

WITH DARING FAITH

by

Rebecca Henry Davis

We hear a lot of talk today about the lack of positive role models for our children. One of the best things we can do is introduce them to great Christians through biographies. *With Daring Faith*, written by Rebecca Henry Davis and published by BJUP, tells the dynamic story of Amy Carmichael, a woman whose life of obedience is a challenge to us and our children.

Amy Carmichael was born to a well to do family residing on the northern coast of Ireland. Homeschooled for the first few years of her life, she was sent to boarding school at the age of twelve. During the three years she was away from home, the most important event of her life occurred. While attending an evangelical meeting, she realized something was missing from her life. Always a church goer she had been aware of Jesus' love, but at this time invited Him into her heart.

Soon after this Amy left boarding school because of financial difficulties at home. Circumstances did not improve and when Amy was 18 her father died leaving her to help her mother care for the younger children in the family. At this time Amy also began teaching a Bible class to the girls who worked in the local mills.

Another major event in Amy's life occurred at a Keswick convention in Glasgow. The speaker used the text Jude 24 "O Lord we know that thou art able to keep us from falling." The words burned into Amy's heart and marked the beginning of a new step in self-denial and faith in her life.

Amy returned home to continue her work with the factory girls. During this time she grew in her commitment to Christ and learned much about prayer.

However, her poor health caused her to give up the work and during the next few years, Amy became aware of a call to the mission field. After overcoming many difficulties, Amy set sail for Japan where her training in trusting the Lord for all things began in earnest. Fifteen months after arriving in Japan, Amy felt the Lord leading her to India where she was to serve for the next 55 years of her life.

During her early evangelistic work in the villages, Amy learned of the young girls who were "married to the gods" and practically prisoners in the temples. It was a terrible life of abuse that horrified Amy and opened her heart to a whole new area of ministry rescuing these children. Eventually the work included a boys orphanage and a hospital at Dohnavur.

In her later years, though suffering and unable to get out of bed, Amy was still working hard for the Lord. She was able to communicate to the children and her co-workers by writing notes of encouragement and counsel. She also completed thirteen books which spiritually strengthened many.

Amy Carmichael's life is a shining example of whole-hearted dedication to the Lord. Reading about her will help encourage us to unconditionally surrender our lives to Him also.

Unit Study Activities

1. Locate India on a globe.
2. Trace Amy's travels on a map.
3. Learn about the physical features of India. Draw a map of India.
4. Cook and enjoy an Indian Meal (rice, curry, etc.)
5. Research India's history. What was Great Britain's involvement?
6. Study the caste system of India. How has it changed since Amy's time?
7. Learn about the Taj Mahal.
8. To get more of a flavour of India, read The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling.
9. Read another biography of a missionary to India. Compare their experiences with Amy's.
10. Amy liked to decorate her room with short scripture verses. Write a scripture in calligraphy or stitch it and hang it in a prominent place in your home.
11. Interview a missionary. What special pressures did they experience on the field? How did they discern God's call?
12. Write a poem about something God is teaching you.
13. Read one of the books Amy Carmichael wrote.
14. Put together a notebook of promises from God's word.
15. Learn about child care. Volunteer to help out a new mother or work in the nursery at your church.
16. Write a family newsletter. Illustrate with pictures.
17. Begin praying for a country.
18. Investigate how to start a Good News Club for children in your neighborhood. Contact Child Evangelism Fellowship.