

White Ribbon Signal

Nov, Dec 2007 Jan 2008
Volume 112 No. 4

National WCTU Mission Statement -

"To promote a drug-free lifestyle and Christian values in the home and community"

JUST A PUFF OF SMOKE?

In 2005, 21805 students aged between 12 and 17 were surveyed about their use of alcohol, tobacco, cannabis and other illegal substances. The most common substance used was again alcohol with tobacco coming second.

The proportion of students who smoked increased on the previous survey - An increase of 2% among 12 year olds rising to 18% among the 17 year olds. Students who had smoked on 3 or more days preceding the survey were defined as committed smokers and this group had increased by a low 1% among 12 year olds with a 12% rise in the 17 year group. Current smokers smoked an average of 23 cigarettes a week. Even though, in all States and territories, 18 is the legal age for purchasing cigarettes, 23% had bought their own and friends had supplied 41%.

What is the current trend? The proportion of secondary students in Australia involved with smoking 2005 was substantially lower than it was in 1999 and 2002. One in three students had tried smoking in 2005 compared with nearly one in two students in previous surveys.

The decrease coincides with the period of increased funding for tobacco control and suggests that promoting anti-smoking messages through strategies that target the whole population, can be effective at reducing smoking among Australian adolescents.

Meanwhile the University of Massachusetts Medical School has released a study which reported that 25% of young smokers get addicted to nicotine **within one month and those who smoke just a few cigarettes can suffer withdrawal symptoms when they don't get their nicotine fix.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that a billion people worldwide could die from tobacco-related illnesses during this century. The Head of WHO'S Tobacco Free Initiative, Mr Douglas Bettcher, said that tobacco "kills 5.4 million people per year and half of those deaths are in developing countries. That's like **one jumbo jet crashing every hour.**

He went on to say that rising smoking rates in the developing world could lead to unprecedented death rates. "It's a completely preventable epidemic", said Mr Bettcher, "by 2050 we could save 200 million lives if all countries work on increasing government taxes on tobacco, bans and the introduction of smoke free workplaces"

Australia has achieved much with consistent anti-smoking campaigns over about 30 years but to walk through any of our cities, especially near large office buildings at particular times, you do have cause to wonder if much has changed. The introduction of nicobate in all its forms has obviously helped many to stop smoking. The problem is to stop people starting. A financial argument must surely be helpful to some with the current cost of cigarettes at an all time high.

Research shows that even with all the changes in recent years, we must keep alert or retrograde reforms can happen.

(Note- the new World WCTU Project for 2008 is **Tobacco** and one of the Resolutions approved by the recent World Convention recognised that tobacco is the cause of problems and enormous health costs urging all governments to sign the "Framework Convention on Tobacco Control" (This is one area where Australia has made many reforms - one of the world leaders with the smoking bans that have been introduced)



**Don't be
a
tossler**

Following new restrictions, applying to buildings, smokers are urged to carry ash trays and not send butts down the drains polluting the waterways.

Congratulations

A feature of World Conventions for many years has been the Contests for children, youth and adults. This year there was a Children's Colour-in Competition in which several Australian children won prizes or Certificates and all entries in the Youth section entries were submitted on DVD. The winner of the Youth Bible Memory Contest was from the Philippines with the US Contestant second.



**Miss Abhineeta
Lall of India**

World Youth Speech Contest Winner

Miss Lall tackled the topic "in our world today, alcohol has become the opiate of the people" with research and creativity submitting an excellent speech recorded on DVD. Her speech began-

"I am responsible for- killing the most number of people; breaking the most number of relationships, damaging the most number of households; mutilating the most number of children, stirring poison in the most number of marital relationships, contriving broken promises; causing the most number of prudent to act recklessly. I am responsible for sowing the seeds of anger and hatred in countless hearts and causing streams of tears to turn into floods of anguish. If you still haven't guessed it-I am alcohol- the opiate of the people."

Mrs Anne Bergen of Victoria was 2nd place in the Presentation "Your life -your Responsibility"

Mrs Jan Shattock of Victoria, 2nd Place in the Bible Story Tellers' Section

and **Mrs Glenda Amos of Tasmania** won first prize in a new section for handcraft with her creative cloth activity book for young children based on the life of Frances Willard.

World Convention News in Brief

The World Officers elected for a further term were-

Miss Sarah Ward President

Mrs Margaret Ostenstad - Organization Sec.

Mrs Anne Bergen - Recording Secretary

Vice Presidents, - Dr Jung Joo Kim, Mrs Sheela Lall, and Mrs Dawn Giddings together with new officers- 4th Vice President Mrs Priscilla Joseph of South Africa and Treasurer Mrs Dorothy Russell of USA

Mrs Glenda Amos, now of NSW, heads the Children's Department and Mrs Joy Butler will be Field Worker for Africa.

The term "superintendent" has been phased out and replaced with "Director" and departments have been consolidated.

Miss Sarah Ward as World President will also act as the Education Director and National Offices will receive packages of material several times a year

Mrs Margaret Ostenstad, Organization Secretary, (a new term instead of Corresponding Secretary) will become the Editor of the World Bulletin.

Resolutions on Tobacco, FAS, Youth Binge Drinking, Child Labour, World Peace and Gambling were carried unanimously. (These will be circulated to all States).

Workshops covering such topics as Legal and Illegal Drugs, FAS, "Resilience in Children", Media Skills, "Education" and "Building the Future" were held.

Dr Samuele Bacciocchi, author of "Wine in the Bible" was the keynote speaker and copies of his book and DVD were available for purchase.

A day trip to Evanston, Illinois, the home of Frances Willard and the Methodist Churches she was connected with, was a highlight of the Convention. Also a worship service in Christ Church Cathedral Indianapolis and a reception in the Indiana Capitol where the meal was superb!

Musical contributions by Korean young people, a Christian children's choir, solos by Margaret Ostenstad, a talent program provided by delegates from many countries, a Convention Choir, and many opportunities for hymn singing added to the program.

Devotions and times of worship were held on many occasions giving witness to the fact that WCTU is definitely a Christian organization.

The Invitation to hold the next World Convention in

Norway in 2010

was accepted

Check the internet -

While child labour was one of the concerns of World Convention, the film 'Amazing Grace' portraying the work of William Wilberforce in the passing of the *Slavery Abolition Act* 200 years ago has been shown in many theatres. This film is well worth seeing and will soon be available on DVD. The company which behind the production has launched a campaign to abolish modern slavery see the website -

<www.theamazingchange.com>

Internet safety for Families

Recently the Federal Government released an internet safety website, <NetAlert.gov.au> (Phone 1800 880 176) through which families can obtain free internet filters and net safety advice.

This hotline is available 7 days a week from 8am to 10 pm with staff trained to answer all questions. Two brands of filter are on offer which can be downloaded directly from the NetAlert website or sent in the mail.

NetAlert recommends children be encouraged to visit -

<www.kidshelp.com.au>

<www.bullyingnoway.com.au>

for general safety advice.

Mobile Phones - with advances in technology you can access the internet with incredible opportunities for information and entertainment. However, there are also potential risks to children including accessing adult content such as pornography and 'stranger danger' contact in chat rooms. Check it out on <www.acma.gov.au/mobilesforkids>

Thanks to "Challenge" The Good News Paper for the above article.

The Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code finally has a web site <www.abac.org.au> giving the public access to the specific code to which formal alcohol advertising in Australia is subject. You may download a copy of the code and how to lodge a complaint.

Encourage friends and family to use the internet as a tool for education, research and protest.



Alcohol and Pregnancy

The Alcohol and Pregnancy Project at Perth's Telethon Institute for Child Health Research has launched a range of resources to health workers to help them deal with the issue of alcohol in pregnancy. "The most important message is that no alcohol is the safest choice" says Professor Carol Bower.

Download 'Make a Difference Packs' from www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/alcoholandpregnancy particularly a wallet card which can be made available to young women.

The NHMRC Draft Guidelines released last week also take the same stance - there is no proven safe level of alcohol for pregnant women.

This and That -

- Alcohol-based mouth washes have been removed from supermarkets and pharmacies in Alice Springs after a recent surge in sales as a cheap drink containing 20% alcohol
- *From 22% - 35% of drivers killed in Australia were found to have detectable levels of drugs other than alcohol*
- From August 2007 Alice Springs has been declared a dry zone and anyone caught drinking in public faces a fine of \$500
- *A new survey has found one in eight adults are at risk of permanent alcohol-related brain damage*
- All parties in the coming Federal elections have a drug policy - check them out
- *Congratulations to the Geelong Advertiser, Victoria, for winning the 2007 National Drug and Alcohol Award for excellence in Media reporting of alcohol use*



"O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer's praise" a well known hymn and soon many will be singing "Hark the herald angels sing glory to the new born king.

Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled." Just two of about 9,000 hymns written by Charles Wesley.

During World Convention we visited the Methodist Churches in Evanston with links to Frances Willard. She probably sang these hymns on many occasions. Charles Wesley was a most prolific hymn writer recognized by all denominations. 18th December 2007 is the 300th anniversary of his birth and many celebrations will be held throughout the world.

World Convention - Colourful Patchwork on Display. Imagine, if you will, a giant quilt with -

The host country USA providing the background of the red, white and blue with the nationalistic stars and stripes peeping through now and again.

World officers and leaders from various parts of the world, added splashes of various solid colours.

30 odd different countries represented added green shoots of new growth and delegates brought a kaleidoscope of colour, a virtual rainbow in the form of handshakes and hugs of enthusiasm, friendliness and support.

Like a new dawn, the program was constantly changing from yellow to bright pink. Maybe some black spots or grey clouds, but these were tiny and not often repeated.

Weaving through it all was a gold cord of worship and praise and the silver thread of personal commitment

It was all held together by a the huge white ribbon as it has been since 1883 - the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

World President's Address

(parts of it anyway)



Miss Sarah Ward opened her Presidential Address with information about the very beginnings of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in the USA, beginning on December 14

1873 when Dr Dio Lewis, a physician from Boston delivered a temperance lecture at a Sunday evening union church service in Fredonia, New York.following prayer meetings and money raising on Monday December 21 approximately 100 women organized themselves into the first group to call themselves the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.....

Sarah later stated "There are people in need of physical assistance in every community....**select a need and make a difference with what members of your Union can offer. Do it in the name of the WCTU.**"

"Further - for this new three year period we want to add a concerted effort to reduce tobacco use and consequently save lives. Tobacco has become the leading agent of death around the world. There are many effective ways to attack this problem: increase the tobacco tax, ban tobacco advertising, establish smoke-free public places, help smokers quit, educate about the harmful effects of tobacco use and set an example as a non-smoker

We are co-operating with Tobacco-free Kids international division ..to have materials translated into more languages. From time to time we will alert you to special programs. Check out their website <<http://tobaccofreecenter.org>>."

Miss Ward continued with reference to the Convention theme "United in Christian love" and recommended the book entitled "You were made for Love" by Philip Carlson with a few quotes from it - "Love points us to the things that matter to God... We can live in such a way that God uses us to leave our sphere of influence better because we were there. And if we do, we'll find ourselves changed in the process".

Concluding "My prayer is that each of us will become a greater channel of God's love."

PATRITTI
NON ALCOHOLIC NATURAL
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Varieties available:

- Dark Grape Juice
- Golden Muscatel Grape Juice
- White Grape Juice
- Apple Juice
- Canada Muscat Grape Juice
- Shiraz Grape Juice

For information concerning availability and distribution outlets throughout Australia, contact the manufacturers:

G Patritti & Co Pty Ltd
13-23 Clacton Rd, Dover Gardens SA 5048
Ph. 08 8296 8261 Fax. 08 8296 5088
Email. wines@patritti.com.au

They came



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Bus Travel for all



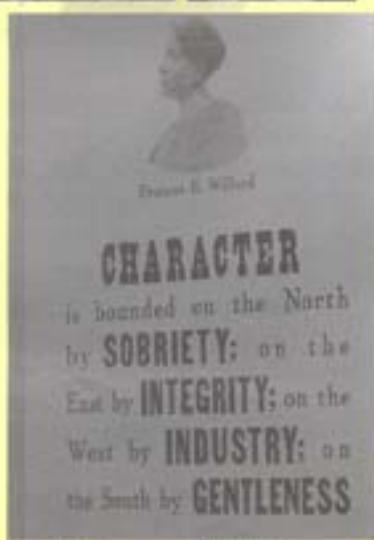
Friends old and new



Official Publication of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Australia. National Office - 1st Floor, 15 Collins Street Melbourne 3000



These boys from 'Amazin' Praisin'



Found in Frances Willard's House cum museum



Talent Night was popular

Seen at Convention

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All Welcome -

New Members *please complete this slip and forward to your State Office with membership annual fee of \$10 (includes 'White Ribbon Signal')*

Membership PROMISE -

"I hereby solemnly promise, with the help of God, to abstain from **all** intoxicating liquors, and all other harmful drugs, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of, and traffic in, the same".

Signed.....

My Name is

.....

Of

.....

Postcode



Together- delegates outside Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis following worship. Lighted trees in the background.



The "ANZACS" - Delegates and Associates from Australia and New Zealand (absent J Shattock)