



Things as They Are: Mission Work in Southern India

Amy Carmichael

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Excerpt: ... of the women were afraid even to glance at it, but she was not afraid. She would not stay to talk to us, however, but marched off with the same resolute air. For Brahman widows as a whole are by no means an approachable race. Sometimes we find one who will open out to us, and let us tell her of the Comfort wherewith we are comforted; but oftener we find them hard, or hardening rapidly. There is nothing to say about it except what is said in the chapter. There is nothing much to look at in a Brahman street. But that single simple street scene represents forces which control two hundred and seven million minds. It is too soon to write about any of those who have listened during the past few months, but we put this photo in to remind you to remember those who are freer than most women in India to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, if only they would let His love have a chance of drawing them. We have been to the various towns in this and the upper curve of the mountains, but we have not reached the lower curve towns, or half of the many villages scattered close under the mountains, and, except when we went out in camp, we have not of course touched those farther afield. There are only five working afternoons in a week, for Saturday is given up to other things, and Sunday belongs to the Christians; and when any interest is shown, we return again to the same village, which delays us, but is certainly worth while. Then there are interruptions

Things as They Are: Mission Work in Southern India Details

Date : Published June 1st 2008 by Kessinger Publishing (first published January 1st 1905)

ISBN : 9781436590761

Author : Amy Carmichael

Format : Hardcover 384 pages

Genre : Christian, Cultural, India, Nonfiction, Biography, Religion, Faith



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From Reader Review Things as They Are: Mission Work in Southern India for online ebook

Honey says

This was an outstanding book!

John Yelverton says

The book is one part testimony, one part autobiography, one part recruiting drive, and one part fundraiser. Past that, the author makes some good points and some really bad points on the situation in India, so you're really not sure just how much Jesus is glorified here, or simply proclaimed impotent.

Wesley Etheridge says

A unique and different approach, but Amy Carmichael elaborates on her experiences as a missionary in India. Amy sought to provide the truth of the harsh conditions she faced, and she did just that! I read this book for my research seminar class on British Emigration. My particular topic was the Missionary experience during 19th century Britain. The toughest part of the read was Carmichael's details of a temple worship ceremony that was basically a form of child prostitution that was referred to as "being married to the gods". A depressing read, but it reveals the real life difficulties missionaries face.

Amy says

Excellent. All about A.C.'s experiences in India, and the heart of the gospel.

Brenda says

Written over 100 years ago but still makes an impact. Even though there are many places where she could not "tell all", Carmichael still clearly describes the obstacles and spiritual resistance she and her fellow workers may on a daily basis. It's not difficult to imagine that the battle on the mission field is the same today.

Luann Habecker says

GNARLY needed exhortation to the Church.
anyone know what book she speaks of on page 301 "Do Not Say" ?
i could make a daily calendar of excerpts to read again and again from this..

Larissa says

just amazing and convicting!! not a quick read but a memorable one!!

Clint Morey says

Amy gives persuasive examples of the importance of Christian missions. Even though her story takes place over 100 years ago, the call is the same.

Jeanna Shade says

An eye-opening account

Even though I lived in India for many years as a child, I never knew until reading this book , about the terrible Hindu tradition of the Devadasi, or female children given to the temple and "married" to the gods! This book reveals Amy Carmichael's struggle, along with her Indian co-workers, to rescue these girls and also bring the Gospel to any Hindu or Moslem who would listen.

Emily says

"How much one would like to tell a different story! But a made-up story is one thing, and a story of facts is another..... 'Tell us about things as they actually are', said the Two with emphasis. I tried, but the Actual alluded me.... We have never seen it. How can we describe it? What we have seen and tried to describe is only and indication of Something undescribed, and is as nothing in comparison with it- as Dust in comparison with the actual".

"We feel for them. But feelings will not save souls; it cost God Calvary to win us. It will cost us as much as we may know of the fellowship of His sufferings, if those for whom He died that day are ever to be won".

-Amy Carmichael, Things As They Are

These two quotes sum up the book much better than I ever could with a review. <3

Karen B says

I would recommend this book to anyone and everyone preparing to serve as a missionary or to work with a Christian NGO in a cross-cultural context. I've never been to India and I don't work among Hindus, but I still found Amy Carmichael's insights about the nature of spiritual warfare, the importance and power of prayer,

etc. to be extremely challenging and helpful.

Amy's honesty about discouragement, the danger of comparing "my results" to those of someone else, the temptations that come with wanting people to be impressed with our work, caused much self-examination and make this a book I will re-read and ponder with some frequency, I think. I highlighted DOZENS of passages...

Finally, the book is extremely valuable in bringing home the reality of deeply conflicting cultures and worldviews and the dilemmas that this reality creates. (Most poignant perhaps were the examples Amy gave where she could not touch someone to comfort them, because in doing so she would make them "unclean," or the agonizing choices they had to make about rescuing Christian converts who were in danger from their relatives...) The book provides much food for thought and reflection and prayer: what would I do if I were faced with this situation? In what ways do I try to adapt to and honor the culture where I am living and in what ways must I stand against some of the customs and beliefs as a follower of Christ?

Truly worth reading and pondering for those involved in missions - missionaries or those who support and pray for missionaries.

Erica says

I read this right after finishing the Amy Carmichael book from the "Christian Heros Now and Then" series with my kids. We loved the story of her journey to the mission field and learning the details of her incredible ministry in India. Her work truly paved the way for a new generation of brave and passionate missionaries. I really enjoyed hearing directly from her heart in this book and her vivid picture of caste stricken India at the time of her writing. She tells it like it is (hence the title!) and I appreciate her lack of need to "fluff things up" as she describes her life and work. She had such genuine grief over the spiritual state of the people she lived amongst. Her story and her words are a great inspiration.

Andrew Mcneill says

Although Carmichael's book is over 100 years old, the insight she brings to our understanding of Missions is incredible. She clearly shows the difficulties that face Missions work and provides an insight into Missions a century ago that is not naive - but shows the great difficulty of serving a foreign culture effectively. She provides a model for anyone sharing the gospel today in any culture insofar as she thinks deeply about the culture to which she ministers, prays earnestly because she believes that the results are from God, and serves lovingly among the people and never seeks to manipulate or deceive. Truly, a remarkable book from a remarkable woman.

Charis Flanders says

More than a collection of anecdotes, *Things As They Are* is a searing indictment of the Indian caste system and its systematized violation of the basic human rights of women and children. But while she does call for a

reformation in the government that allowed and at times propagated these indignities, her most common and pointed remarks are at the readers themselves, those who know and have experienced the Gospel. How can we justify staying, when there are so many already devoted to the work at home and so few on the field? How can we sit by praying half-hearted prayers for the "heathen", when every minute there is another child-bride or another devoted to the degradation of temple work? Charmichael's aim is to paint an accurate picture of the desperate situation and the difficulty of the work in hopes that she will compel those who truly desire the salvation of souls and are willing to suffer for it to come and/or to pray "intelligently" for the continuation of the work. She emphatically discourages all others. "So we have tried to tell you the uninteresting, unromantic truth—about the heathen as we find them, about the work as it is. More workers are needed... But we will never try to allure anyone to think of coming by painting coloured pictures, when the facts are black and white. What if black and white will never attract like colours? We care not for it; our business is to tell the truth. The work is not a pretty thing, to be looked at and admired. It is a fight and battlefields are not beautiful."

Rachel says

I was once told that biographies about missionaries are over-optimistic, focusing on statistical "success," while missionaries' own writings tend to focus more on the struggle and apparent "failure."

I was looking for an autobiography and found this - more of a memoir - on Project Gutenberg. I had not heard of it before. It is a compilation of letters sent "back home" by Amy Carmichael and her team.

Two things really stand out to me. First, she talks about how they were discouraged from sharing anything negative, which she rebelled against. The people who would receive the letters didn't want to hear about the struggle or the problems or the many people who refused to come to Christ and died. They wanted to read about conversations and signs and wonders. There were times she left out horrifying or graphic details, filling the spot with an ellipsis and instructing the reader to fill in the blank themselves. I admire that boldness.

Second, in the final chapters, she challenged the readers to examine their own lives and determine if they were obeying all God told them to do. Maybe you're doing something - great, but has God asked more of you? "God will not hear our prayers for the heathen if He means us to be out among them instead of at home praying for them."

There is no sugar coating or rose colored glasses here. Her commentary on Hinduism is harsh, as is her criticism of nominal or cultural Christians. This is "Things as They Are."
