WCTU

Africa and South Pacific



These little children, in Zimbabwe, were this size almost 40 years ago. I wonder how many are still alive, are sober and live good clean lives. We must continue to teach the children, love them, demonstrate that freedom comes from saying NO to all the DAT (drugs, alcohol, tobacco) poisons.

Welcome to 2021 and greetings and love to all who read this newsletter.

A new year has begun and we look back at 2020 with mixed emotions. Our world has changed and many of those changes will be permanent. I hope you can look back with praise and thanks to God and with trust for the future. I hope that you are sharing the temperance message everywhere possible. Don't hold back - be firm in your commitment to Jesus, to the temperance work that is so much a part of our Christianity.

The words of Paul to Timothy always inspire me - see the book of 2 Timothy. Paul says - *"Stir up, don't be ashamed, hold fast, be strong, endure, remember, remind them, be diligent, pursue righteousness, be gentle, continue, preach the word, be ready, convince, rebuke, exhort, be watchful, endure, do the work, fulfil your ministry, beware, greet, do your utmost."* Let those words be your guide as you go into 2021 with courage.

Thank you to those of you who send messages of work being done, of support and love. You are God's own special people and He has a plan and purpose for you. And we love to hear from you. Keep writing please.

Teach the children - go to churches, schools, care centres, homes and provide pledge cards for children and teenagers to sign - a promise that they will JUST SAY NO to the DAT (drugs, alcohol, tobacco) poisons.

News from Everywhere

"**In Kenya** we are doing fine by the grace of God. God has protected us during this difficult time of Covid-19. Things are hard but nonetheless we are moving on. The signing of pledge cards by our youth and children has slowed down since we have not been meeting in churches. We hope to resume this when the churches and schools reopen fully. I have read the newsletter and I am greatly informed. Keep up the good work. The rehabilitation centre is going on and we thank God for those clients we have at the moment. Douglas and the team are doing good job and we thank God for this. " - Pastor John Macharia and Florence

"**In PNG t**his year we, the national officers, have concentrated in Radio Talk till October. Just last week I visited the Central Papua Conference. I talk to them about how we can work together with the Churches. I gave the brochure and other information. We are not meeting in big groups but in small groups, since the the lockdown period. Evodia at West New Britain, doing her work as New Guinea Island, coordinator. We don't receive any news from other parts in PNG. At the moment I ran out of pledge cards. And my computer is spoiled. I hope the Lord will provide me one some how." - Beatrice Kemo

Thank you to all who have written or thanked us for the WCTU newsletters during 2020. We want to hear from more from you - it would bring us all great encouragement to know just what you are doing in your country.



This picture is at Salamaua, Morobe Province in PNG. The fishermen live in a picturesque setting but I wonder how many live pure, clean, sober lives. They need the temperance message too.

From Africa nations - we have received messages from Florence, Alice, Knollyne, Siphiwe, Elsie, Cornalie, Cynthia, Kidi, Gloria, Betty. This represents Kenya, Zimbabwe, Burundi, South Africa, Sierra Leone.

From the Pacific nations - we have heard from - Beatrice, Evodiah, Fiona, Caroleen, Bessie, Muriel, Marica, Agnes, Jenny, Serah, Lavia, Jacqueline.

My worries are few because my blessings are many.

From Fiji - Fiji's only certified alcohol and drugs counsellor says there's evidence that people are turning to drugs and alcohol as a way to cope with the fall out of COVID-19. Fiji has had only a small number of COVID-19 cases, but its economy has been hit hard, with closed borders seeing tens of thousands of people losing their jobs.

Kenya - Globally, concerns have been raised about the potential for the COVID-19 pandemic to be associated with an increase in alcohol misuse. In **Kenya**, media reports during the COVID-19 pandemic suggest increased levels of alcohol use. This increase is particularly worrying because Kenya has one of the highest disability-adjusted life-year counts (54 000) due to alcohol use disorders in Africa.

Finally - a message from our World Leader - Margaret Ostenstad

'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. People suffering from addiction of alcohol and other drugs can get help with a new life course. Elderly lonely people can have a sad everyday life turned upside down. Love can encourage depressed teenage girls to realise their resources. Love evokes positive thoughts about one's own dignity and self-respect.'

www.wwctu.org

www.wctu.org.au

facebook I'm Worth It

facebook WOW Unlimited

joymariebutler@gmail.com