

"Missionary Life is simply a chance to die."
– Amy Carmichael

Amy Carmichael

Missionary to India

"Satan is so much more in earnest than we are--he buys up the opportunity while we are wondering how much it will cost."

Amy Carmichael was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1867 to Presbyterian parents. Her father died when she was 18, and she began mission work with local girls who worked in the mills, witnessing Jesus. After a while, Amy felt her Lord calling her to missionary work, and she set sail for Japan, leaving all her friends and family behind, but the climate there affected her weak health, and after 15 months, she left for Sri Lanka and India. As she began spreading the gospel among the Indians, she uncovered the dark side of the Hindu religion - forced prostitution of young girls and infants who had been dedicated to Hindu temples. Her indignation rose to higher heights when she learned that neither the British Government nor her fellow missionaries would intervene to save these girls while the Hindu religion was being "white-washed" and promoted in the west. Amy formed the Dahnatur Fellowship to rescue children dedicated to the Hindu gods. Her ministry began with a temple run-away named Preena and grew to be a refuge for over 1,000 children, leading many to Christ. In 1931, Carmichael injured her foot badly, leaving her mostly bed-ridden until her death in 1951. This was the hardest trial of her life, and she struggled to find meaning in the daily pain and loss of freedom, but she continued to minister, counsel, and encourage, finding comfort in her Lord's example. Amy turned her energy to writing, and she published more than 16 books on missionary work in India, patience, endurance, pain, and hope. She served in India for 55 years without furlough and is buried at her mission. A birdbath marks her grave with the inscription *Amma*, meaning "Mother."



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