



# White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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*New Members  
Welcome!*



## Praying for a better New Year

We stand at the door of a brand new year  
And ponder the future ahead  
Will our path be rocky or smoothly paved  
And light on the journey shed?

We can wonder what the days and the months may hold  
We can muse, we can dream, we can plan  
But the truth of the matter is very clear  
The future is safe in God's hand.

So the very best thing that we can do  
Is to turn to the One who knows  
To have a relationship strong and secure  
Intimacy that deeper grows.

So as we stand at this open door  
Take the time to turn to the Lord  
Ask Him to take your hand in His  
And lead as we pass through the door.

He's promised His presence every day  
He'll not forsake you nor leave  
But nor will He force you to stay with Him  
It's your choice ever to cleave.

Then walk beside Him, trusting still  
As He leads you through each day  
The year may have joys or sorrows ahead  
But He'll guide you each step of the way.

So daily invite Him to enter your life  
Give him first place in your heart  
Then the future ahead will be safe in His hands  
And happy this year that we start.

Glenda Amos, WWCTU Webmaster

*Dear all,*

Yes, we are all praying and hoping for a better New Year! I am both inspired and proud of those around the world who have found ways to continue working in spite of all the challenges the pandemic has caused. Anne Bergen's middle pages will give an insight into the amazing work done by Fieldworker for Korean Missionaries, Dr. Jung Koo Kim. Be inspired and praise God!



Today God still looks for individuals who are willing to “stand in the gap”. Men and women who care more about the approval of God than the approval of man. Those more interested in being faithful in the eyes of God than successful in the eyes of man. Those more concerned about saving souls than saving money. Those more desirous of living correctly than joining others in their ‘pleasure’, a ‘pleasure’ which destroys homes and families.

Every child deserves the best start in life, and every parent deserves support so that they core of the family is LOVE. True love can lift people up. It can give rootless refugees self-respect back. Neglected children can get on a better track. Desperate people can take on new courage. Alcoholics can get help with a new life course. Elderly lonely people can have a sad daily life turned upside down. Love can encourage depressed teenagers to realize their resources; love evokes positive thoughts about one’s own dignity and self-respect.

It is my hope that everyone who reads the magazine is uplifted by the content both academically and spiritually. Our main goal is to give the light of hope in everyday life and confirm that everything is possible as long as we never give up.

Warm wishes for a blessed Easter.

*Margaret Ostenstad*

World President



# ONE DETERMINED WOMAN SWAM UPSTREAM IN CANNABIS DEBATE

By John Silvester

Elaine Walters was a Toorak socialite who filled her days, she says, lunching with ladies and attending committees to organise glittering formal balls. “It was an unreal, privileged life.”

Then one day, nearly 40 years ago, she heard a series of broken-hearted parents ring 3AW telling the stories of how their families had been ravaged by drugs.



Elaine Walters reached a turning point when she heard parents’ stories of their children’s drug addiction.

There was a common message: they felt helpless, thought no one was listening and were treated as statistics rather than desperate people looking for answers.

On the spur of the moment, she rang in to suggest they join together in a self-help group — offering her Montrose Close home for the first meeting.

It was supposed to be a one-off. Get them together, provide hot coffee, cold snacks and warm words of encouragement. The plan was to help them organise, then ship them off. But one mother there, Bridie, who had lost a son to heroin and had two sons trapped by insatiable cannabis consumption, had other ideas.

“She looked at me with her big, brown eyes and said, ‘Elaine, you aren’t going to leave us?’. Which is exactly what I planned to do.”

Walters met at least six parents who said their children’s lives had been ruined by marijuana. We were in the middle of a heroin epidemic and no one cared about cannabis, considered a soft drug.

Walters used her social organising skills to co-ordinate the group, planning vigils, building the group’s profile until she was finally invited to address a group of so-called experts in the Health Department.

She spoke of cases where parents said their kids were addicted to marijuana, permanently changing their personalities and acting as a gateway drug to narcotics.

“The whole audience sniggered. They were laughing at me. They were so rude. I was absolutely mortified. I will never forget it.”

She left thinking: “Well, they are the experts, and they must know.”

It was Bridie who told her: “That’s what we face all the time.” These victims were seen as bit players in a much larger production.

Walters may have seen herself as privileged, but she was no pushover.

A former student of Sacre Coeur, where she was expected to rise at 5.30am to meditate at 6am, she was not someone to be pushed around.



Her lack of knowledge was her greatest asset. She didn't need to fashion the facts to support a pre-existing position. Fresh eyes often see a problem differently.

A former teacher herself, she started worldwide research, contacting an American expert who had lost a child to drugs.

The expert invited Walters to a US conference, saying: "You will learn more here in 10 days that you will in Australia in 10 years."

It was an eye-opener where experts freely accepted the dangers of marijuana and saw it as a gateway for more deadly products.

Back in Melbourne, she began a campaign that often contradicted an influential group of drug experts who had been pushing for decriminalisation of cannabis.

In some ways, it was a closed shop. Many of the experts were of an age where they had used marijuana in their teens, but it was essentially a different drug.

The drug of the 1970s and '80s was a crop usually grown outdoors with a relatively low percentage of the mind-altering THC. The modern product is genetically altered hydroponic "Supergrass", much of which is produced in suburban "grow houses".



Acting on tips from police, members of the public, real estate agents, neighbors and power companies, detectives from the Drug Taskforce are hitting crop houses at a record rate.

The image of cannabis as a soft hippy drug persists, when it is actually a major spoke in the organized crime wheel. The profits are massive and if offenders are caught, the penalties

are relatively minor.

A grow house can produce 100 plants every 12 weeks. At \$3000 a mature plant, this equates to more than \$1 million a year. Police say there are 1500 grow houses operating in Victoria producing \$1.5 billion worth of cannabis.

Australia has one of the highest per-person consumption rates of cannabis (as well as ice and cocaine) in the world and consumers are prepared to pay premium prices— which is why we are seen as a lucrative market by international crime syndicates.

These syndicates (several controlled by Canadian criminals of

Vietnamese descent) use local experts to scout and lease ideal rental properties.



Electricians bypass the supply system, experts set up the hydroponics and the plants are established from grafts to ensure consistent quality. Crop sitters (often illegal immigrants paid a pittance) check the timers and nutrient supply, and harvesters collect the mature plants, dry the product, then vacuum seal and wrap for the market.

As the electricians are not qualified, this process has resulted in hundreds of house fires (the latest a few days ago) and several deaths in Melbourne.

When police raid a crop house it is declared unfit for human habitation, which means innocent owners of rental properties are forced to pay huge amounts to repair and restore their investments.

The penalties don't match the profits. A few years ago, one professional cannabis dealer who controlled several crop houses received a community-based order.

Walters wanted to do more than rattle a few cages and hold the hands of broken parents; she wanted to take on the established thinking, armed with the most comprehensive bank of facts she could find. In 1988, she won a Churchill Fellowship to study marijuana, finding a body of evidence that heavy, long-term use could create permanent personality changes, mental illnesses, memory loss and malaise.

When she wrote of cannabis psychosis, a condition that can strike young users, many tried to write her off as well-intentioned "do-gooder".

"The self-appointed 'elite' do their best to convince the Australian public that marijuana is a 'soft' drug. But in fact, it is an exceedingly complex substance and can cause irreparable harm to the brain of developmentally immature adolescents and young adults," she wrote.

"They also want to convince well-meaning, law-abiding Australians that prohibition is an infringement of their rights. But I would contend that parents' rights are the ones we should be protecting. Parents devote their lives to their children and are the mediating structures in their social development.

"More than anyone, they are entitled to be given an honest account of the risks their children take if they use marijuana and other gateway drugs.

"People such as myself are often vilified as 'moralists' who only wish to maintain prohibition because we believe that using mind-altering drugs is decadent/sinful.

"If someone chooses to build their own lives on the shattered dreams of others, I cannot in all conscience leave the matter to chance. I believe I have an obligation to bring to your attention some facts about marijuana and other street drugs that have been deliberately misrepresented and withheld from the Australian public."

Regardless of whether you agree with Walters, her views are based on dealing with victims, massive academic research and worldwide study. Her work was recognized with an Order of Australia in 2000.

Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt is a fan, writing: “Elaine Walters, OAM, is a distinguished Australian and renowned voice on cannabis policy. For almost 40 years, she has contributed to national and international debates on the consequences of legalizing cannabis.

“She has shone a light on the impact of the drug not just on individuals, but also on families and the broader community ... When too many Australians are struggling with their mental health, now is not the time for laws regarding recreational use to be loosened.”

## **Legal Cannabis**

Walters says the debate has been hijacked by those who think the use of illicit drugs is normal, addiction an unfortunate by product and decriminalization inevitable.

“In the 1960s, a handful of academics at America’s leading universities were researching the effects of marijuana, psychedelics and other mind-altering drugs as a means of assisting people suffering from various mental illnesses.

“If they had maintained correct protocols and ethical standards during their research, they may have created some effective new therapies. Instead, they decided that these substances were great fun and quite harmless. Not only did these academics experiment with them for their own amusement, but they also influenced young university students to use them for non-medical or so-called ‘recreational’ purposes.

“It eventually merged into the general population and ultimately became the genesis of a worldwide youth-oriented ‘drug culture’.”

Now aged 83 and having long left Toorak for a cliff-top house at Mount Martha, she remains bright, bubbly, passionate and committed. She has recently decided to stop taking strong medication for a chronic lung condition, determined to remain in control of her own destiny.

She is about to publish a series of essays (she has already written four books) alleging that many international drug experts have manipulated their research to legitimise the push to legalise street drugs. She says she isn’t concerned that her strong views on joints may put noses out of joint. “I won’t be here by then,” she says, without a hint of self-pity.

Her decision to stop heavy medication is to make sure she enjoys her remaining days.

She lives with a caretaker, a carer, a new pup and ageing rescue dog, Gracie Fields.

With two children, two grandchildren, a great-grandchild and a library full of research, she says: “I feel very blessed here.”



Anne Bergen  
Organization Secretary

In this edition of the White Ribbon Bulletin I am sharing some very encouraging news about WCTU missionaries that are cared for by Korea WCTU which is one of our most active WCTUs. **Jung Joo Kim** (photo right) sent these reports of what is being done.



See [WWCTU Plan of Action 2022-2026 wwctu.org](http://WWCTU Plan of Action 2022-2026 wwctu.org)

These three groups of missionaries visited KWCTU Hall on Jan. 10, 2022, and they each showed their eager commitment to the temperance work on their return to the mission fields. It was exciting to see them so actively gathering, reaching out, and sharing about the urgent need in the mission fields for the temperance work.

### **Missionary Rev. Jung Ha Won and Missionary Mrs. Jung Ah Sohn in Mumbai, India**



Two youths in the temperance jackets (the photo in the left) were sent by their Methodist Church in Korea for missionary training in Mumbai. They were willing to distribute every day on the streets of Mumbai a temperance package of a Gospel tract, temperance pamphlet, mask, and two gums, in a ziplock bag, over 500 to 1,000

pieces per day. (Photo on the right) Missionary Jung Ha Won (his photo below), explained how to use the Gospel tract he would share with those missionaries present. Missionary Jung Ha Won distributed temperance packages so faithfully even in the midst of the pandemic in Mumbai, but



all over India, and overseas such as he does with KWCTU Overseas branches and a newly founded national WCTU.





**Missionary Dr. Jin Soo Hwang and Mrs. Meehee Lee, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

Missionary Jinsoo Hwang, Dean of Huree University in Ulaanbaatar, and Doctor in Chemical Engineering, and his wife Missionary Meehee Lee visited KWCTU on January 10, 2022. That day, they all received much blessing from the Spirit of the Lord. After his return to Ulaanbaatar, he shared Gospel tracts and Mongolia WCTU temperance pamphlets with the Cornerstone Church outside Ulaanbaatar, in the Gazort District of 7,000 residents. Missionary Jinsoo Hwang also visited Rev. Enkbaair of the First Church



in Suchbatro in the central district of Ulaanbataar. The pastor is the president of Church Associations with 40 churches affiliated, and Missionary Hwang expects him to promote the temperance work. Among the four youths, holding the temperance pamphlets and the temperance posters, the three on left are MWCTU scholarship

students, willing to serve in the temperance work in the translation of the temperance educational materials.

**Missionary Sung Ro Lee and his wife Missionary Jung Hee Ko, Kyoto, Japan** Missionary Sung Ro Lee and members of his Friday Bible Study group hold Gospel tracts. (Right)



His wife Missionary Jung Hee Ko (photo in the white coat) reported about her outreaches among the Chosun-In in Japan, hardly reached by the Korean missionaries, due to their close connection with North Korea.

## Cambodia WCTU



Ewha Seung School which runs from Kindergarten to High School with Christian education, wanted to include the temperance education in their curriculum. They asked for new temperance educational material, fitting to the needs in Cambodia. Mrs. Mihae Lee, a trustee of KWCTU, and a counsel of Cambodia WCTU, who from the beginning of CWCTU, was willing to get involved in the temperance work, as Ambassador's wife then in Cambodia. She now serves

as the editor of the temperance educational material for Ewha Seung School and now is ready to publish. Ewha Seung School is willing to share with the students, when 1,000 books of CWCTU are published by March, 2022. You see the cover page sample in the photo above. The principal of Ewha Seung School, Missionary Yousun Kim gave a special lecture on the temperance education with the graduating class on her return after her visit to Young Joo Kim's Solo Art Exhibition when KWCTU campaigned to prevent FAS. Professor Emeritus Dr. Kil Ja Jun is the president of Vesa, a foundation which supports Ewha Serung School, made MOU with KWCTU for the common efforts to spread the temperance work in Ewha Seung School in Cambodia.

## Two wonderful young Korean ambassadors for WCTU



Dr. Sarah Oh is researching at Harvard the FASD problems in Asia, aiming to find out how to deal with the urgent need to inform and prevent FASD effectively among the Asian public. She always appreciates her role as the Director of Education Department in the WWCTU, which has prepared her to pursue FASD as a major subject of her research in the post-doc program at Harvard. Hannah Oh is working

hard at MIT and doing very well, receiving a prize at the competition for innovative enterprise. They promote the temperance work among other Christians, not only by their good academic works, but also by their drug-free life-style, as exemplar graduate students, abstaining from drinking alcohol and smoking.



# ***Talking With Your Child About Alcohol Use***

## **Key points**

- There's no safe level of alcohol use for children under 18 years.
- When young people drink, there's a risk of brain and other alcohol-related problems.
- You can limit or prevent teenage alcohol use by role-modelling safe drinking habits and talking about safe alcohol use.

## **What you need to know**

There's no safe level of alcohol use for young people under 18 years.

Although trying alcohol is common among teenagers, there are many risks. Alcohol can impair brain development and increase the risk of other alcohol-related problems, including addiction, in early adulthood and beyond.

The legal drinking age in all Australian states and territories is 18 years. The National Medical Health and Research Council (NHMRC) recommends that children under 18 years should have no alcohol at all. Health experts say teenagers shouldn't use alcohol until they're 18 or even 21.

Alcohol is an addictive drug that affects your body, behavior and decision-making abilities. It's one of the drugs that young people use the most, and it can be one of the most damaging drugs. It's also the most commonly used drug for Australians of all ages.

## **Being a role model**

You and other significant adults are a major influence on your child's use of alcohol, and you can be a role model for safe alcohol habits. For example, if you choose not to drink alcohol, that's great. If you do drink alcohol, you can send your child powerful messages by drinking occasionally, in moderation and only with other people around.

Even the way you talk about alcohol and other drugs sends a message. For example, you might think about what your child hears when an adult says something like, 'I need a drink – I had a shocking day at work'.

## **Talking with your child about alcohol use**

Talking about alcohol use is an important way to prevent or limit your child's use of alcohol.

Preparing to talk with your child

You can make difficult conversations like this easier by learning more about the effects and risks of alcohol and thinking about what to say beforehand. You could also think about how to answer questions about alcohol, including questions about your own alcohol use. This way, you're prepared if the issue comes up unexpectedly.

When you have a close relationship with your child, it's easier for you to raise issues like alcohol use with them, so work on staying connected too.

### **Starting a conversation**

You could start a conversation by talking about something you and your child have seen – for example, alcohol in a movie, TV show or advertisement, or alcohol at a party. Or you could ask your child some questions. For example:

- Do kids at school talk about alcohol? What do they say?
- What do you think about our family rules on drinking alcohol?

### **How to talk with your child**

During your conversations with your child about alcohol, you could:

- discuss values and expectations about alcohol use in your family
- communicate facts, including the effects that alcohol has on the body or how it affects thinking and behavior
- explain things like the size of a standard drink.

It's important to listen and be open to what your child has to say.

If your child has questions, try to answer them briefly, honestly and calmly. Be clear about your own beliefs. And if you don't know the answers to your child's questions, it's OK to say so. You can tell your child you'll think about it and get back to them.

For some teenagers, drinking alcohol can be a way to cope with or mask social or mental health problems. If you think this might be the case, talk to your GP. The GP might refer your child to a mental health professional who specializes in working with teenagers.

## **When teenagers drink alcohol: what can happen**

### **Body and behavior**

#### **Alcohol affects the body in several ways.**

At first it can make people feel energized and more social. But as people drink more, they might become drowsy, lose balance and coordination, slur speech and think more slowly. They can feel sick and vomit.

As the amount of alcohol in the blood goes up, people can't think clearly or coordinate their bodies properly. This means they're at risk of accidents and injuries or being involved in violence.

At high levels, alcohol can make people unconscious or stop them breathing normally. Young people have been known to die from alcohol poisoning or from choking on their own vomit.

#### **Decision-making**

One of the most important tasks of adolescence is learning how to make independent, responsible decisions. Some of these decisions will be

good and some not so good – making mistakes and learning from them is all part of growing up.

But alcohol affects people's ability to think quickly, make good judgments and avoid dangerous situations or risky behavior.

For example, a young person under the influence of alcohol could:

- be involved in physical or verbal violence
- have unprotected sex, or not be able to deal with unwanted sexual advances and be sexually assaulted
- experience hallucinations or delusions that could lead to accidents or injury
- get alcohol poisoning and lose consciousness or die
- black out and forget what they're doing or where they are
- be injured while swimming, playing sport, climbing or even trying to cross a road
- break the law or get into trouble with the police
- lose control, behave inappropriately and harm important relationships or damage their reputation.

Many teenagers don't understand the effects alcohol has on the brain and how it can take a lot less alcohol for teenagers than for adults to feel the effects.

### **Helping teenagers stay safe around alcohol**

If your child is going to be around alcohol with other young people, it's safest for your child not to drink alcohol.

But in these situations, it's common for teenagers to want or feel pressured to try alcohol. This might be because they want to fit in with friends, feel part of their peer group or look cool. You can help your child plan how to respond to this pressure. For example, your child could say 'Thanks but I've got a game tomorrow' or 'No thanks, I don't drink'.

Some teenagers might try alcohol and enjoy the way it makes them feel. It might give them a thrill or make them feel 'grown up'. If you think your child might be in this situation, here are some messages about alcohol use that can help to keep your child safe:

- Avoid unsupervised and unsafe environments – for example, with strangers, or at large events and parties where there are no adults.
- Don't binge-drink.
- Don't mix alcohol with other drugs.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Drink slowly, don't drink on an empty stomach, and alternate alcoholic drinks with water.
- Keep count of drinks and limit how many alcoholic drinks you have.
- Don't get involved in drinking games.
- Have a non-drinking buddy



## *The Power of the Risen Christ*

“Come, see.” These words recorded in John 4:29 were spoken by a Samaritan woman with a sense of wonderment and awe. She had just met a Man at the village well who said He was the Messiah. Something about this Man convinced her that He knew all about her although not many words were spoken. She felt his love and compassion even though she was living in sin. With a sense of urgency she hurried back to her village, her water pot forgotten. “Come,” she said, “come see and hear for yourselves.”

Jesus came to earth with a message of hope. His love and compassion reached out to everyone, including the outcasts of society. He healed the sick, comforted the distressed, and preached salvation. Many received his teachings and followed Him. The religious leaders felt threatened by his message of love and humility, and plotted to kill Him. He was betrayed, arrested, and sentenced to die. As the angry mob followed, Roman soldiers took Jesus up the hill of Golgotha and nailed Him to a wooden cross between two thieves.

Jesus was crucified at nine o'clock in the morning. At noon the sky darkened for three hours. Afterward, Jesus cried with a loud voice, “It is finished,” and gave up his life. There was a mighty earthquake that rent the rocks and opened many graves.

Jesus’s disciples took his body down from the cross. They lovingly placed it in a new tomb and closed the entrance with a large stone. Early in the morning of the third day there was a great earthquake. An angel came down from heaven and rolled the stone away from the tomb. Some women who loved Him came to anoint his body, and they were surprised to find the tomb empty. They were met by angels who told them, “He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful

men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words” (Luke 24:6-8).

Following his resurrection Jesus met his disciples in an upper room. He showed them the wounds in his hands and his side and blessed them with the peace of God. He spent forty days teaching and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. With his death and resurrection, the plan of salvation was completed.

One day while speaking with his disciples, Jesus told them to wait at Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. This would enable them to witness for Him wherever they went. When He finished speaking, He lifted up his hands, blessed them, and ascended into heaven. As the disciples watched Him ascend, two men in white clothing appeared and said, “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

So when the people of Samaria heard Jesus’s message, they believed on Him. They told the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, but because we have heard Him ourselves and know that He really is the Christ.” The gospel of Jesus Christ, which is his teachings, death, and resurrection, is the power of God unto salvation. To experience salvation, come to Jesus, repent, and forsake sin. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and commit your life to Him. Then through the power of the Holy Spirit you can love and forgive all people, even your enemies. As Christians continue in faithful obedience, Jesus gives power to live victoriously over sin.

Jesus is now in heaven interceding for mankind and preparing a place for the faithful (John 14:2-3). Someday soon He will return to judge the world. The apostle John wrote about that day. “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened... and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:11-12). God will separate the faithful followers of Jesus Christ from those who lived in selfish unbelief. He will receive all the faithful into the heavenly mansions He has prepared.

Do you know the One who knows everything about you? Are you experiencing the power of the resurrection today? If not, then come. Come and see the risen Lord!



## *Noontide prayer*

*Around the world, someone is always praying*



## **A Prayer for Banishing Fear & Anxiety**

Lord, I come before you ready to pour out my worries, anxieties, and fears at Your feet. I am claiming and declaring Your promises for blessings of peace and strength over my life.

Bring a peace into my soul that passes all worldly understanding and make me a light for others to see Your strength.