



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you May 2024 edition of Watchman's Trumpet. The theme of this month's edition is "Queen Esther - Part 1".

The story of Esther unveil God's wisdom, power and providence including His commitment to deliver his people from wicked plots. This is the first of a two part story of God's great deliverance of his people from Genocidal plot in Persia and its lessons. The story begins when the king of Persia throws two elaborate banquet feasts that last a total of 187 days, all for the grandiose purpose of displaying his greatness and splendor. On the last day of the feast, the king is drunk and demands that his wife, Queen Vashti, appear at the party to show off her beauty. She refuses, and, in a drunken rage, the king deposes her.

Then the king holds a beauty pageant to find a new queen. Next we're introduced to how Esther joins the contest with the support of her uncle and foster parent Mordecai and wins the pageant. She was crowned as the new queen of Persia. After this, Mordecai "just happens" to overhear two royal guards plotting to murder the king. He informs Esther, who then tells the king, and Mordecai gets credit for saving the king's life. The king elevates Haman an Agagite, a descendant of the ancient Canaanites (1 Samuel 15) to the highest position in the kingdom and demands that all kneel before him. But when Mordecai sees Haman, he refuses to kneel.

Haman was filled with rage. When Haman finds out that Mordecai is Jewish, he successfully persuaded the king to enact a decree to destroy all the Jews. They decide the date of this horrific day in an outrageous way. Haman rolls ancient dice (pur in Hebrew), and the decree is set. Eleven months later, on the 13th of Adar, all the Jews will be executed. Haman and the king throw a party to celebrate the decree. After this, the story focuses on Mordecai and Esther, who are now the only hope for the Jewish people. They plan for Esther to reveal her Jewish identity to the king and ask that he reverse the decree.

Two fundamental lessons stood out in this Part 1. First is the wisdom of God in foreseeing wicked plots against His people and putting plan in place ahead of time to overturn them. Secondly we have the profitability of trusting God in times of trouble. May the blessings of these two lessons and more be yours as you read this Edition of Watchman's Trumpet in Jesus' name. Welcome!

HOW IT ALL BEGAN: KINGDOM AND STATEHOUSE BANQUETS AND SACKING OF INCUBENT QUEEN

"Now it came to pass in the days of Ahasuerus, (this is Ahasuerus which reigned, from India even unto Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty



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provinces, that in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace, In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him: When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days. And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;" **Esther 1:1-5**

The book of Esther is a story of how a young Jewish woman living in the Persian diaspora who finds favor with the king, becomes queen, and risks her life to save the Jewish people from destruction when a court official Haman persuades the king to authorize their genocide.

It all began with a kingdom and a statehouse banquet and the sacking of the incumbent queen.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. The banquets and Vashti's disobedience
2. Cabinet meeting's trial of insubordinate Vashti
3. Search for Vashti's replacement

1. The banquets and Vashti's disobedience

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded ..." **1 Timothy 6:17**

King Ahasuerus was the emperor over a one-world government divided into 127 provinces and comprising of several nationalities with his headquarters in Shushan. In the third year of his reign, he decided to hold a state banquet in which he exhibited the riches, power and influence of the Persian kingdom. This banquet lasted for 180 days, about half a year. After this feast, he held another one which lasted for seven days to host statehouse officials in the palace garden. At the same time, Vashti the queen held a feast for the women in her section of the royal house built by Ahasuerus. On the seventh day, when the king's heart had become merry with drink, he commanded that they bring Vashti the queen before him with the royal crown to exhibit her beauty before the people and the princes. But Queen Vashti refused to come. This made the king furious and he convened a special cabinet meeting to judge her case and decide her fate.

Here we find expressed what rich and powerful men of the world devoid of gospel illumination or restraints of the scriptures do with their riches and power. It could be summarized in four words – worldliness, vainglory, vanity and pride of life. It is God's mercy in

action to see some of the people of power and influence stay under the restraints, control and influence of the word of God and the Spirit of God. Primarily this would serve good purpose of imbibing in them good and sensitive conscience.

2. Cabinet meeting's trial of insubordinate Vashti

"... He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." **2 Samuel 23:3**

At the cabinet meeting convened by King Ahasuerus to try Queen Vashti's supposed insubordination, the cabinet members advised that the queen be dethroned to serve as deterrent on submission to other women in the kingdom. Ahasuerus consented and carried out this counsel without a second thought or consideration. We can deduct from his concern or desire for Vashti later that he regretted this decision. Of course, he was under the influence of wine and angry when he took the decision. The error of judgment and its inappropriateness was therefore clear. Notwithstanding, the decree was promulgated, signed, sealed and delivered. Many nations suffer not as much from the presence of bad kings or leaders as those with bad cabinet members, counselors and advisers that will counsel others to act contrary to the word, and will of God.



The account of how the next queen was selected revealed that public exhibition of feminine beauty was not a new or strange thing in Persia. Therefore, Vashti's refusal was considered a rebellion which may be due to pride. We should investigate our duties, rights and privileges and where we find that some of the duties run contrary to our convictions, it may be safe to reject such contract out-rightly at the beginning.



3. Search for Vashti's replacement

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." **Romans 8:28**

After king Ahasuerus have gotten over his anger and sobered up from the influence of wine, he remembered and regretted all that happened between him and Vashti. However, because Persian laws and judgment are ironclad, the judgment against Vashti was irrevocable. The king's servants then advised him on the choice of a replacement. They presented a plan of choice in which young virgins would be assembled from all over the empire, placed under the care of a beauty therapist and spend one year on designed programme to upgrade and optimize their appearance and beauty before appearing to the king one by one. Whichever of them the king fell in love with shall be the next queen. The king agreed to the plan and issued the edict. The fact that God can bring good out of the evil that men does and use men's immoral pursuits to accomplish His will was not in doubt in this story as we see Esther introduced into the scene and to Persian public life by divine providence during this pageant. The fact that God used this competition to accomplish His purpose in the life of Esther as well as for the deliverance of the Jew does not justify use of such dehumanizing method as was adopted by the king for the selection of a queen. The corruption, pollution, defilement and lust of the flesh which accompany this kind of practices should make those of us who are converted appreciate God for His work of grace in our hearts and lives.



ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For May 2024

1. Thank God for anticipating and frustrating enemy’s plans against your life
2. Pray for divine favour from men in positions of authority
3. Pray for divine upliftment and promotion this month
4. Pray against vainglory, the pride of life and spirit of worldliness
5. Pray that God by His providence will create opportunity for your to excel and make progress
6. Pray for removal of every limitations in your lives that may hinder you from achieving your full potentials
7. Pray that like Mordecai and Esther, God will make you a source of tremendous blessing in your generation
8. Pray for divine wisdom and help in times of trouble; pray for revelation and solution

“ men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” **Luke 18:1**

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office at Amazing Grace House, Joy Estate, Olorunda -Abaa, Ibadan . Oyo - State. Follow us on any of our social media platforms and send your inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

CORONATION OF ESTHER

“Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king: And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them: And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.” Esther 2:2-4

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” Proverbs 31:10

Esther was an orphan adopted by her uncle Mordecai who was a Benjamite from the same family with Saul the first king in Israel. Indeed, as Peter confessed in the house of Cornelius, God is no respecter of persons. In every nation (or family) those who fear God and practices righteousness are accepted by the Lord.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Esther's background and contest for royal appointment
2. Appointment and coronation of Esther
3. Mordecai's exposure of plotters of the king's assassination

1. Esther's background and contest for royal appointment

“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.” Psalm 27:10



Even though Esther was Mordecai's adopted daughter, Mordecai instructed her as his own daughter and Esther too obeyed Mordecai as she would have obeyed her own father. This is an indictment of children raised by their own biological parents in the best manner possible and yet turned out to be rebellious and disobedient. We also learn that with appropriate influence and care, fostered children could grow up as normal ones and become responsible, respectable citizens in the society. The Lord promise to parent orphans Psalm 27:10. Early loss of parents is never an excuse to become vagabond and delinquent. God can make a difference in orphans' lives. He promised to do so. Esther turned out to be responsible and beautiful; a rare combination among women in the world today. After training and preparation, every virgin going before the king was permitted to take along with her whatever she liked. Esther wisely relied on the advice of their supervisor in the selection of what to take along with her. We all could benefit from experiences of experts from time to time.

2. Appointment and coronation of Esther

“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.” Psalm 75:6, 7

God worked it out that Esther won the competition and was crowned the queen. The Lord is still in such business today. Promotion comes from Him. He can use anyone or any circumstance to accomplish His plans for our lives.

Esther was crowned and taken into the king's royal house. She obtained grace and favour in his eyes. We too need God's grace and favour to breakthrough past obscurity and succeed in life. We should daily pray that divine grace and favour will attend our ways in all we do. The king celebrated Esther's coronation with a feast. During the feast, he granted amnesty to selected prisoners or perhaps tax reliefs and gave gifts to many. We have here how we should celebrate God's provision and blessings. Whenever God makes us rejoice, we should consider helping others find joy and happiness too. This we can do by simply giving out gifts.

3. Mordecai's exposure of plotters of the king's assassination

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9

Later, two of king Ahasuerus officials who became angry with him and plotted to kill him for reasons that were not explained in the scriptures. This plan became known to Mordecai – a palace gatekeeper at that time and he revealed it to the king through Esther. The matter was investigated and the culprits were promptly executed. The event was documented in the king's journal. This event paid off later and was a reason for Mordecai's promotion. We are expected to be loyal to our state, nation as well as employers; and to seize all opportunities we can find or that God brings across our ways to save lives and to do good even when men do not remember or appreciate the good we have done, it is never lost from God's record and there is reckoning day for every man and for everything we do on earth. On that day those who had done good, God will reward them and those who had done evil will receive a recompense for the evil they have done 1 Corinthians 15:58.

HAMAN'S GENOCIDAL PLOT

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him."
Esther 3:1

A man named Haman, an Agagite, perhaps a descendant from the lineage of kings of Amalek gained promotion to the post of prime minister in the Persian kingdom. This appointment required that everyone in the kingdom bow to him and reverence him but Mordecai did not. This deviance was apparent because Mordecai being a gatekeeper in Shushan the palace must often encounter Haman in the line of duty. The reason that Mordecai gave for not bowing to Haman was that He was a Jew. Mordecai's fellow workers tried to prevail upon him to conform but he refused. They therefore informed Haman about Mordecai's action and reason. They pitched a contest of authority, power and influence between Haman and Mordecai. They are interested in seeing who will win. The report of Mordecai's supposed insubordination and the reason given angered Haman. He considered it insufficient and unbefitting of his status to kill only Mordecai. He therefore decided to take it out on all Jews thus including all who did nothing or had nothing to do with Mordecai's action.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Bowing in respect in Bible days and Mordecai's presumed disrespect
2. Misrepresentation of Jewish nonconformity and approval of their destruction
3. Abuse of power in Persian court



2. Bowing in respect in Bible days and Mordecai' presumed disrespect

*"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."***Romans 13:1**

Obeisance or bowing/bending as a mark of respect by one person to another was a common practice in the east in Bible days as it still is in many nations today. Abraham did obeisance before the children of Heth when he wanted to secure from them the cave of Machpelah which later became a family burial place from the Hittites Genesis 23. Moses also did the same to Jethro his father-in-law when he came to visit him in the wilderness Exodus 18:7. David did the same before Jonathan and Saul 1 Samuel 20:41 and 24:8 without considering it a contravention of Exodus 20:4-5 as Mordecai probably did.

2. Misrepresentation of Jewish nonconformity and approval of their destruction

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: But when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."
Proverbs 29:2

The first thing Haman did to execute his wicked plan was to convince King Ahasuerus that the Jews are a dangerous people and a threat to the stability of the kingdom. He represented them as nonconformist and a people with separate laws which run contrary to that of the kingdom; their keeping it makes them subversive towards kingdom interest.

Haman promise to pay 10,000 pieces of silver for any damage or loss of revenue the state might incur in the process of getting rid of them. The king gave Haman his signet ring and even committed himself to underwrite the cost or supposed revenue loss, thus giving liberty to Haman to do with the people as he pleased. Haman then by lot selected the 13th day of the twelfth month as the day to get rid of all Jews from Persian domain. He had the secretaries called in, and letters were written to all regions of Persia and sealed with king's signet ring to have all the Jews in every domain under Ahasuerus' jurisdiction executed on the stated date. As copies of the court order were passed around the entire nation, sorrow overwhelmed all the people especially the Jews and their neighbours but it left Haman and the king drinking in jubilant mood.

3. Abuse of power in Persian court

*"Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul."***Proverbs 22:24, 25**

People in authority should learn how to carefully examine people's motives before allowing them to exercise delegated powers on any judicial matter. If this order had not been overruled by God's providence as we shall see later, King Ahasuerus would have been equally guilty for shedding the blood of innocent people. God made heathen superstition of casting lot to serve His purpose by giving the Jews at least eleven months to plan to defend themselves and escape from the massacre. It appears anger and drunkenness are common past-time among leaders and rulers in Persia both of which often result in error of judgment. Christian should watch against these by dedicating their bodies to God as a holy Temple and genuinely seeking the sanctification experience. The Bible commanded that we should shun the company of those who are often and quickly angered so we are not infected by this negative attitude Proverbs 22:24-25.

EFFECT OF AN OMINOUS DECREE

“And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey. The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed.”

Esther 3:13, 15

The Jews in all the provinces where the decree on the execution of the Jews were published were thrown into mourning, fasting, weeping and lamentation. Mordecai was not excluded. He demonstrated his publicly on the street that ran in front of the palace even though he could not approach the palace gate or his duty post in such a posture because a law prohibited mourners or those in mourning apparel from approaching the king's royal house. Mordecai's grievance was greater because he knew that the idea to kill the Jews was concocted by Haman in response to his refusal to bow to him.



We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Mordecai's appeal for Esther's intervention
2. Safety and security in Persian Palace
3. Calling upon God in times of trouble



1. Mordecai's appeal for Esther's intervention

“And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them. Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.”

Esther 4:7, 8

News of Mordecai's mourning and appearance was brought to Esther by her maids and court officials. She sent to comfort him by sending clothes but he rejected it. Then Esther sent to him her personal assistant Hatach to find out what was the problem. Mordecai told Hatach all that happened and sent a copy of the court order that was delivered in Shushan to her and requested that she approach the king to defend and rescue her people from the death sentence. Esther replied by reminding Mordecai that the law prohibits anyone from coming to the king's presence uninvited. The penalty was death. To make matters worse, she had not been invited to the king's presence for thirty days and does not know when she would be. Mordecai still insisted that Esther should do something to rescue her people and that she should not consider herself to be safe because of her privileged position in the palace. She was one of them.

One way or the other, the truth will come out and she shall suffer the same fate if it happened that the law was executed. On the other hand, he was sure that should Esther fail or faint at this time, God would raise help and deliverance from His people from somewhere else but she and her father's house shall be destroyed for rejecting a call to duty. Who knows, she might have been exalted in the kingdom by God in anticipation of such a time like this. On receiving this message from Mordecai, Esther made up her mind to approach the king but first requested that all Jews should observe three days total fast for her. She and her maids too will do the same in the palace. After the fast, she will approach the king and leave her fate in God's hand. Mordecai went and did as Esther commanded.

1. Safety and security in Persian palace

“All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: ...”

Esther 4:11

“For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” **Esther 4:14**

We see what care the kings on earth takes to keep themselves safe. They do so by isolating themselves from the people. They are so preoccupied with the desire for personal safety to the point they are completely isolated from the people they lead such that when these people are in any trouble or distress, they cannot come to king's presence to ask for help, state their case and present their matter. No wonder Christ commanded that the manner of Christian and kingdom leaders should be different from that which obtains in the world. Jesus Himself demonstrated to us how spiritual leaders should conduct themselves. He was always on the street seeking those who needed His help, love and care. The lesson from Him is that spiritual leaders must be available and accessible. Whether or not contemporary leaders are following His footsteps in this area is another matter entirely. Jesus had done His part. He has given us the example of what He expected from us. He taught that our sense of safety must not overwhelm our sense of duty.

Those who hope to save their lives by hiding or shying away from duty shall lose it but those like Esther, Daniel, Meshach and Shedrack and Abednego who endanger their lives for the sake of the kingdom and by faith shall be delivered by God. Those who place their lives in God's hands to care for, protect and help others for Christ's or kingdom businesses' sake, none can pluck them out of God's hands. Beyond all these, even when all human help fail, we have the throne of grace to where we can appeal to obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need Hebrews 4:16.



2. Calling upon God in times of trouble

“Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.” Esther 4:16

It is a source of great encouragement to see Esther, Mordecai and all the Jews approach God's throne and make use of the privilege of fast and prayer when all hope was lost. We have the same privilege today. Another lesson we learn from this passage is Esther and Mordecai's commitment to their people to save them. Others in their shoes will be thinking or planning how to exempt themselves. Selfishness has always been and still remains the leading obstacle to answering and fulfilling divine call. We must understand that while we remain on earth, we are exposed to risks and dangers everywhere. It takes faith in God and courage to rise above the limitations imposed by fear and concern for personal safety to do our God-ordained duty, help suffering and hurting humanity and evangelize our world.

In Persia, anyone who approached the king's presence uninvited was doomed to die unless the royal scepter is stretched to him by the king. That scepter to all humanity represented the blood of Christ and the mercies of God for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. It is by the mercies of God that we are not consumed, great is His faithfulness. All humanity are destined for perdition and eternal death until God offered His only begotten son and His sacrifice as propitiation for our sins.

Mordecai in sending message to Esther to go before the king and mediate on behalf of the Jews informed her that she may probably have come to the kingdom to be able to help at such times that the Jews faced the prospect of calamity and ruin. We must understand that God placed us where we are for a purpose. It is left for us to find out the



purpose and fulfill it. If we fail, God has power to raise others to fill our place but there is judgment to face and a prize to pay by all who rejected or neglected divine commission. We certainly will lose our reward. So that this will not happen, we need to be like Esther and Mordecai and live by faith and act in faith. Faith in God especially if joined with fasting and prayer can make impossibility possible. This was Esther and Mordecai's conviction which we should also share today. With God all things are possible.



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Amy Carmichael was born in Ireland in 1867, the oldest of seven children. As a teen, she attended a Wesleyan Methodist girls boarding school, until her father died when she was 18. Carmichael twice attended Keswick Conventions and experienced a holiness conversion which led her to work among the poor in Belfast. Amy's call to sacrificial missionary service began with a very ordinary incident. One Sunday heading for church, she saw an old woman carrying a heavy burden. Amy decided to stop and help. As she did, the words of 1 Corinthians 3:12-13 came forcibly to her mind. One biographer wrote, "From this period her life would be shaped by the thought that 'Nothing is important but that which is eternal.'"

Amy had a special burden for the "Shawlies," women who worked in the local factories, often in dreadful conditions. God richly blessed her spiritual concern for these women and soon over 500 were attending the special services she and others in her Presbyterian church had arranged. God was using Amy greatly in her own native land. But she felt God was preparing her for gospel work far from her native land. In 1887, she heard Hudson Taylor speak at the Keswick Convention and became persuaded that God was calling her to "*Go and make disciples.*" Her first thought was serving with the China Inland Mission, but CIM eventually told her that her health was too delicate for the hard labour of missionary work. Undeterred, Amy applied to and was accepted by the Anglican Church Missionary Society. In 1893, Amy travelled to Japan and then briefly to Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Her delicate health (she battled with poor health all her days) forced her to go to Bangalore in India to recuperate. it was there that Amy became convinced of her life's calling. Until her death in 1951, Amy devoted herself to bringing the gospel of God's saving grace in Christ especially to young girls who had been sold into temple prostitution and servile slavery. While still learning the difficult Tamil language, Amy commenced itinerant evangelism with a band of Indian Christian women,

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

AMY CARMICHAEL
1867 - 1951



guided by the CMS missionary Thomas Walker. She soon found herself responsible for Indian women converts, and in 1901, she, the Walkers, and their Indian colleagues settled in Dohnavur. She adopted Indian dress and darkened her skin with dark coffee. She took the apostle Paul's exhortation seriously, "*I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*" The Dohnavur Fellowship's ministry among the female outcasts in Indian society became known far and wide. She gradually began to take in hundreds of unwanted children having smuggled them out of the temples when no-one was looking. On at least one occasion it seemed certain that she would be arrested, but she received a letter informing her that all charges had been dropped with no explanation!

Carmichael had a bad fall in 1931, which restricted her movement. She became crippled and permanently bedridden but continued to study and write. She published nearly 40 books and her many books and poems continue to inspire many Christians "*to give up their small ambitions and go and preach the gospel of Christ.*" In 1951 Carmichael died at Dohnavur. Her headstone is inscribed "*Ammal, revered mother, which the children of Dohnavur called Carmichael.*"

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee."

Jeremiah 1:19

SONG OF THE MONTH

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

1. For such a time as this
Your life is purpose made
Make firm resolve and strength
your vow
The time to act is now
Press on be not afraid
2. For such a time as this
God raised you in His law
From low estate He took you in
To cleanse you of your sin
And transform every flaw
3. In such a time as this
God's plan has been foretold
And though you waver if your run
Yet will His will be done
Have courage and be bold
4. Your influence in life
And power but a gift
That God has placed within your
hands
Prepared as in His plans
For such a time as this

Author: Fielding Burns

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