

GRANT COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST  
May 15, 2011

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Make your mother proud: Be honest - Be hard-working -  
Be noble - Be respected - Be on guard - 1 Peter 5:8

Owe her nothing but love: Pay your own way.

Thank her often: Ingratitude is a horrible thing where  
parents, especially mothers are concerned - Think about  
what she has done so that you could be who you are.

Hug her often: There's no reason for a mother who has  
living children to suffer from loneliness - Stay in touch,  
literally.

Enrich her life: Proverbs 31:27 "*She watches over the  
ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of  
idleness.*" Your parents have given of themselves since the  
day you were born. Share your successes with them. Do  
something to make their lives better, instead of being a  
burden.

Remember her: Birthday- Anniversary- Special times in  
her life- Let us not get so wrapped up in ourselves that we  
forget our mother.

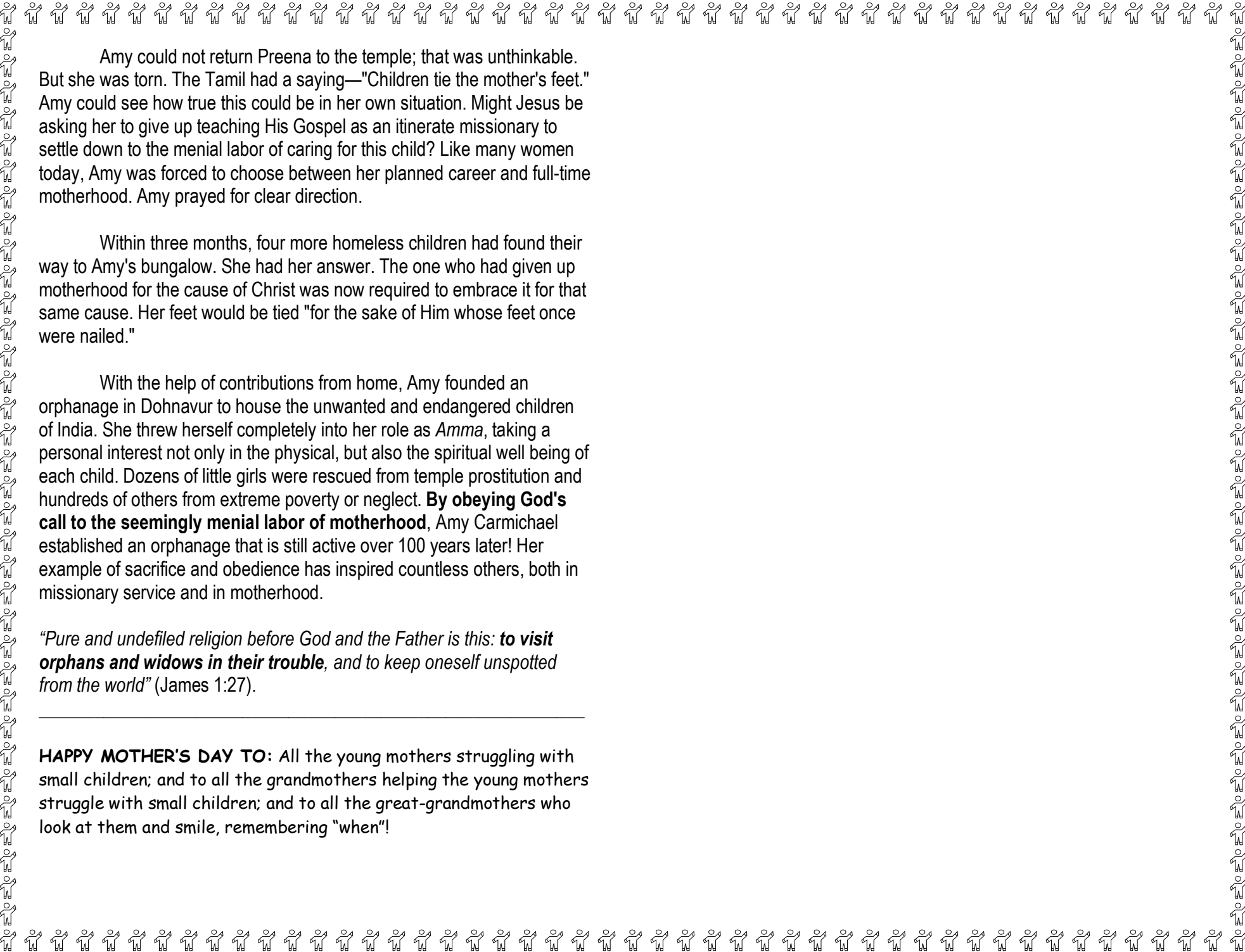
## The Reluctant Mother: Amy Carmichael

We can't always identify life-changing moments as they occur. When a little Indian girl named Preena crawled into Amy Carmichael's lap and called her "Amma" (or "mother" in Tamil) for the first time, neither of them could have known that this simple act would change both their lives forever, and the lives of hundreds of others.

Amy Carmichael was born in Ireland in 1867, the oldest of seven children. Amy obeyed the gospel at age 12 while at boarding school and her life changed dramatically. As a young woman, she ministered tirelessly to the poor women (called "shawlies") who worked in the textile mills of Belfast. During this time she heard Hudson Taylor of China Inland Mission describe the great need for missionaries. "In China," he said, "four thousand souls a day are dying without Christ." Amy's all-consuming desire to spread the Gospel, coupled with her love of excitement and strong personality, seemed a perfect fit for the mission life he described. Amy decided that she would never marry or have a family, but would instead serve Christ by spreading the Gospel in foreign lands.

Amy landed on the shores of India in 1895. Soon she and her band of native women began teaching the gospel wherever they could gain an audience. On a trip to the village of Pannaivilai in 1901, Amy met Preena, a child of seven who had been sold by her mother to the Hindu temple to become a temple prostitute.

Amy met Preena during the girl's second attempt to escape the Hindu temple. The first time, she made it all the way home to her mother without capture. Her mother was afraid that the gods would punish her if she didn't return Preena, so she took the terrified, screaming child back to the temple women. The temple authorities branded Preena's hands with hot irons as punishment for running away. Still, when the child found another chance to escape, she seized it and ran to a church in the village. Preena was found by a local woman named who took her to Amy. Preena immediately climbed into Amy's lap, and they both fell in love.



Amy could not return Preena to the temple; that was unthinkable. But she was torn. The Tamil had a saying—"Children tie the mother's feet." Amy could see how true this could be in her own situation. Might Jesus be asking her to give up teaching His Gospel as an itinerate missionary to settle down to the menial labor of caring for this child? Like many women today, Amy was forced to choose between her planned career and full-time motherhood. Amy prayed for clear direction.

Within three months, four more homeless children had found their way to Amy's bungalow. She had her answer. The one who had given up motherhood for the cause of Christ was now required to embrace it for that same cause. Her feet would be tied "for the sake of Him whose feet once were nailed."

With the help of contributions from home, Amy founded an orphanage in Dohnavur to house the unwanted and endangered children of India. She threw herself completely into her role as *Amma*, taking a personal interest not only in the physical, but also the spiritual well being of each child. Dozens of little girls were rescued from temple prostitution and hundreds of others from extreme poverty or neglect. **By obeying God's call to the seemingly menial labor of motherhood**, Amy Carmichael established an orphanage that is still active over 100 years later! Her example of sacrifice and obedience has inspired countless others, both in missionary service and in motherhood.

*"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: **to visit orphans and widows in their trouble**, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world"* (James 1:27).

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**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO:** All the young mothers struggling with small children; and to all the grandmothers helping the young mothers struggle with small children; and to all the great-grandmothers who look at them and smile, remembering "when"!