Marie Butler.

Frances Willard is quoted as saying: "God grant that we may be so divinely led that history's verdict upon our work shall be: by God's blessing, they helped make the world a better place for women and happier for all mankind."

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Praying you sense the love of JESUS and His nearness to you this Christmas and always.

Blessings, love and prayers,

Margaret

The Tapestry

Life is but a weaving
Between the Lord and me
I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily
Oft times He weaveth sorrow
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside
Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why
The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned
He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.

Author unknown
Quoted by Corrie Ten Boom

The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 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."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom
his favor rests."



CHRISTMAS

Why a manger for a bed?
Why the cattle at his head?
Why a stable for a king?
It was to bring
GLORY TO GOD!

Why a lowly carpenter's son?
Why not some more worthy one?
A prince in garments regal, rare
But to declare
GLORY TO GOD!

A Kingdom---without lands?
A temple --built not with hands?
Foolishness? to confound the wise.
Weakness?---strength in disguise.

For such a king, a throne of gems,
Ermine robes, diadems,
Palaces---untold wealth?
All I can give is just myself.

Shall we in that stable bow;
Shall we pray, "Lord, show us how
To live that we may give
GLORY TO GOD!

June Ballard



I am writing this on the last day of November with Christmas just a few short weeks away. I pray that you are able to share the good news of Jesus' birth with family and friends and that 2025 will be a rewarding and fruitful year for your work for WCTU in your country.

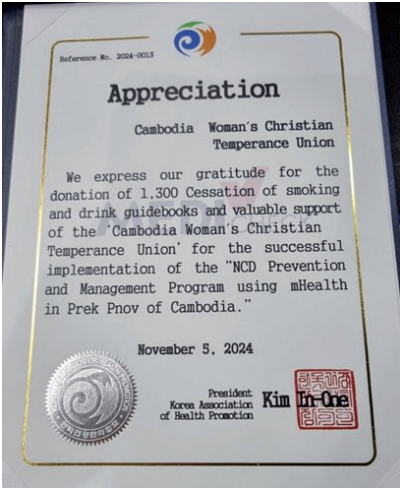
In this edition of the Bulletin I am sharing news from Australia, Cambodia and the Philippines.



Cambodia

Mihae Lee reported on two important events in Cambodia in November 2024.

- WCTU was invited to the NCD (Non-Communable Disease) project campaign and received the certificate of appreciation. It was presented to CWCTU as they donated 1,300 temperance education books. The NCD project has been launched as one of Korea's ODA projects to enhance the Cambodian public awareness of health with the slogan of "prevention is better than treatment".



- 8 members (5 Cambodians and 3 Koreans) visited the All Nations School and educated 700 students from the elementary school students to the high school students.



Australia

The State of **South Australia** recently celebrated its 138th anniversary in their “Teatottlers Tearooms”, an impressive part of their headquarters which has been developed to show their history and which is used by various groups for meetings.



They celebrated with 30 people - members and friends from churches and Christian organisations. They are excited to have seven new members, with four present at the Convention. Photo shows (l-r) Karen Edwards (Pres), Sue Langberg (Vice-Pres.) and four new members.

WCTU South Australia has been playing an important part in encouraging and supporting temperance work in **Central Australia**, the hot, dry, relatively sparsely populated area centred on Alice Springs. There is currently only one member there, Sharon Bird, who does what she can to reach the indigenous women with our total abstinence message as well as with material assistance. The picture shows Sharon with one of these women and gifts. She wrote the account below about her recent trip to outlying areas.

Judyth and I have travelled to Ali Curung, Hermannsburg, Stuarts Well (Spuds), Atitjere. We visited the road-houses at Wauchope, Barrow Creek, Gemtree. In all these places we left our WCTU FASD bandaids which were very well received. In Ali Curung WCTU provided children's activity books and stationery. Dawn Stark and Gweneth Macallen from Victoria, contributed to this. The small church there was very grateful, and we had a lovely time of prayer and worship with them. Another venture was the Harts Range Rodeo where we distributed bags with warm blankets and FASD and vaping information. The Rodeo attendees were very grateful for the blankets for the kids as it was very cold. We thank God for keeping us safe as we travelled just under 1800 kms in the last few months. The ladies in community were very encouraging and really welcomed the message of the dangers to the unborn when using alcohol.



An FASD advertisement on the back of a bus is also being considered for Alice Springs where many babies are alcohol affected.

Philippines - 95th Anniversary, September 30th 2024

The theme of the celebration was “ACTIVELY PURSUING ITS MISSION TOWARDS A CHRIST CENTERED FAMILY AND VICE-FREE SOCIETY”. The first part of the program was the Thanksgiving service with inspiring music led by the Methodist Church Choir of Malabon, followed by the tribute to the Three Pillars of the Philippine Woman's Christian Temperance Union - Don Teodoro Yangco, the benefactor and donee of the lot of PWCTUI; Atty Josefa Abiertas, founder and first president of PWCTUI; and for Frances Willard, founder of the World Woman's Christian Temperance Union who hailed from Evanston Illinois U.S.A. President Perla E. Gunzon Introduced the Guest Speaker, Rev. Ptr. Jericho Ong who delivered the Inspirational message based on 1 Cor. 3:16 - “Do you not know that you are God's Temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” which corresponds well with our advocacy on “No to Smoking, Alcoholic Drinks, and Drugs” (S.A.D.). In Ephesians 5:18, the apostle Paul said, “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit” We are also reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:22: “Abstain from every form of evil”. The first part of the program was closed with the hymn, GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS, led by our invited choir.

The second part of the program started at 2:30 pm with the singing of the National Anthem, The President delivered warm greetings emphasizing the rationale and the projects/programs under the mandate of the different departments. Mrs. MARIA BELEN ANGELITA MATIBAG, Assistant Secretary and Executive Director for Operations of the DANGEROUS DRUGS BOARD (DDB) was our esteemed GUEST SPEAKER.

The guest speaker commended PWCTUI for the role it plays in securing and disseminating the goals and thrust of the PWCTUI with regard to the ill effects of Smoking, Alcoholism and illegal drugs. After the speech, President Perla E. Gunzon together with the Board of Trustees, presented a Plaque of Appreciation to her. Service Awards were given to President Perla E. Gunzon, Dr. Ramona Ines B. Raneses, Dean Betty I. Molina, Dr. Florita V. Miranda, and Ms. Merlita Estrellas. Ms. Virginia Sadorra was given a Recognition Award for serving as NOMELEC Chairperson of PWCTUI elections for five (5) decades.



Alcohol consumption among teenagers: Parents need to set rules and not just talk about it

When it comes to talking about alcohol consumption with their teenage children, many parents don't know where to start. The official drinking age across Canada ranges from 18 to 19 years.

Although alcohol consumption among young people has fallen, more than 80 per cent of them start drinking alcohol before the age of 17, according to data from Québec.

Many countries have introduced laws to prohibit the consumption and sale of alcohol to minors to avoid the harmful effects of alcohol on their developing brains. However, these laws are not enough to reduce consumption. The role of parents could also be decisive.

So what should parents say, and do, to help?

As researchers in psychology and criminology, we carried out a study based on a survey of 1,154 Belgian teenagers, published in 2024. We examined their perceptions of parental monitoring, laws and their acceptability, and their alcohol consumption. Parents were not consulted.

In Belgium, young people can drink certain types of alcohol, such as beer and wine, starting at age 16. This minimum age is one of the lowest in the western world.

The importance of parental monitoring during adolescence

The scientific literature clearly shows that parental monitoring helps to reduce alcohol consumption by adolescents.





This involves parental solicitation, i.e. asking questions to find out how youth spend their free time and with whom they associate. Parental monitoring also includes the rules that parents set for their children, both in general and with regard to alcohol consumption.

Rules specific to alcohol are not limited to prohibiting consumption. For example, some young people are allowed to drink with their families on weekends, while others are also allowed to drink with their friends or during the week. In terms of general rules, some teenagers must obtain permission to go out in the evening during the week and inform their parents of where they are going and who they are meeting.

Better to act than to talk

To reduce alcohol consumption among young people, it is better to rely on parental rules rather than daily discussions.

Our study shows that parental solicitation is not an effective way of preventing alcohol consumption. These results support several other studies showing that communication between parents and their children is not enough to prevent abuse. For example, some parents simply ask their youngsters about their activities and friendships so that they are aware of their outings, without setting any rules or expectations regarding their alcohol consumption.

Although it is vital to take action and establish clear rules about alcohol consumption, it is also worthwhile for parents to use a democratic parenting style. They should explain why they are not allowing their child to drink alcohol under the legal drinking age, as well as the reasons behind the rules established in their family. Parents could stress the importance of respecting the law, their personal values or explain the negative impact of alcohol consumption on brain development. The discussion should be open.

42. WORLD WCTU CONVENTION

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

VENUE: Downtown by Hilton Hotel, Stokie, Chicago, Il. USA
THEME: **“Fulfilling our Mission”** Song: **“You Raise Me Up”**
TIME: 19-23 August, 2025

Arrival 19 August: Lunch 12:00; Registration 14:00;
Official Board meeting 16.00 and rehearsal with flags
Each morning - 08:30 Devotional thought for the day
12:00-1400 Lunch (after noontide prayer)
17:30 Dinner



19:00 World Convention Opening:

Procession National Flags: Music: **“Land of hope and glory”**

Announcer: 2 Vice President presiding – Jung Joo Kim (Kor)

Welcome: Merry Lee Powell, National WCTU President, USA Pledge of Allegiance,
National anthem “Star Spangled Banner”

Response: Marjut Ropo-Lyytikainen, National WCTU President, Finland

CRUSADE PSALM 146:

Recording Secretary: Kathleen Johnson (USA) and 4 V.P. Sheela Lall (India)

Crusade Hymn “Give To The Winds” Words on Screen

Greetings by dignitaries

Music: *Great is thy faithfulness*

Keynote address: Prof. Bertha K. Madras (USA)

“Prevention: the shield against eroding drug policies”

“Amazing Grace”:

1.USA, 2.Korea, 3.Norway and 4.Vanuatu 5, 6 “Hallelujah” and “Amen”

World President’s speech, Margaret Østenstad

“Let your light shine to preserve the past and lighten the future”

Music: Aaronic Benediction Pastor Irja Eskerlinen 1 V.P. (FIN)

Reception hosted by NWCTU

Wednesday morning 20 August

08:30 Devotional thought for the day - PHILIPPINES

09:00 Roll Call, Minutes – Constitution, Code of Ethics

09:45 **State of the Organization Address:**

Anne Bergen, World Organization Secretary (Aus)

10:00 Country Report - Australia

10:15 Break

10:30 Country Reports

11:00 Fieldwork Report: Africa and Oceania – Joy Butler (NZ)

Fieldwork Report: Asia – Brenda Suh (NZ/Kor)

Wednesday afternoon

- 14:00 Memorial Service
- 14:30 Speaker: Joy Marie Butler, **“End the violence now!”**
- 15:30 Break
- 16:00 Fieldwork Report: Korean Missionaries, Dr. Jung Joo Kim (Kor)

Wednesday evening:

- 19:00 Speaker: Professor Sarah Oh:
FASD “The Most Preventable Birth Defect in the World.”
- 20:00 Children’s Department Report: Vandna Charan (India)
Youth Department Report: Hannah Oh (KOR) and Emy de Barrientos (GUA)

Thursday morning: 21 August

- 08:30 Devotional thought for the day: KOREA
- 09:00 Minutes
- 09:15 World Department Directors v/Mentor Dr. Sheela Lall (India)
*Home Protection Department –Mari Laine (Finland)
*Social Department – Rhona Theodor (Aus)
*Education Department – Sarah Oh (Korea)
*Christian Outreach Department – Bhavana Arthur (India)
- 10:15 Break:
- 10:30 Country Reports



Thursday afternoon

- 14:00 **Host country: Tour of NWCTU Evanston Campus**
“Rest Cottage” - Frances Willard’s beloved home

Thursday evening

- Host country Report - USA and
- 150 Years of “Organized Mother’s Love”**
- Written by Kathleen E. Johnson
- Presented by Dr. Joni Johnson Gray and Kathleen E. Johnson
- REFLECTIONS – WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

Friday morning, 22 August

- 08.30 Devotional thought for the day - INDIA
- 09:00 Minutes
- 09:30 Business session: VOTE RESOLUTIONS SPECIAL AWARDS ELECTION
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Country Reports

Friday afternoon

- 14:00 Installation Service for World Officers and World, Department Directors
- Break
- 16:00 Post Convention Official Board meeting
- 17:30 World Convention Banquet

Friday evening

- 19:30 Prayer and praise meeting Greetings and goodbyes, reflections

Saturday, 23 August CONVENTION: Closing remarks – Breakfast and departures

O Holy Night

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

World Woman's Christian Temperance Union

42 World Convention – 19-23 August 2025

Venue: DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago North Shore Conference Center, Skokie, Illinois. USA.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please PRINT/TYPE your name, complete mailing address (Street/Suburb/City/Country/Postcode), email address and phone number (country code/area code)

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____ / Phone _____

CONVENTION COSTS

Single room: Package price for overseas visitors for a single room is available for \$1.400,- for 4 nights and all meals during Convention. All amounts inclusive of taxes and service charges.

Double room: Package price for a shared room (2 people) with two beds for 4 nights and all meals during Convention for \$1.200,- per person. All amounts inclusive of taxes and service charges.

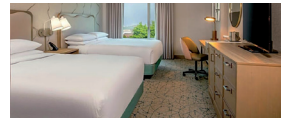
Triple room: Package price for a shared room (3 people, 2 Queen beds) for 4 nights and all meals during Convention for \$1.100,- per person. All amounts inclusive of taxes and service charges.

Quadruple room: Package price for a shared room (4 people, 2 Queen beds) for 4 nights and all meals during Convention for \$1.000,- per person. All amounts inclusive of taxes and service charges.

Non-refundable deposit of \$200 (single)+\$1200, \$150 (double)+\$1050, \$120 (triple)+\$980 or \$100 (quadruple)+\$900 by 15 April, 2025. **BALANCE DUE by 18 July, 2025.** Arrangements can be made to send your money to your National officer who will forward the payments together to World account (see below*). **REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE SENT IMMEDIATELY SO THAT A ROOM CAN BE RESERVED FOR YOU.**

PLEASE MARK: I want

- Single room
- Double room shared with _____
- Triple room shared with _____
- Quadruple room shared with _____
- Dietary requirements (please give details) _____
- I need ___ night before/ ___ after Convention _____



Complete and either save and email, or print and post this form to:

Margaret Ostenstad Email: margaretostenstad45@gmail.com Telephone: *(47) 47399402

Address: Rygjehaugvegen 13, 4265 Haavik Terrasse, Karmøy. NORWAY

*PAYMENT DETAILS

* BANK DETAILS FOR INTERNATIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES (OUTSIDE US):

IBAN NR: NO03 3361 1549 526

SWIFT CODE: DNBANOKK

Bank Name: DNB Bank ASA,

Postboks 1172, Sentrum, 0107 OSLO

Account Name: Det Hvite Bånd Haugesund Int.



DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago North Shore Conference Center, Skokie, Illinois. USA.
Approximately 30 minutes from O'Hare airport by uber or taxi.