

Amy Carmichael (“Amma”)
Missionary to India
(1867-1951)



“Give me love that leads the way, The faith that nothing can dismay, The hope no disappointments tire, The passion that will burn like fire, Let me not sink to be a clod, Make me Thy fuel, flame of God.”

“And shall I pray Thee change Thy will, my Father, until it be according unto mine? But, no, Lord, no, that never shall be, rather I pray Thee bend my human will with Thine.”

“One can give without loving, but one cannot love without giving.”

Amy Carmichael, Protector of Children

Amy Carmichael lived a life of sacrifice, service, and devotion to God. She is one of the best known and well-loved missionaries of the 20th century. Amy was born **December 16, 1867**, and was raised in a devout Christian home in the village of **Millisle on the north coast of Ireland**. Her parents, David and Catherine, owned the prosperous Carmichael Flour Mills. **Amy was the oldest of 7 children**. She and her brothers and sisters lived a care-free life as children, and **Amy committed her life to Jesus as a young girl**. She took a great role of responsibility for her family at the age of 18 when her father died, leaving them in debt and uncertain about their future. **She and her family moved to Belfast, Ireland**, where Amy did missions work in the city.

In 1886, during a spiritual life conference in England, Amy experienced a deep encounter with God that changed her life. The Keswick Movement was a Bible conference that stressed having a deeper relationship with God and living a victorious Christian life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Her expensive tastes in food and clothes disappeared, and she saw clearly the greater importance of living a life of service and devotion to God. **As a teenager, Amy helped care for Robert Wilson, the chairman of the famous Keswick Conventions.** Wilson's wife and daughter had died, so he loved Amy as his own daughter. Amy cherished him, calling him the D.O.M. (Dear Old Man). When Amy was called to missionary service, Wilson's heart was torn, but he knew he had to release Amy to fulfill God's call on her life.

Her call to missionary service came clearly on January 13, 1892. Two words from the Lord, "Go ye..." were put deeply in her heart. She made plans immediately to serve the Lord as a missionary. Supported by the Keswick Convention, Amy went to Japan but found many hardships there. The language was difficult, other missionaries were hard to get along with, and she suffered from anxiety, which was called **"Japanese head"**. Rest was recommended, so Amy sailed for China after only 15 months in Japan. At the Lord's leading, she went to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) but soon returned to England after receiving an urgent request to return home to care for Mr. Wilson, who was seriously ill.

After less than a year, Amy was back on the mission field, this time in Bangalore, India. Amy served as a missionary to India for over 50 years without a furlough (vacation). Amy traveled from village to village with some other Indian Christian ladies sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. **She moved to the village of Dohnavur in the state of Tamil Nadu, south India. In 1901, Amy met a sweet 7-year-old girl named Preena ("Pearl Eyes"), who had escaped from slavery in a Hindu temple and begged Amy to help her.** She told Amy that often children were taken to the Hindu temple and "married to the gods" in religious ceremonies. They were forced to live in the temple and were abused by Hindu priests and Hindu men. Girls were especially mistreated. **Amy was so grieved by this that she started Dohnavur Fellowship in 1901 with the purpose of rescuing children from slavery and abuse in Hindu temples.** For years, Amy attempted to rescue these children and to cry out against this social evil, which the Indians knew was a "secret sin" of Hinduism. **Many of her fellow missionaries did not believe that this horrible practice even existed, and they rejected Amy and her ministry.** Some **Hindus hated Amy and accused her of kidnapping.** Amy persisted, and by 1913 the Dohnavur Fellowship had housed and educated 130 children whose lives would have been a disaster without Amy. **During her lifetime, over 1,000 boys and girls were saved from the Hindu temples, housed, fed, and educated at Dohnavur.** Amy suffered a broken leg and a twisted back from an accidental fall and lived as an **invalid for the last 20 years of her life.** She was confined mostly to her room, called the **Room of Peace at Dohnavur, where she continued her writing.** Amy Carmichael wrote **35 books and poems** that continue to inspire many Christians today to fulfill God's call on their lives. **She died at the age of 83 in 1951 and, after a simple service, was buried under a tamarind tree in "God's Garden" on the grounds of Dohnavur. A simple stone table inscribed with "Amma" (Amy's Indian name, which means "mother") marks her grave.**

Today, Dohnavur Fellowship is a thriving ministry over 50 years after Amy's death. The compound sits on 400 acres and includes a hospital, 16 nurseries, and a school. Amy was an inspiration to many, including missionary Elisabeth Elliot, who wrote a biography of Amy's life.