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# Abide

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Volume 1, Issue 5

October—December 2001

It could have  
been your  
friend, your  
co-worker,  
or your  
next-door  
neighbor...  
It could have  
been a fam-  
ily member.  
Have they  
heard the  
Good News?



**People Need the Lord!**

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## Our Mission Statement:

The reason for publishing this journal is to encourage youth to mature in the Lord. We desire all to be challenged to seek the reality of God in their own lives. We hope you will see, by the testimony of other youths, a Christian life that radiates the power of God. God's desire for all of us is much more than to escape Hell. It is for us to live a victorious life by abiding in Christ. All material for this publication will be edited with this goal in mind. The Editors

## In Upcoming Issues . . .

We are planning issues on the following topics:

**Abiding At Home**  
**Total Surrender**  
**Complete Commitment**

At this time, we plan to run these themes in this order, but if our readers desire an issue on a different topic, or submit material for an issue planned for a later date, we are willing to switch themes. Reader *feedback* is important!

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## Submissions:

We want stuff from you! If you would like to submit a testimony, a hymn history, an article you have written, or some material you have read, please contact us using any of the options in the left column.

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### Artwork

Sarah Hustad  
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Have you noticed the artwork? We appreciate the youth that have created our cover art. Our goal to provide an outlet for your vision includes art. Feel free to contact us if you would like to contribute in this way.

This Journal is provided free of charge to anyone who requests it. It is supported by God and the people He moves to donate financially. All Praise be to God!

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## Evangelizing At Home-Joseph Kauffman

You may have often heard a speaker or writer make a plea for all Christians to be soul winners. Perhaps a missionary visited your church and spoke so fervently about the millions who are still lost in sin, living in the terror of ancient superstitions and cruel gods, that you resolved to also be a missionary some day. Perhaps you heard a message about the great judgment day, and you clearly pictured the terrible-ness and finality of that day. You again felt the imperative need to rescue as many souls as possible before that day comes. (We need these messages, and God grant us more.) These are great motivations to win souls, but did you know that soul winning is one of the most exciting things you can do as a Christian?

My first experience in being personally involved in organized evangelism was when I was fourteen years old. That was five years ago. My older brother and some other youth from church began to go street witnessing on Tuesday evenings. I went along but not because I had a great burden for souls. I simply thought it was a good thing to do. However, as I did what I knew I should do, God began to work in my heart, and He gave me a tremendous burden for the youth of Sidney, New York (my hometown). I have gone every summer since then. I'll share just a few blessings, mind stretchers, and adventures that we experienced in those years. Please understand that I do not in any way think I have perfected techniques or reached the ultimate. I am constantly seeking better ways and approaches to share the Gospel.

As you begin street witnessing, these are some of the experiences you may be in for:



- Having a young girl from town tell you that some people's lives have really changed since you witnessed to them...
- Sitting on the sidewalk beside a young man who gladly allows you to share the plan of salvation (Is there any greater blessing?)...
- Having an encounter with someone that is carrying an Ouija board, threatening to kill one of

you if you don't shut up...

- Being invited into a Satanist's house where you read in Revelation of the final triumph of Jesus...
- Being encouraged by a policeman to "keep it up"...

- Being warned by a well-meaning youth that others are getting tired of you and are planning violence...
- Being offered drugs...
- Talking with someone who sold his soul and signed a contract with his blood...
- Being surrounded by a raging mob...
- Having someone leap from a car and splash water at you...

**We should witness to our friends, neighbors, and daily contacts continually, but there is still a blessing in setting aside specific time just for that.**

Not nearly all of it is dramatic or encouraging. There are definitely costs involved. It takes time—not only on the street, but lots and lots of it on your knees. You will be mocked. Not always the open, abusive kind which is easier to bear (though a lot of that comes too), but the half-concealed grins and smirks of those who truly believe you're crazy. There are temptations. There are very many times when you walk away from a conversation with the feeling that nothing was accomplished. Often you may look back and wish with all your heart that you had said something different. You may face physical violence, especially if you make noticeable headway in your efforts. But that's nothing to fear! Praise the Lord if Satan feels you are a threat to him!

These are some of the innumerable benefits for those that persist:

- Showing a hungry soul the Bread from Heaven...
- Getting hands-on preparation for the foreign field (people who have done both say that the two are very similar)...
- Getting a greater burden for lost souls as you see that truly the way of the transgressor is hard...
- Gaining a new and deeper appreciation for your own salvation...
- And most of all, having the peace and happiness that comes from following Christ's command.

I would like to address some practical issues:

## Reasons We Don't Evangelize

*"I don't have time."* You do have time. No matter how many people think otherwise, there are still 24 hours in each day. It is not a matter of lacking time, but what you do with the time you have.

*"I don't feel called."* You don't need to *feel* called. You *are* called. You never need to worry about making God mad if you tell others about Him, or what He has done in your life. The Great Commission is for all Christians.

*"I don't have a burden."* Go anyway! A burden is a helpful thing to have, but it is not a necessity. Remember, you have been called. It is better to do what is right until you get a burden, than to wait to do it until you feel right about it.

*"I don't feel in shape spiritually."* Do you expect to get into shape while disobeying Jesus' direct command? Evangelizing is not a cure-all, but it does a lot to stir a fire for God's work. Yes, you definitely want to be in good shape spiritually. Seek God more earnestly and pray about your need while you tell others about Jesus. (I'm talking to saved youth that have backslidden, not those who were never saved.)

I fully realize that there are many other ways to fulfill the Great Commission than by street witnessing. I feel like that is my call at the present, so that is what I use as an example of evangelizing. If you feel called to another area of ministry, pursue it and God bless you. Whatever your ministry is, however, try to set aside a specific time to do only that. We are to pray without ceasing, but we still need to set apart time just for prayer. We should worship God every day of the week, but we still set aside a day especially dedicated to that. Even so, we should witness to our friends, neighbors, and daily contacts continually, but there is still a blessing in setting aside specific time just for that. Otherwise, it is so easy to become negligent.

For those of you who are street witnessing, or who want to start, I'd like to share just a few tips and ideas I have gathered over the years:

**You don't need to have everything planned out** a week ahead of time and have several others to go with you. Though I encouraged a schedule, if for some reason you can't make it one time, you don't need to wait until next week. If you have an hour of spare time the next evening, take your brother or sister with you and go. Don't cancel the whole thing if everyone can't come.

**Going alone is not at all recommended.** On the other hand, don't take too many.

**Don't feel obligated to stick to a concrete formula.** If the streets are bare after only one half-hour, go pray! If you meet someone and can't seem to find an opportunity to witness, just be friendly, show an interest in him, and pray for him later. You may meet him again, and he may be more open because you cared about him personally. Remember, every encounter is building a future relationship.



**Be brief.** While you can talk to some open individuals for a long time without them resenting it, most will avoid further contact if they feel that every conversation with you will be a long one. If you sense them getting impatient, thank them for their time and move on. Better to leave them curious for more, than tired of what they have already heard.

**Be real.** They are unbelievably sharp at sensing when you are putting up a front. They are sick of artificial pastors and politics and will close up very quickly if they sense that in you. If you don't know the answer to a question, say so.

**Talk their language.** Learning foreign languages and cultures is not only for overseas missions. Use simple terms that they understand. Talking about "sanctification and justification through the free merits of our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" is a foreign language to them. Jesus talked to the common people in a way they understood and used parables that they were very familiar with. Don't be afraid to discuss contemporary issues.

**Listen.** Don't do all the talking unless they clearly prefer it that way.

**Don't be intimidated.** While we do not in any way want to appear froward or arrogant, they will respect one who is not intimidated. Once, when two groups of youth from our church went out, one met up with a group of street youth who tried their best to scare or shut them up. When they quietly stood their ground, the street youth left. A little later, they called out to the other group that was witnessing, and allowed them to share their message.

Last, but perhaps **most important of all: Be joyful!** The unsaved often cannot understand theological terms, but they can understand a joyful

countenance. You are presenting a message of hope! They have seen many religions with convincing arguments. They have seen Orthodox Jews and Muslims devoutly cling to their beliefs, but only through Jesus can one have joy. *“Let your light shine so before men.”* Smile!

I have shared a little bit of my heart about evangelism and hope it will be an encouragement. Seek God and let Him tell you what He has for your life. Be assured God does have a ministry for your life besides just keeping your own heart right. In fact, if that is all you focus on, in a short time you won't even be able to do that. Many a problem will be taken care of if you focus on ministering to others instead of yourself. And, if you have trouble knowing what ministry to give yourself to, let me suggest that you try street witnessing. It is good preparation for almost any other kind of ministry, costs almost nothing in the way of finances, and only takes a few people to start. Whatever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men. God bless.

**Sometimes, the road we are called to walk may be full of friends and fellow believers. Othertimes, we are called to walk the deserted country lanes alone.**



## The Still Small Voice

I longed to walk along an easy road,  
And leave behind the dull routine of home,  
Thinking in other fields to serve my God;  
But Jesus said, “My time has not yet come.”

I longed to sow the seed in other soil,  
To be unshackled in the work, and free,  
To join with other laborers in their toil;  
But Jesus said, “It’s not My choice for thee.”

I longed to leave the desert, and be led  
To work where souls were sunk in sin and shame,  
That I might win them; but the Master said,  
“I have not called you, publish here My name.”

I longed to fight the battles of my King,  
Lift high His standards in the thickest strife;  
But my great Captain had me wait and sing  
Songs of His conquests in my quiet life.

I longed to leave the hard and difficult sphere,  
Where all alone I seemed to stand and wait,  
To feel I had some human helper near,  
But Jesus had me guard one lonely gate.

I longed to leave the common daily toil,  
Where no one seemed to understand or care;  
But Jesus said, “I choose for you this soil,  
That you might raise for Me some blossoms rare.”

And now I have no longing but to do  
At home, or far away, His blessed will,  
To work amid the many or the few,  
Thus, “choosing not to choose,” my heart is still.

Author Unknown

**Must I go, and empty-handed?  
Must I meet my Savior so?  
Not one soul with which to greet Him:  
Must I empty-handed go?**

C. C. Luther

# Amy Carmichael—What Ever It Takes!

*O for a passionate passion for souls!*

*O for a pity that yearns!*

*O for the love that loves unto death!*

*O for the fire that burns!*

*O for the pure prayer power that prevails,*

*That pours itself out for the lost;*

*Victorious prayer in the Conqueror's name,*

*O for a Pentecost!*



**What can one girl do? A lot—if she has consecrated herself to the Lord and is committed to do whatever He asks her. Amy Carmichael is proof.**

Few words could better express the longing of Amy Carmichael's heart. She wrote these words while in Japan on a missionary trip. It is said if we really want something, we will often get it. Isn't that true? Those who want to be rich usually have a lot of money. Those who want a mansion will often get one. Those who want to be famous often become well known. The young man who wants a new truck will usually buy it, and the girl who wants a rich husband will probably find one. In reality, what we really want, we will sacrifice whatever it takes to get. This is very evident in the life of Amy Carmichael. She wanted a fervent prayer life, and she became a prayer warrior. She yearned to be a pure testimony for Christ, and her holy life stunned people. She craved Christ's compassionate love, and a love for people became the striking characteristic of her life. Finally, with all of her heart, she desired to win people to Christ, and God used her to snatch hundreds of souls from Satan's grasp.

Why did she get what she wanted? She got it because she gave *whatever it took* to get it—her entire life, her goals, her hopes and dreams, her family, her home, her native land, her church, her friends, her everything! She gave all for Christ who gave His All for her! It was not easy, and many people did not understand. Amy had many friends that thought she was crazy for she did things that were not *proper* for a young girl to do. She went places a young lady should *never* go. Why? Amy did these things because she knew God had called her to do it—nothing and *nobody* could alter her course. Her gaze was set on Christ, the One who also was mocked and ridiculed by those who did not understand.

If we want God's best for our lives, we must give Him our youth. It during our youth that we are full of vigor, energy, and good health. We are able to put our full concentration on God and the needs of others while we are free from the responsibilities of a family and the pressures of "making a living". We must do as Amy did and abandon ourselves to God's purpose for our lives. As you read this account of Amy's youth and the many ministries God started through her, please consider this: God wants to use you and me *now* in the same way. He may have a foreign mission field for you some day, as He did for Amy, but that may not be His goal for you now. He wants you to be a missionary for Him now—a *missionary at home*.

Amy Carmichael was born in the small coastal village of Millisle, Ireland on December 16, 1867. She was the first of seven children born to David and Catherine Carmichael. Her father was joint owner of a prosperous flourmill along with his brother, William. David and Catherine were both blessed with a godly heritage and were strong members of a local Presbyterian Church. The minister of Amy's time was the Rev. John Beatty. He was a true man of

God who had taken part in a mighty revival in the city of Belfast in 1859.

Amy's mother was one of the many changed forever in the revival. God freed her from the formalism that plagued many churches in her day. David and Catherine provided a beautiful balance of loving commitment and firm discipline in their home, which flowed out of their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. David led the family in daily devotions, and together they taught the children to pray to God and read the Bible at an early age. Walking nature trails, riding horses, caring for their many pets, and more serious pursuits like schooling filled Amy's childhood with activity.

Amy had an adventurous spirit that got out of hand at times. Once she dared her brothers to see how many poisonous berries they could eat! They all became very sick. Another time, Amy and her brothers climbed onto the house roof through the bathroom skylight. They then proceeded to walk the gutter edge all the way around the house, only to see their mother and father looking up in horror from below!

Although Amy's recklessness was continually getting her in trouble, she was a caring and loving young girl. Her younger siblings and neighbors greatly loved her. Even when Amy was quite small, her kindhearted mother sent her and her brothers to the village with soup for the old and poor. Their efforts were well rewarded when they saw the elderly faces lit up with smiles. Amy's parents taught her at an early age to look beyond her own comfort to see the needs surrounding her.

Amy's parents sent her to a boarding school to further her education when she was 13—a common practice of that time. In later years, she felt ashamed of her many foolish pranks while at school. At the age of sixteen, before she left the boarding school, something happened that dramatically changed her life. At the close of a local Gospel meeting, the congregation sang "Jesus Loves Me". In a moment of silence, she clearly saw her need to respond personally to what Christ had done for her. Her parents raised her in a Godly home and all her life had explained what Jesus did for her. But like Hudson Taylor and Andrew Murray, it was not until she saw her own sinfulness and need of a Savior that she completely yielded her heart and life to Him.

She had to return home after three years due to financial difficulty. When she arrived, the family moved to Belfast where David was overseeing a mill

he had started with his brother. After this move, Amy was able to spend a lot of time with her father, and his godly life greatly influenced her. This time became even more precious during a tragedy that soon shook the Carmichael home.

Two years after Amy came home her father came down with a serious case of pneumonia. On Sunday, April 12, 1885, while the church bells were ringing, he died. Although they all took his tragic death very hard, they pulled together and trusted the Lord to meet their needs. Then something happened to Amy that radically changed her life: On their way home from church one dreary Sunday, they passed a frail old lady clutching a heavy bundle. In pity, Amy and her brothers stopped to help her. One brother carried the bundle while Amy and the other brother each took an arm to help the lady through the streets. However, their pity quickly turned to embarrassment when they suddenly met their friends who viewed them with shock and disdain. Their misery only increased as the lady's wet and dirty rags blew all over their clean Sunday clothes.

**At an early age, Amy was taught by the example of her parents to look beyond her own comfort to the needs surrounding her.**

Suddenly, Amy was startled to hear a voice ring out through the drizzle: "*Gold, silver, precious stones; wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be tried by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide... (1 Corinthians 3:12b-14a)*" Amy turned to see who had spoken to her, but there was nobody, nothing—except a water fountain, and a steady stream of churchgoers. She instantly realized God had spoken to her through His inspired Word. She saw these earthly things burn to dust, and the only thing that would make her life worthwhile was what she did for Christ. She saw the vast majority of her life's work burn away, and before her eyes the things she held so dear began to lose value in the light of eternity.

Amy went home and shut herself in her room. There she settled the pattern of her future life. She was no

longer satisfied with the halfhearted Christian life she had been living. She now gave her all for Christ - and her life showed the results. She was **never** the same. This young seventeen-year-old girl set out to live for Christ and bring other souls to Him.

Friends, please realize that you do not have to go out and do something great for God to qualify as a missionary at home. You may not be able to have a ministry just like Amy did. However, God gives each one of us opportunities to minister to the needs of the people around us. It may be mowing our elderly neighbor's lawn or roofing his house. It could be scrubbing a busy mother's floor or helping a neighbor boy with his homework. It might mean being friendly to that young person down the street who everyone scorns.

Whatever we do, we must look for opportunities to share Christ with people through our words and through our lives. It means living constantly in light of the questions: Am I doing this for Christ? Will it last through the fire? Our lives *can* make a difference! However, are we willing to leave our comfort zone and lay our life in God's hands? Are we willing to give God *everything* and leave the results with Him? If we are, then God is waiting and ready to use us just as He did Amy. *What could one girl do?* Let us look at what God did through her because she was willing to give God everything:

1. God gave her a vision of the needs of children and young people in her local area. One of the first things she did was to go out on Sunday afternoons to a poor district in Belfast and gather children. She took them home for children's meetings. Her mother would also provide something for the children to eat before sending them home. It is interesting to note that most of the ministries she did were in the slums, the places she had most despised! What Christ can change in a dedicated life!

2. During this time Amy met Henry Montgomery of the Belfast City Mission. He would take her out on Saturday evenings through the streets of Belfast, saying little, but letting the sights of evil and poverty make their own impression. One result from this was that Amy and three other girls went to a night school on Monday evenings to help teach a group of lively boys.

3. Amy started another ministry called the "Morning Watch". Each youth that joined would pledge a certain amount of time each morning to prayer and reading the Word. They would meet every Saturday

to share their successes or failures and what the Lord had taught them during that week. Many youth joined, although becoming a member was taken very seriously. One member recalled "each meeting was greatly enjoyed by all, and Amy made sure there were no dull moments!" Are we taking every opportunity to encourage our family and friends to "press on" and keep the quiet time as a daily priority?

**The love God gave Amy for poor, helpless children only grew. Later in life, Amy worked to save many young Indian girls.**



4. Amy also started a weekly prayer meeting for schoolgirls. In the beginning, she held them in the girl's homes. Later, they were held on the Victoria College campus when some of the staff and students from the college wished to join. It seemed the more she did, the more her vision continued to grow, and soon she got a burden for other girls less fortunate...

5. In the city of Belfast, a number of girls were largely unreached by any effects of the Gospel. These girls, called *shawlies*, worked in the mills. Respectable people ignored them because they wore shawls instead of hats. Although there were hundreds of Christians in Belfast at this time, no one attempted to reach them with the Gospel because they represented such a low class of people. Much to the dismay of other church members, Amy secured permission from her pastor to hold meetings for the shawlies in the Church Hall every Sunday. There she attempted to lift up a standard of pure Christianity to the girls, and prayed that they might live pure, clean lives in their filthy environment. Still, she was not satisfied. Therefore, she visited the girls' homes during the week to encourage them, although this often required walking through a very dangerous part of the city. Most other Christians looked down on Amy for her ministry, but her mother supported



her in everything, even when Amy was at risk. She knew that Amy was in the center of God's will—the safest place for any Christian to be.

After starting these ministries, Amy sensed a lack of Holiness in her daily life, a lack of portraying Christ to all those hurting souls. What was wrong? Why wasn't she holy? When Amy was nineteen, she attended a Holiness convention held in Glasgow, Scotland. She longed for the Lord to speak to her, but the first two services seemed to have nothing for her. At the close of the second service, a man rose to pray and began with these words; *"O Lord, we know thou art able to keep us from falling."* Those words sunk deep into her heart and answered her questions. There was **nothing** she could do to attain holiness for the power of Christ alone gave her victory. Her life was transformed as she realized her only work was to Abide in the Vine, and Christ would do the rest through her.

After this, God continued to bless her ministries in an amazing way. The number of mill girls seeking the truth continued to grow, until the church could not contain them. They needed a building that could seat at least 500 people. Amy saw an iron building in a newspaper that that could seat that many. However, it cost £500 to put up. God impressed on Amy's heart not to ask anyone for money, but only to pray that God would provide. Within a short time, a wealthy lady provided all the money they needed to put up the building. A rich mill owner provided the land they needed for a very small amount of rent every year. This was the beginning of Amy's walk of faith in God to meet all her needs. They built it right in the heart of the slums where Amy made it a haven for the mill girls. They opened the building and dedicated it as the **Welcome**. In the new building, just below the platform they wrote the words: *"That in all things He may have the preeminence,"* and truly it expressed the longing of Amy's heart.

Over the next months and years, hundreds of young girls' and women's lives were transformed through the Gospel meetings, Bible studies, and prayer meetings held at the Welcome. Although Amy had other young girls who helped her, she usually reserved the Gospel service for herself. After clearly presenting the Gospel, she passionately urged the young girls and women to get right with God. She also held singing, sewing, and mothering classes, and night school to help them rebuild their broken lives.

Even after Amy left the work, it continued for many years as God raised up other faithful young ladies to

take her place. Sixty years later, God was still at work saving souls at the Welcome. Girls as well as boys were being reached with the Gospel. A number of youth saved at the Welcome were on the mission field, and hundreds of others lived productive lives. There was a Sunday school with 21 teachers and 200 children, and they raised hundreds of pounds at the Welcome that they gave for foreign missions. All this because of *one girl* who responded to the vision God gave her.

Amy was involved in many more ministries while in Ireland, and later in England. However, space does not permit recounting them here. I would encourage you to get her biography and read about it yourself. It was not until several years later that she heard God's voice saying, *"Go Ye..."* She left for her first foreign mission field, but she had already been a missionary for many years. *What could one girl do?* Amy's life answers that question—a lot! What can we as youth do *now*? Dedicate our lives completely to Christ and ask Him what place we can fill *now*, in **Missions at Home**. —TJG

*Here is a list of books about Amy Carmichael that were consulted for this sketch. Perhaps you would like to get one of them and read more about Amy:*

Amy Carmichael of Dohnavor  
by Frank L. Houghton is available through:  
Rare Christian Books  
19275 Highway 28  
Dixon, Missouri 65459  
(573) 336-7316  
[www.rarechristianbooks.com](http://www.rarechristianbooks.com)

Amy Carmichael—A Life Abandoned to God  
*A Heroes of the Faith series book. It is available at most Christian bookstores.*

A Chance to Die—The Life of Amy Carmichael  
by Elisabeth Elliot is another excellent resource. Rare Christian Books lists it on their website for \$19.99USD. We have not confirmed whether or not they have it in stock.

## Brighten the Corner-Ina Duley Ogdon



*Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do.  
Do not wait to shed your light afar.  
To the many duties ever near you now be true;  
Brighten the corner where you are!*

*Just above are clouded skies that you may help to clear;  
Let not narrow self your way debar,  
Tho' into one heart alone may fall your song of cheer,  
Brighten the corner where you are!*

*Here for all your talent you may surely find a need,  
Here reflect the Bright and Morning Star.  
Ever from your humble hand the Bread of Life may feed;  
Brighten the corner where you are!*

*Brighten the corner where you are!  
Brighten the corner where you are!  
Someone far from harbor you may guide across the bar,  
Brighten the corner where you are!*

—Ina Duley Ogdon 1877-1964

Ina Duley Ogdon, was born near Hoopston, Illinois, in 1877. She was a very talented speaker, and so she was invited to speak on the Chautauqua Circuit. However, God had other plans for her. Just before she was to leave, her father was involved in an automobile accident and was left an invalid. Ina was the only one who could care for her father, so she stayed home.

She was very disappointed and angry because it was an opportunity that was gone forever. She soon accepted this as God's will for her and began to serve God by serving her father and the people of her town. She began teaching school in Cherryville, IL, and this is where she started writing hymns.

Ina knew that she did not have to go somewhere or do something big in order to serve God (like preaching on the Chautauqua Circuit). Ina knew that she could serve God wherever He put her, even at home. This led her to write, "*Brighten the Corner Where You Are.*"

Ina wrote "*Brighten the Corner Where You Are,*" in 1913, and died in 1964, in Toledo, Ohio. She wrote only a few other hymns, none well known, and little else is known of her.

Charles Hutchinson Gabriel, the composer of this bright tune, was born on August 18, 1856, in Wilton, Iowa. He and his songs were very popular during the Billy Sunday crusades. He edited, published, and

wrote the words or music to about 8000 Gospel songs, and helped publish over 40 hymnals. He often used the pseudonym Charlotte G. Homer. He wrote the music to "*His Eye is on the Sparrow,*" "*Higher Ground,*" "*Since Jesus Came Into My Heart,*" and others. He wrote the music and words to "*Send the Light,*" "*My Savior's Love,*" "*O That Will Be Glory,*" and many others. He died September 15, 1932, in Los Angeles, California.

Some of the hardest people to witness to are the people we know best (i.e., a brother, grandpa, aunt, friend, etc.). However, these are the people we need to witness to *most* and should be the ones we are *most* concerned for. It is easier to go somewhere where people do not know us. Although they may mock us it is often easier to bear than rejection, or to be disdained by the people we know.

Another challenge to ministry *at home* is that your family and friends know you best and know all your weaknesses, making your example count much more than your words.

God may or may not call you to a mission field, He may ask you to stay home and take care of a family member, or go to the cannibals, or be a preacher on the Chautauqua Circuit, but it still remains the same: *Brighten the Corner Where You Are.*—AER

# *Only a Servant*

-Review by Josiah Rocke

The awesome power of a true servant of God! Little do we realize the power that our actions have in evangelization! The book *Only a Servant* uses the short story form to visualize the impact of a servant's heart.

*Only a Servant* was written in 1991 by Kristina Roy. It is set in turn-of-the-century Hungary. A family is struggling to survive on the family farm. Just when things look bleakest, a bright young man presents himself to the farmer, and asks for work. The farmer gladly gives him a trial, and later the two make a two-year contract.

**He had come to reach the Jew,  
yet he spent most of his time and  
energy helping different people.  
He accomplished his purpose  
and yet so much more!**

From the beginning, the young man, named Methodius, proved himself to be a wonderful worker. However, he seemed to be much more than that. He acted well educated, and he was very kind and patient with everyone. The care-worn family was quietly turned toward Christ through their servant's actions.

Methodius quickly began to reach out to others in the village—the town drunk, the lame outcast, and the nasty old Jew. One-by-one, each was won to friendship and confidence by the quiet, non-aggressive manner of Methodius. He never preached a sermon and never challenged sinners; he simply served others, and met any and every need that he could. *His life was his sermon.*

As the two years passed, many in the village came to love Methodius and learned to love and obey the Christ he did.

Near the end of the two years, the old Jew, who had been stubbornly hanging onto his Jewish religion, came to see Jesus as his Messiah. He put his faith

and hope in Christ to save him. The villagers were gladdened at his conversion. Two years earlier, only his death would have made them happy. What a change! It had all been because of the servant and his witness.



After the Jew was born again, Methodius shocked the village by revealing that the reason he had come to the village was to find this old Jew. He was really a wealthy man from America. He had come as a servant because he knew it was the only way he could both befriend the Jew *and* lead him to Christ.

What I find to be the most powerful theme in this short story is the total willingness of Methodius to forsake his wealth and become a farm hand just to reach one Jew.

Another thing that struck me was that even though Methodius had come to find the Jew, he spent most of his time and energy helping other people. He accomplished his task, yet he did so much more!

The author writes the story in a way that leaves you wondering if it is true. I believe it is, although I could not track down any definite information. I encourage you to read this book. It is a short story (129 pages), and it may seem childish to some readers. However, the rich lessons it holds and the beautiful servant's heart which flows from it make it worthwhile.

*Only a Servant is published by Rod & Staff Publishers, Inc. Their 2001 catalog lists a price of \$4.75 for this book. They can be contacted by calling (606) 522-4348. Their mailing address is:  
Rod & Staff Publishers, Inc.  
Crockett, Kentucky 41413*

*This book may also be available through any company that carries Rod & Staff materials. God Bless!*

## Seek First the Kingdom of God-Lee Stauffer

To all who are strangers and pilgrims on this earth, living with a lively hope in Jesus Christ our Lord: Greetings! It is my desire to provoke you on in love and good works for our Lord Jesus Christ.

The purpose of this article is not for me to boast or brag of God's work in my life, rather it is to give glory and honor to Jesus Christ. He alone is worthy and deserves every living moment of our lives. He is the One who has commanded us to seek first the Kingdom of God.

Approximately eight years ago, I allowed God to break my heart over the fact that I was doing so little for Him. I was holding onto my own dreams and goals. These, of course, were very selfish and stood in direct opposition to God's will for my life.

As a result of that breaking, God gave me the opportunity to be a van driver. I drove city children to Sunday School. I found fulfillment in serving God.

I thought this was all God had for me. You can imag-

**My life used to be so busy that when God gave me opportunities to serve, I often found myself unavailable. Yet now I have**

ine my surprise when, two years later, I was asked to consider going to a foreign mission field. This was a true test of my prior commitment to follow God. Through a series of events, it became very evident that it was God's will for me to go.

The next four years were indeed the most blessed, rewarding, and growing years of my young life. At that point, I was ready to stay on the mission field. Yet once again, my commitment to God was tested when God said: "Son, I want you to go back to the states, but remember you're not the same person you used to be. You've had experiences that others never have had—your outlook on life in general is totally changed. Son, take this outlook back to America—back to a land that is filled with people seeking wealth, caught up in materialism, possessed with sports, and a lifestyle that is too busy for Me." (Is this true of us? ED)

After all I had experienced, considering a return to

this kind of environment was overwhelming. I found myself crying out to God, saying, "I can't just go back and live that 'normal' lifestyle knowing that most of the world knows nothing of such a standard of living." Dear friends, many times we take our standard of living for granted, myself included. We do not consider what comforts and conveniences we could live without. I don't want to give the impression that I always consider this factor when I make decisions. It is my earnest desire to continually live my life the way God wants me to—even if it means foregoing what could be considered standard comforts here in the US.

How I praise and thank God for answering the cry and longing of my heart. He provided me a part-time job with flexible hours so I would have more freedom to serve. He also provided an opportunity to volunteer as an assistant Chaplain to imprisoned juveniles. He also has provided me with many other opportunities to reach out and be a missionary in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Yes, I have had to make changes to my lifestyle. I have to be satisfied with less than the norm—such as driving a older vehicle with 200,000 miles on it. I have to follow God despite misunderstanding and ridicule from others. Praise God that in the midst of all this, He has again proved Himself faithful many times over. What a joy and blessing is mine to know that I am helping to build the Kingdom of God. Hallelujah!

My life used to be so busy that when God gave me opportunities to serve, I often found myself unavailable. Yet now I have **time**—time to visit grandparents, time to encourage the sick and suffering, time to bless others, time to build a better relationship with my Dad, and time to do things which would be impossible if I had a full time job.

It's amazing how many opportunities we can find to serve others. The key is to seek for them, and tell God our desire and commitment to do them.

This lifestyle has provided many opportunities for me to do as Mary did in Luke 10—to sit at the feet of Jesus and fill my life with His Words and Character. It has also helped me to keep my focus more on eternal things and make 2 Timothy 2:4 practical: *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath*

*chosen him to be a soldier.* This is a wartime mentality, if you please.

Many times while reading Matthew 6:19-34 (laying up treasures in Heaven, not worrying, etc.), I failed to fully identify with all that Christ was trying to say. Now, it has not only become reality, but it is something that I need to depend on daily. Since my life is no longer secure and predictable according to this world's standards, I must rest knowing that God is in control. He has given me the grace to do this. Praise the Lord!

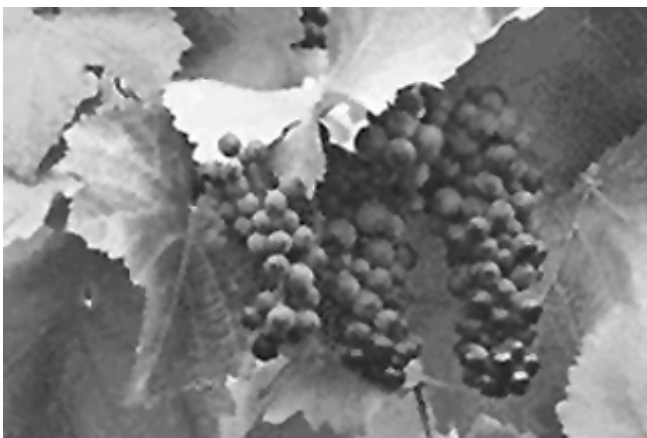
I would like to point our Matthew 6:24 in particular: *No man can serve two masters, ye cannot serve God and mammon.* This has proven so true in my life. Now, rather than the frustration that comes from trying to get the best of both worlds, I can relax, trust God, and find fulfillment in seeking His best. I am satisfied in a life that is far greater and blessed than anything this world can offer.

My sole purpose and motive for changing my lifestyle must flow from a heart that says: "I love Christ as my Lord and Savior and will serve Him forever, for He alone is worthy of my service."

I fully realize that the individual lifestyle choices I made may not be the same ones that God has for you. My earnest prayer and plea for you is that you will get honest and desperate with God, find His will for your life, and learn how you can, in a very practical way, seek first the kingdom of God. May God bless and keep you in Jesus Name.

A brother in Christ,

Lee Stauffer



## You Can't Give Away What You Don't Have Yourself!

We here at Abide regularly write about great men and women of the Faith like Hudson Taylor, Andrew Murray, and Amy Carmichael. We hold them up as examples of how God can use those who abide in the Vine—and well we should (1Ti 4:12; Titus 2:7). We encourage our readers to give themselves to be used of the Lord, to be missionaries at home and abroad, and to be witnesses wherever they go. Yet the reality is that a person cannot give away what he does not possess himself.

We would be remiss if we failed to ask that most important of questions, "Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior?" The message of the Gospel is that we can't work our way into Heaven. No amount of mission work, evangelization, Bible study, prayer, or acts of charity can put any of us in right standing with God. Ephesians 2:8 teaches, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* It is only through faith in the atoning work of Christ that any of us are saved. None of our works, as good as they may be, can save us.

Dear reader, please know that Jesus said, *Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* He desires to give you rest from attempting to earn God's favor through godly activities. He longs to free you from striving within yourself to in order to be justified before Him. Jesus freely offers you new life and true assurance of salvation, which is found only in Him. It becomes yours as you turn to Him, forsake and confess your sins, and receive Him as your Savior.

Our prayer is that if you haven't already received Him, you would do so even today. Turn to Him, and acknowledge that only He can save you. Confess your sins to Him. Don't worry that He will be shocked—He knows them anyway. Receive Him by reaching out in faith and taking the gift of eternal life that He offers to you.

*He that hath the Son of God hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.* 1John5:12

## Saved By a Song-Richard Wheeler

Ira D. Sankey was a man to whom God had given wonderful power to sing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For years, he and D.L. Moody worked together, Moody preaching and Sankey singing. On Christmas Eve, 1875, Mr. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River. It was a calm, starlit evening and there were many passengers gathered on deck. Mr. Sankey was asked to sing and, as always, he was perfectly willing to do so.

**Deeply moved, Mr. Sankey threw his arms about the man and led him to the Savior.**

He stood leaning on one of the outside boat rails, admiring the starry hosts of heaven, in quiet prayer contemplating which Christmas song would be appropriate. Driven almost against his will he felt the Lord instruct him to sing “Shepherd Song,” written by Dorothy Thrupp and William Bradbury. He reasoned with the Lord in silent prayer that being Christmas the “Shepherd Song” would not be ideal. However the Lord’s conviction was so strong, Sankey submitted and began to sing.

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care; in Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.*

*We are Thine; do thou befriend us, be the Guardian of our way; keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.*

*Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.*

*Early let us seek thy favor; early let us do Thy will; Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill: Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.*

There was a deep stillness as those who heard Mr. Sankey sing the words and melody. They came forth from the singer’s soul. The peace that passes all understanding seemed to float over the deck and quiet river. Every heart was touched, and quietly left in pensive thought. After all left, Ira turned to gaze out across the river. A man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to Mr. Sankey and said, “Did you ever serve in the Union Army?”

“Yes,” Mr. Sankey answered.

“Do you remember those dark and difficult days over twelve years ago?”

“Every one—like it was yesterday,” Ira replied, “Why do you ask?”

The stranger then said, “Do you remember what you were doing in May of 1862, just outside of Shiloh on a bright, moonlit night—a night much like the one tonight?”

“Why, yes I believe I do,” answered Sankey surprised. “That was the month I had night duty. How could I forget those dark, lonely, and sometimes dreary nights?”

“I, too, was on picket duty,” the stranger answered, “but I was in the Confederate army. I now know who you are. I saw you standing at your post across the river from me, and I decided to myself that I was going to pick you off. I raised my musket and took deliberate aim. I was standing in the shadow, completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you.

“At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Mr. Sankey, music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger. ‘Let him sing his song to the end,’ I said to myself. ‘I can shoot him afterwards—he ain’t going nowhere.’ The song you just sang I recognized as the one you sang that night. I heard the words perfectly: ‘We are Thine; do Thou befriend us. Be the Guardian of our way.’

“Those words stirred up many memories. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many times sung that very song to me, but she died all too soon. Otherwise, much in my life would, no doubt, have been different.

“When you had finished your song along the river, it was impossible for me to take aim again. I thought, ‘The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty. My arm, of its own accord, dropped limp at my side.’

“Since that time, I have wandered far and wide. When I saw you here tonight, singing just as on the other occasion, my heart was stirred deeply. How I wish you could help me find a peace for my wandering and troubled soul.”

Deeply moved, Mr. Sankey threw his arms about the man who, in the days of the war, had been an enemy. On this Christmas night, the two went together to the manger in Bethlehem.

There, the stranger found Him who was their common Savior, the Good Shepherd, who seeks for the lost sheep until He finds it. When He has found it, He lays it on His shoulders, rejoicing.

*From the book God's Mighty Hand  
published by Mantle Ministries.  
Used by permission.*

*ED: I have included this story to illustrate the fact that we can reach lost souls anywhere. This account is full of “what ifs.” What if Ira Sankey had not sung while on picket duty? What if he had declined to sing on the steamer? What if he had merely seen God's protection, rather than an soul in need of a Savior?*

*God will sometimes give us strange opportunities in which to present the Gospel. Although we may be surprised, it is our responsibility to seize it.*

## Next issue: Abiding at Home

Next issue, we want to focus on how can we grow and serve our families. We hope our readers can share practical advice and real testimonies on how to live the life of Abiding in Christ at Home, and also serving their family. I am looking forward to reading what you have to share.

**Question for Next Issue:** *I am publishing a journal, but I can't generate responses—even short ones. I have invited readers to write material for us, and tried a question and answer page, but neither seemed to work. What can I do?*

## The Gospel According to You

You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do, by words that you say.  
Men read what you write, whether faithless or true.  
Say, what is the gospel according to you?

Men read and admire the Gospel of Christ,  
With its love so unailing and true;  
But what do they say, and what do they think  
Of the gospel according to you?

'Tis a wonderful story, that Gospel of love,  
As it shines in the Christ-life divine,  
And oh, that its truth might be told again  
In the story of your life and mine!

You are writing each day a letter to men;  
Take care that the writing is true.  
'Tis the only Gospel some men will read  
That gospel according to you.

Author Unknown

## A Letter from the Editor...

As I prepared this issue, God touched my heart in a special way. He has give me many things to ponder.

I have had to wonder, “What have I really done to reach those who I am with every day?” The events of September 11<sup>th</sup> really made a strong impression on my mind. Those who died were only three hours from where I am living now. I may have even seen or talked to some of them. Did I have an impact? Or was my Christianity so hidden that they never noticed anything?

I have had to wonder, as I edited the biographical sketch on Amy Carmichael, “If my life went through the fire, would anything worthwhile be left?” My heart has sorrowed over how little I have done for Christ.

I have had to wonder, as I thought of my past life, and the bad example I have been to my family, “What have I done to show them that I am different? Can they tell I am not the same? In what ways have I been able to point them to Christ?”

These have been serious thoughts for me to ponder. I pray, as this issue goes out, that our readers will be touched in some of the same ways. May God bless each one of you! Your friend and editor, *Josiah Rocke*.

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**Note: This will be the last issue in 2001. Our next issue will be January-February 2002.**

You are the Light of the world. Let your Light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven. Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, "The kingdom of Heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 5:14a & 16, 10:6–7

**In This Issue... Missions at Home—Reaching the People Who Surround Us**

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