WCTU



Africa and South Pacific

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to dominate our lives everywhere. Our minds and hearts go to the people of India and Brazil right now as they suffer with thousands sick and dying. Some of our WCTU members have died - please pray for their families and the nations. Pray that God will stem the pandemic and that many people will turn to God as the only hope. Pray too that people will not turn to alcohol and drugs to dull their worries. Pray for opportunities to share the love of Jesus.

Did you know that there is a growing SOBER movement in many parts of the world including Australia and America? It is very encouraging to see so many young people changing their ways and drinking non-alcohol drinks and wanting to be sober and clear minded. We hope this will expand to every country. Please pray for those who are struggling to overcome their addictions but determined to remain sober. *"Let us watch and be sober … comfort each other and edify one another … Be at peace among yourselves … Be patient with all … Rejoice always … Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:6-17*

Please keep sharing your news. Keep speaking up for temperance, sobriety and faithfulness to God. Keep loving the children and youth in your home, church and community. Write and tell me your news.

God bless and keep you safe and well and confident to share His love.

These ladies are in Lae, Papua New Guinea and work and wait for a message of hope and happiness. They all chew betel nut - notice their closed mouths - this is because their teeth and mouths are stained and they are embarrassed to show that. Betel nut is a curse in PNG and thousands of people, from a young age, chew it, ruining their mouths, throats and brains.

News from Everywhere



Solusi University, Zimbabwe - Siphiwe has shared this picture of some of the children at that university campus listening to a talk on the DAT poisons - drugs, alcohol, tobacco. With lockdowns and other inconveniences Siphiwe is faithfully finding innovative ways to present the temperance message.

Nairobi, Kenya - The WCTU Turning Point Solutions Rehabilitation centre is glad to say that one young lady, Maureen, has found her way out of alcohol and drugs and has decided to speak at schools about her escape from the poisons. She has finance to do this for six months.

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea - Beatrice faithfully keeps us informed. They are meeting in homes and in small groups, speaking on 3 radio stations and spreading the temperance message. Beatrice and her team are depending on their adult children to help them with their computer needs. She says - "times are difficult but we will not give up."

News regarding Covid-19 and Alcohol

Last year, **South Africa** completely banned the sale of alcohol in the country when the coronavirus was at its peak. Police Minister Gen. Bheki Cele at the time said the ban had significantly reduced the crime rate in the country, which has one of the highest incidents of crime on the continent. South Africa has the highest number of COVID-19 infections on the continent with more than 1.5 million cases and more than 52,000 recorded deaths from the virus.

In **Samoa, Pacific Islands** there is pandemic to deal with - alcohol abuse. "Calls by a Samoa Supreme Court Justice to deal with what he describes as a 'pandemic' of alcohol abuse are being backed by the country's addiction services agencies. They in turn lay much of the blame on cheap, easy to access rice vodkas and one service is calling for a ban on the locally brewed fire-water. In a November judgement of an alcohol related case of manslaughter, Justice Vui Clarence Nelson said that while much is being done to prevent people dying from Covid-19 there isn't enough being done to prevent the many deaths caused by alcohol induced offending. It is undoubtedly a function of the courts of justice to draw attention to alarming trends of this nature and to point out that an alcohol pandemic has arrived, has been on our shores for a long time and has sadly become a part of the fabric of everyday life in Samoa." *International Pacific News.*

Make every day World No Tobacco Day May 31

A Prayer *by Rev Dr Bhavana Arthur, Christian Outreach World Director, WWCTU "Creator of the Universe, you have made all things and called them 'good.' We thank you for the beautiful earth that we call home yet people have damaged your good works. You have asked us to tend your garden yet we have trampled the flowers, chopped down the trees, dirtied and polluted the water and air. There are wars and riots because of human greed. We are sorry and we want to make peace with your world. Teach us how to take care of your creation. Only you are able so we we ask this in your name. AMEN"*

Join all WCTU members and pray every day at Noon time. This has been the practice of WCTU for over 140 years. There is power in prayer. It is our most important work.

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