

“Hey Kids, Let’s Talk !”

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GC Kids - Let's Talk
1431 Stuckert Rd
Warrington, PA 18976-2851
U.S.A.



By Linda Dingeldein

GC KIDS is for children ages about 9 to 13. It aims to **nurture a passion for missions** that will encourage children to be active in the Great Commission throughout their lives.

This quarterly publication is mailed free to individual children or adult leaders of children. (Sorry, mailing multiple copies is not possible.)

For **suggestions, ideas or submissions**, send postal mail via the address below or email elinor.young@worldteam.org.



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GC Kids is a service of **World Team**, "Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on unreached peoples of the world."
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Issue 8: Amy Carmichael

Courage to Follow God's Call

God said to Joshua, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

That is what God told Joshua after He gave Joshua a very big, scary job to do.

Amy Carmichael also had a lot of reasons she could have been discouraged or afraid as she did the jobs God gave her. As you read her story, see if you can discover why she had the courage to do all the amazing things she did. Think of where you, too, can get the courage to follow God's call now and in the future.



Amy Carmichael Extreme Witness

By BJ Campbell

*"The godly people in the land are my true heroes!
I take pleasure in them!"*
Psalm 16:3 (King David speaking)

"Amy Carmichael is my Hero!" says a blogging group who keep their journals (blogs) on the Internet. Why are they amazed at this Irish missionary who lived from 1867 to 1951? After all, she is the same rowdy Amy often in trouble as ringleader, following through on her bright but mischievous ideas. Which of Amy's qualities do they admire so much?

Complications

From early childhood, Amy Carmichael believed God had told her to go be a missionary overseas. At age fifteen she gave her life completely to Christ, realizing that strength for living for his glory was a gift from him. She couldn't do it on her own.

No one saw mission work as a very practical calling for Amy. She suffered often with a painful nerve disease requiring at times weeks or months of bed rest. Add to that her need to write down her thoughts about everything that happened. Her urge to write took lots of time.

Not only that, Amy was busy with other jobs. After her father's death when she was eighteen, she looked after her six younger brothers and sisters. And when she did seek a mission field, no one wanted her. For all the problems in Amy's way, it seemed that she would never do anything heroic.

You Go, Girl!

Still believing that God had called her personally to go serve him in a country he would

tell her later, Amy started telling people about Jesus in her own hometown. She trusted also that, as Jesus said in Matthew 5:6 (NLT), "*God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*" Her great hunger to right things for mistreated people lead her to help girls who worked in local factories. These "shawlies," as people called them, were too poor to buy hats to wear to church as

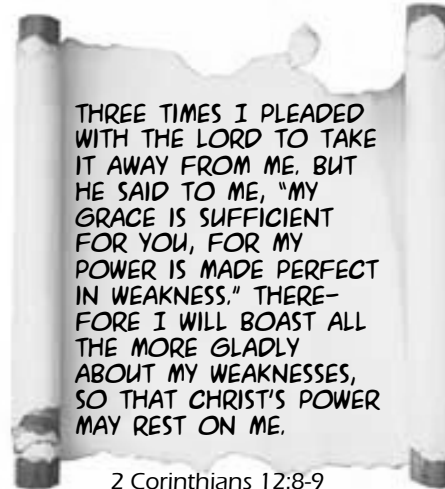
people did in those days, so they covered their heads with shawls instead. Amy's Bible classes grew so large that she needed a building big enough to hold more than three hundred shawlies. Amy and the girls prayed, and people donated

money and land for a new building in which to worship and study. She called it "The Welcome," and for its 1889 dedication she wrote in the invitation...*Come one, Come all, To the Welcome Hall, And come in your working clothes.*

In Amy's years of living with the needy girls and working for their equal treatment, her old illness still seemed to stand in the way of her ministry. Again she had to

"Strength for living for God's glory is a gift from Him."

Listen to what he said about a weakness he thought kept him from doing his best job:



2 Corinthians 12:8-9

How do you think these verses might have helped Amy

Carmichael? (Hint: remember how sick she often was and that she sometimes wasn't sure what was the best thing to do.)

Think About It

- Other words for "grace" are "favor", "kindness", "help" or "blessing."
- "Made perfect" can mean "shows up best".

Now think about yourself. Is there some reason you think you might not be "good enough" to be a missionary? If so, what is it?

With that in mind, put in your own words what God said to Paul:

What do you think God says to you about that?

Amy Carmichael and You

Thinking about her decision to fully, bravely follow God, Amy once said, "I had feelings of fear about the future... The devil kept on whispering, 'It's all right now, but what about afterward? You are going to be very lonely'. ...And I turned to my God in a kind of desperation and said 'Lord, what can I do? How can I go on to the end?' And He said, 'None of them that trust in Me shall be desolate.' That word has been with me ever since."

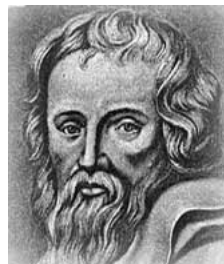
- What decisions might have been hard for Amy to make?
- How do Amy's decisions make you think of your own life?
- How would you like to be like Amy?

The Great Commission

When Jesus told us to take the Gospel to all peoples in all nations, he didn't add, "If you are up to it." Some people think they can't be missionaries because they hate bugs or they are too tall or too short or not smart or don't have a perfect family or other reasons they think they aren't good

enough. But Jesus wants us, weaknesses, failures and all!

The first missionary of the early church, and probably the greatest missionary ever was the apostle Paul.



be in bed for weeks at a time.

Still Listening for God

An opportunity opened, and Amy went to serve God in Japan, where she witnessed for Christ for fifteen months. In the cold climate of Japan, Amy became ill again. Instead of going home to get well, however, she believed God wanted to use her witness in India.

Work To Do

After Amy arrived in India, she learned about how they kept little girls as slaves to do bad things in the temple. At once, she began what would be almost fifty years of defending girls of India from slavery. She accepted girl babies from families who thought they were of no value. Girl rescue was her specialty, even if it meant kidnapping them!

Amy's growing collection of girls became the village of Dohnavur, a refuge for the more than a thousand children she saved and loved.

God's Hand On Her Life

Amy's enthusiasm, charge-ahead style and years of telling it straight, turned out to be good things. Her detailed handwritten histories, her diaries and

love letters to her children, friends and co-workers became thirty-five published books. Every book points to God's power at work in her life.

To those who would call her daring, she would explain that heroic outcomes were none of her doing. They were "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.*" (Zechariah 4:6)

If Amy were here today to e-mail the bloggers, her letter would contain a familiar message. Near the end of her life, she wrote this message to future leaders of her work in Dohnavur: "*...don't look back and wonder what I would have done. Look up, and light will come to show what our Lord and Master would have you do.*"¹

To the bloggers who see Amy as a hero, her message would come as no surprise at all.■



¹ Elizabeth Elliot. *A Chance to Die*. Fleming H. Revell, Old Tappan, NJ, 1987. page 345.

Blue Eyes or Brown?

When Amy was a girl, she hated her brown eyes. One night she earnestly prayed that God would change them to blue. In the morning she eagerly looked in a mirror to see her new blue eyes but was very disappointed that they were still brown. God made Amy's eyes brown like the eyes of the people of India. When she grew up and went to India, she was able to disguise herself to blend in with the Indian people and find the little girls she rescued. **God makes us just right for His work.**

Color Amy Carmichael



Do you remember what color Amy's eyes were and why God made them that way?

