

HOME PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Rhona Theodore – World Director

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,

At the recent WWCTU Conference in August I was appointed Home Protection Department Director. I would like to share with you a brief introduction about me. I was born in South India and educated in the beautiful Nilagiri Hills. I am married to Austin and have two sons, Ashok and Tony, and two granddaughters, Letticia and Pascal. We migrated to Australia in 1975 and, while slightly homesick, very quickly made Australia 'home.'

About 21 years ago a friend in WCTU invited me to a Drug Education presentation in a school. After retirement in 2006, I joined WCTU and became part of the Drug Ed team, visiting schools and assisting as she presented to students the effects of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and telling that students that they do have a choice. In 2013, I became Australia's National Corresponding Secretary, which has raised my awareness of the needs in our community.

HOME PROTECTION:

The purpose of the Home Protection Department is to strengthen Christian family values, to encourage family members to help toddlers and pre-schoolers to develop a lifetime commitment to total abstinence through the WCTU program, and to promote non-alcoholic drinks for entertaining.

A Little White Ribboner, the youngest member of the WCTU family, is a child from birth to six years of age whose parents (or grandparents) on behalf of the child promise to teach the child about the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and encourage the child to always abstain. This is the promise that is used in some countries for the adult to sign: "I promise, with God's help, not to serve (and to teach this child to abstain) from alcohol, tobacco, and/or all other drugs harmful to the body, mind and spirit."

I looked back over the last six years and what the Home Protection Department had been focusing on and would hope to continue to have the goal for each Union to enrol at least 1 Little White Ribboner.

How we do this?

- Spend time in prayer asking the Lord to lead and sustain us as we begin to contact parents/grandparents.
- Be confident in His plan:

This is taken from the 2016 kit.

"Parents need to be contacted and have the pledge and service explained to them. When they are in agreement, choose a time to have a special enrolment service. You may take ideas and make up your own program but be sure there is a pledge or commitment asked for from the parents/grandparents."

Days before the service the parent(s) could be asked if they would like to read a scripture that they feel God has given them specifically for that child. (Or you might like to select a few verses and have them choose). Be sure to have the white ribbon of appropriate length ready to tie on the child's wrist.

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Theme: Children are precious to the Lord.

Songs: "Jesus Loves Me" - "Precious Jewels"

Scriptures: "You are fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13-16)

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb" (Jeremiah 1:5)

[Optional: Bible Story with temperance message: Tell the story in Daniel 1 or other appropriate story.]

Invite Parent(s) to come forward with the child or children.

[Words to Parents:] "Just as Jesus was given the blessing as early as a new baby, so our children need to receive the blessing from us. Along with words of blessing, children also need a protected environment that is kept safe by trustworthy adults. "As a twig is bent, so grows the tree". Just as a small plant must be protected from being bent or broken, so the minds and hearts of young children need to be protected from negative influences that will damage their fragile sense of identity as they grow. (The Blessing Handbook by Terry R. Bone)

[Have the parent(s) recite the LWR Promise:]

"I promise, with God's help, not to serve this child alcohol, tobacco and/or all other harmful drugs."

The WCTU President may pray a prayer of blessing over the child.

Either the president or LWR Director ties a white ribbon on the child's wrist.

Another suggestion is to give the child a stuffed "white" lamb. The parent signs a Little White Ribboner Enrolment card. (Canada has created an attractive card that can be kept for a keepsake)

Snack Time: prepare a nutritious snack or lunch and healthy drink. Start a discussion with the mums about making nutritious lunches and snacks for the children/family and share ideas. As always, be prepared with material for Mums to take home.

Send Mum home with a gift bag. (Suggestions to include: FAS material, LWR Enrolment Record card, WCTU membership card, a healthy drink recipe and a special gift just for Mum, *and* a few simple prayers they can pray over their child/ren), laminated if possible.

Heavenly Father, help us to hold strong to the promises we have made for our child.

Father, guide our child in the way he/she would grow.

The Lord's prayer

Always ensure that whatever you decide to use will help promote the WCTU work in your local area.

Ask the parents if they would like their friends who have similar age children to be part of the service and prepare as needed.

Other program outlines for the White Ribbon Service are presented in the 2015 Home Protection Kit.

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A pressing need in this time is to alert young women about the dangers of drinking while pregnant. See the current EDUCATION DEPARTMENT material on this important subject.

May our goal for Home Protection in the next three years be that more women will become aware of the need for taking care of their lives. We could aim at secondary school students and university students (through parents/grandparents)

Make a list of those who you intend to invite and pray for each one. Add names as you pray.

Pray for courage.

Invite your friends to a get-together.

Research material – relevant to your area - I can suggest that you visit WCTU Australia website www.wctu.com.au or you may have your own links and material from previous programs in your area.

Keep your get-togethers focussed on certain age groups.

Ask the coordinator of your church playgroup, Sunday School group or other infant mothers' group for permission to invite them to a get-together on the topic of alcohol, smoking and the use of other drugs.

Have the ingredients for non-alcohol drinks and begin the meeting with guests helping to make their own combinations. Keep it simple. For example, in summer have a fresh fruit platter, iced water, and lemon slices. I would recommend the recipes in the 2017 Canadian WCTU calendar which was distributed to all attendees at the Conference. They look refreshing and easy.

Have a little 'take-away' bag with recipes, brochure, notepad, Membership card and a pen (you might prefer to add something that is relevant to your area).

As this is my first year, there is so much information to absorb:

I have looked through previous Program kits and would urge you to please go through them again.

- Florence Einwechter's articles in her 2015 Program Kit:
- The casino industry: (page 4) Internet safety (p/5-6)
- Desiree Lanigan's articles in her Program Kit – 2010:
- Gambling; Page 5 – 7.
- Tips for Parenting; 8 9.
- How to Pray for your children; page 10
- Pornography; page 11

WRITE LETTERS

There are many petitions we can sign or letters to write. Choose those subjects that you have a passion to see changed.

I am looking forward to being part of the Home Protection Department and I pray that we will make a difference for **God, Home, and Every Land**.

Berry Banana Smoothie	Delightful Banana Smoothie
1 small banana	1 cup fresh or frozen berries
1/4 cup fresh raspberries	1 cup of mango, apricot, apple, papaya or stone fruit of your liking
¼ cup fresh blueberries	½ cup plain or vanilla yogurt
½ cup plain fat-free yoghurt	4 ice cubes
1 cup fat-free skim milk	Blend berries, stone fruit, yogurt and ice until mixture is smooth and frothy.
1/8 tsp vanilla extract or to taste	Pour into slim tall glasses and enjoy
1 piece mint leaf for garnish	<i>Culinary Arts Centre</i>
Break banana into pieces and place in blender except for 2 or 3 berries for garnish. Add yoghurt, milk, and vanilla.	
Blend together until smooth. Pour into a tall glass and garnish with reserved berries & mint.	
<i>Culinary Arts Centre</i>	