

# WHITE RIBBON SIGNAL



Woman's Christian Temperance Union Vol 128 - No 4 February, March, April 2023

## PRAYER MATTERS

*Philippians 4:4-7 says Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

*5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition,*



*with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Please join us - we meet via zoom on the first Tuesday of each month at 9.00am, to pray. Just send your email to [joymariebutler@gmail.com](mailto:joymariebutler@gmail.com)*

*Please pray for:*

- *A Vaping Brochure that Anne Bergen, Victoria President, is preparing*
- *The Taskforce for a Drug Free Australia who are addressing the legalisation of cannabis in Australia*
- *Alice Springs and alcohol and how WCTU can make a difference*
- *Tanja Curcic - our new Marketing/Communications person for WCTU Australia Ltd*
- *Victoria WCTU meeting - wisdom and direction for 2023*



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Welcome to 2023. The years fly by and society moves and changes. Issues that were important before, disappear and others become more apparent. Some things get left undone and some just go 'under the carpet' but through it all - the fact remains - God is there and God loves us. Let that be our constant reassurance as we face the future.*

*The Taskforce for Drug Prevention, made up of five excellent anti-drug organisations in Australia and which WCTU is a part of, are working together to make the government aware of the catastrophic dangers of cannabis and vaping. These two issues are serious in our nation and many people are unaware of the horrific results of using same. If you subscribe to our monthly newsletter, Connector, you will be able to see the terrible results in places where cannabis has been legalised.*

*Alice Springs is in the media and on our agenda in Australia and WCTU will soon have another representative there and we are praying that we can be an influence in the centre of Australia. Our desire and task is to speak about, share information and tell the people in that town, that God loves them and has a much higher purpose for them - far and away beyond the consumption of alcohol.*

*We look forward to a great year ahead as we all work together to make a difference in Australia and help it to be a drug-free nation with healthy and happy people - young and old.*

*JOY*

*President, WCTU Australia Ltd*

**BECOME A WCTU MEMBER**

**JOIN US TODAY!**

**MEMBERSHIP PROMISE**

*With God's help, I will advocate and follow a drug-free lifestyle by abstaining from all alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.*

**Visit: [WWW.WCTU.ORG.AU](http://WWW.WCTU.ORG.AU)**

# UNCORKED

The Hidden Hazards of Alcohol

## Uncorked - The Hidden Hazards of Alcohol by Doctors John Ashton and Ronald S Laura

Published by Signs Publishing Company, 2004 - Reported by Joy Butler

This book is full of all the information you will ever need to answer all your and others questions about alcohol and what it is, does and means for those who consume it. I recommend that you get a copy. **Ask us how to do this.**

The effects of alcohol on women, on the babies they produce and the effects on children of alcoholics is clearly outlined and is a subject we should continue to emphasize. FASD is a major problem worldwide and millions of children are born every day, damaged. This damage is permanent and is irreversible and makes life very difficult for the child affected, for the families they live with and for society.

In the chapter entitled 'Pregnant Women Never Drink Alone' here are a few sentences: "Depending on the stage of development, foetal exposure to alcohol can cause permanent damage to the child. Even more frightening is the evidence

suggesting that alcohol in the bloodstream has the potential to damage the unfertilised eggs in women: In the 1700s there was a growing awareness among medical researchers that alcohol drinking by pregnant women could cause severe damage to the foetus.....Despite alarming research reports, the possibility of alcohol teratogenesis (deformation of the foetus) was generally denied or largely ignored until the report of K L Jones and coworkers appeared in the Lancet on June 9, 1973..... Since the publication of this seminal paper, a vast amount of literature has corroborated the serious effects of alcohol on the unborn."

"By 1981, statistics had established FAS as a leading known cause of intellectual impairment. Within five years, however, Professors E L Abel and R J Sokol, after reviewing 19 epidemiological studies worldwide involving 164 FAS cases, concluded that the evidence is sufficient to identify FAS as the leading cause of intellectual impairment in Western culture."

".....the potential for alcohol during pregnancy to harm the normal sexual development of a child should not be ignored."

"Young drinking males are not immune from fathering deformed offspring either.....alcohol in the blood can serve to poison the sperm of prospective fathers.....paternal exposure to alcohol had been found to affect the growth and development of the baby."

"The notion of a duty of care to the unborn before and certainly from conception must be fostered in our community."

## NEW FACES AT WCTU



**WCTU Australia welcomes Tanja Curcic, our new Marketing/Communications leader.**

**WCTU has always been innovative and ready to address the leading concerns of the day, with**

**modern methods and innovative ways of reaching the masses. Tanja comes to us with expertise in how to do this and we are excited about the possibilities for Australia. This newsletter you are reading will be in a new format. Watch for more innovations and changes as we move ahead, with God leading us. Thank you Tanja for joining us.**



**Welcome to Minyuen Ho Coltheart - our new accountant/bookkeeper for WCTU Australia.**

**Min comes with expertise and experience and is excited about her new role. She is a qualified accountant and is a mother with two small children but**

**with time to devote to our great cause. Min has previously worked in Singapore, London and the USA. She is now living in Australia with her family and ready to help us. We are delighted to have this younger woman join our team.**



## Drug Free Australia Statement

Just released as at 16/2/2023

*It is instructive to note that our position on cannabis has now changed, as of 2020, with the 2019-2022 publication of immense population studies where US States that have legalised the medical use of cannabis as well as others that have legalised its recreational use have significantly steeper increases in cancers, where cannabis is now demonstrated to be likely causal in more than twice as many cancers as smoked tobacco. Clearly no responsible medico will prescribe tobacco for any condition because of its carcinogenic nature, and with these latest findings DFA will no longer support clinical trials of any cannabinoid, including Cannabidiol (CBD), which is shown in these studies to be as implicated as other cannabinoids (12 cancers caused by CBD as compared to 14 for tobacco). Yet other very recent studies have shown that cannabis is causal in 89 of 95 birth defects tracked by the European Medicines Agency. This has been shown to be due to the genotoxic and mutagenic nature of cannabis, where cannabis literally shatters chromosomes in cell nuclei, with faulty DNA repair mechanisms leaving wrongly coded DNA – this is the cause of cancers and congenital deformities which will continue to be passed down to future generations. The faulty genetic makeup of both a cannabis using father and mother are implicated. It is on the grounds of the current science that DFA no longer supports medical cannabis trials.*



**Note - WCTU Australia Ltd works closely with Drug Free Australia and is part of the Taskforce for a Drug Free Australia. We advocate NO smoking, alcohol or drugs. They are the SAD poisons. Gary Christian is the Secretary and Specialist Researcher. See [www.drugfreeaustralia.org.au](http://www.drugfreeaustralia.org.au) for more details and information.**



## HOW DO I KEEP MY CHILD DRUG-FREE?

- Open communication with your children is key to keeping them drug free. It is important to start talking with your children early and to continue emphasising strong values throughout their teenage years.
- Getting your kids involved in some activity which will let them mix with a different group of peers will be a positive remedy. You have to make them feel good about themselves. Try to find ways so that your kids will get into some positive, productive activity.
- Be interested in who their friends are! Keep an eye on your children's behaviour and their circle of friends. Invite their friends over and make an effort to meet their parents.

## BATTLE AGAINST OUR MINDS - TRUTH, HEALTH AND FREEDOM

*We really are in a battle for truth, freedom and health in the world right now - the Cannabis discussions rage everywhere and many countries have legalised or want it legalised, including Australia.*

*The concern about Vaping is enormous and children are dying. People are turning back to smoking nicotine as a result. Alcohol continues to ruin lives and destroy families. We need to be vigilant, keep our eyes on Jesus and use credible research to speak up for our children, for our nation and the world. God help us is our ongoing prayer.*

**If you don't belong to WCTU JOIN TODAY!**

**[www.wctu.org.au](http://www.wctu.org.au)**



**BUY DELICIOUS NON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ON-LINE [WWW.ALCOFREE.COM](http://WWW.ALCOFREE.COM)**



# History Snippets - No. 1

## Our Godly Heritage

This is the title of a small book published in London by the World WCTU soon after 1956. Written by Dorothy Staunton, it is a Historical Review of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union 1883-1956. It has an outline and overview of every world convention during that time. World Conventions are held triennially and the reports from each of those conventions during that time are inspirational and amazing.

Here are some excerpts: "It was on November 18, 1874 that the USA Woman's National Christian Temperance Union was formally organised at Cleveland, Ohio. Women from eighteen states were gathered there. One hundred and thirty-five (135) were registered as accredited delegates. Frances Willard became the first Corresponding Secretary.

"There had been various temperance campaigns and gatherings of women praying before this date. Individual strong women such as Elizabeth Fry, Dorothea Dix, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Florence Nightingale, amongst others, had broken through the conventional sheltering barriers set around gentle cultured women, and swept the world. They had demonstrated a great surge of service of forgetfulness, of self and comfort. Without political status, these women did and dared more than the modern world can comprehend and did it, often with the approbation of their men-folk, and without the loss of their feminine characteristics. Not copying men's methods as the only ways, they proved they were complementary to them, making together a more perfect whole.

"By 1876 the idea of an International Women's Temperance Convention had taken hold of the imagination of some Temperance women and soon the British Temperance women and others from Japan, Canada and nearly all the States met and made tentative plans for an international organisation. This became a reality in 1884 when Mrs Margaret Bright Lucas, 3rd president of the British Women's Temperance Association was appointed World President of the World WCTU.



"In that same year 1884, Mrs Mary Clement Leavitt arranged to visit the Hawaiian islands and here was the open door to spread the message further. Mrs Leavitt was the first WCTU missionary and she made a journey around the world. With only \$35 in her purse, but in her heart the conviction that she was called to this service and that God would provide for her, she set out and her faith was justified. For 6 years and 7 months she travelled

and visited Hawaii, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Siam, Straights Settlements, Burma, India, Ceylon, Mauritius, Madagascar, Africa, Great Britain, North Africa, West Africa, Madeira, Spain, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Finland, Italy, Greece, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Asiatic Turkey, then to England and home to USA."

Thus the great World WCTU began and has never stopped. Our heritage is sensational, and our future is sure with God. In future editions of WRS I will give more historical reports from this inspiring book.

by Joy Butler

## Directory

White Ribbon Signal is published four times a year - in March, June, September and December.

Members are welcome to submit material to the editor, to be published at the editor's discretion. Letters to the editor are also welcome.

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