

TOPIC PAPER 4 – 2010: Persecuted Christians & Violence against Women

At our 38th Convention in May Resolutions were made concerning alcohol and tobacco. Our national leaders are being made more and more aware of the cost to the community of alcohol consumption and the “*National Health and Medical Research Council – Alcohol Guidelines*” released 2009 are a basis for much reform. These Guidelines set out information that has never come from a Government agency before. They state quite succinctly that pregnant women should not drink alcohol and endorse that young people may suffer from irreparable brain damage if alcohol is introduced at an early age. The harm caused by tobacco and cigarettes is being well covered. Other resolutions concerning Internet Addiction, Human Trafficking and Clean Drinking Water will be considered in future topic papers.

However, concerning Persecuted Christians, it is estimated that more than 200 million in over 60 countries are being denied their basic human rights because of their Christian faith, many losing their lives. We are all encouraged to pray for these believers.

Violence against women is one of the most widespread human rights’ abuses. Every day, thousands of women and girls are abused and murdered by their families, raped in armed conflicts and attacked for defending women's rights. These are women like ourselves who need support whenever we are able particularly by signing petitions from time to time. **(for women experiencing violence check the [amnesty international website](#)).**

The suffering caused by the vast floods in Pakistan is very real, but many also suffer for their faith. we are asked to pray that the Lord will use this disaster to bring people to a knowledge of Himself.

Farmers and rural people throughout our own country are suffering hard times because of drought and now in many places, flooding rains. These rains have brought new life to many farms in the long run but, in the short term, much patience and hard work is needed to clear homes of mud and debris left by the rising waters. There may well be appeals in local areas for help for these folk – if you are able to contribute please do so in the name of WCTU.

Because of a "blasphemy law" Christians and non-Muslims are vulnerable to false accusations. Pray that governments will see the need to make this law less open to abuse.

The Apostle Paul knew all about suffering for his faith and could write of this to the Christians in Rome (Romans 8:18); in Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:22-28); and to his "beloved son," Timothy (2 Timothy 1:8-12)

Yours in White Ribbon Bonds,

Mavis Gerrish

Director of Education and Research.