Amy Carmichael

Dying to Live!...

It was in 1886 at the Keswick Conference in England that Irish Amy Carmichael realized nothing could be more important than living her life for Jesus Christ who had given His life for her. The purpose for the conference was the promotion of holiness or the "higher Christian life."

This meant she must become "dead to the world and its applause, to all its customs, fashions, and laws."

She went to Japan as a missionary, but had to return due to illness. She went briefly to Ceylon, cared for the head of Keswick, worked in Belfast's city mission, weekly taught up to 300 needy youth of Christ, and finally went to Dohnavur, India where she ministered for 56 years without furlough.

She once led to the Lord a sea captain and others on a ship on which she travelled.

In India she rescued more than 1000 child prostitutes from the temples.

She was always sickly and deeply felt the burdens of many. She said, "There were days when the sky turned black for me because of what I heard and knew was true. Sometimes it was as if I saw the Lord Jesus Christ kneeling alone, as He knelt long ago under the olive trees . . . And the only thing that one who cared could do, was to go softly and kneel down beside Him, so that He would not be alone in His sorrow over the little children."

She was a prolific writer with thirty-five books and many hymns published to her credit.

After a tragic accident in 1931, much of her time was spent in confinement in the Dohnavur Fellowship's compound.

Obedience, total commitment, and selflessness were the marks of Amy Carmichael's life. In a world where the thought of living one's life for Jesus Christ above all else is rapidly fading, she remains a bright and ever burning example of one whose sole existence was devoted to her beloved Lord and Savior.



"You can give without loving," she said, "But you cannot love without giving."

Her life is still a model of selfless dedication to the Savior, a life of discipleship and abandonment. She lived to make God's love known to those trapped in utter darkness.

No modern Mission would send her out today, but in spite of living in almost constant pain, she started and directed the God-blessed Dohnavur Fellowship mentioned above.

Dare we pray with her?

I wish Thy way,

But when in me myself would rise

And long for something otherwise,

Then, Holy One, take sword, and spear, and slay. - A.C.

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