

# Introducing The Dohnavur Fellowship

Founded in 1901 by  
**Amy Carmichael**  
1867-1951



# Amy Carmichael's Family

## How did it begin?

Amy Carmichael was a missionary in South India at the beginning of the 20th century living amongst the people she had come to serve. With a small band of Indian Christian women, she moved from place to place, preaching and teaching, and many turned to the Lord. In 1901, God sent to her a seven-year-old girl who had escaped from a Hindu temple. She told Amy of the practice, which is now illegal, of dedicating little girls to the gods and training them to be temple prostitutes. God told Amy to save such children, as well as others who had no one to care for them or were being abused. She was to make a home for them (and boys also from 1918-1984) and to bring them up to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and be His witnesses.

## Early Growth

From the beginning it was a family, never an institution. Amy was the mother, loving and loved by all. As the family grew, its activities grew too. Baby nurseries led on to cottage

homes, schools for all ages from toddlers to teenagers, a dairy farm, rice land, fruit and vegetable gardens, sewing rooms, kitchens, laundries, workshops, and a hospital to serve the DF family and surrounding villages..

## How is it supported?

Amy Carmichael had the prayer support of many Christians, and many more have been touched by her letters and books. No appeal has ever been made for money, but only for prayer. Throughout the years, many have sent gifts which enable the work to continue, and to reach out to help countless people besides the Dohnavur Family itself. Never has an unprotected child been refused for lack of funds; never has a patient needed to be turned away because he or she could not pay for medical help.

## Further Outreach

In 1981 the Fellowship, in partnership with other Christians, formed the *Santhosha Educational Society*, separately financed, to administer a co-educational, English-

medium boarding school, primarily for the benefit of the children of missionaries of Indian nationality. The Santhosha Vidhyalaya School opened in 1982 on the Fellowship's own premises and now provides Christian education and care for over 600 children of Indian missionaries. Their parents come from many different States, language areas and sub-cultures, serving in a number of Indian missions and organisations working in many parts of India, including tribal areas. In this way the school is meeting a vital need by facilitating missionary outreach throughout India.

## What of the Future?

The need to provide for children who are unwanted or abused remains, but the government now aims to have those under the age of five adopted, so only those aged five and over are permitted to come to Dohnavur. Much wisdom is required to prepare the children for life in the 21st century, and to have a vision for the future. There has been a sharp decline in the number of new

children in recent years, but the need is great, and the numbers of vulnerable children is on the rise. The need to reach those who are without Christ in the neighbourhood of Dohnavur and all over India also remains.

In these respects, the Dohnavur family continues to depend on the prayers of their supporters around the world. As Amy Carmichael wrote: *"Pray for the courage of faith; for the patience that waits and does not hurry on before God's leading; for the love that cannot be tired out of loving whatever happens. God give us a brave faith and a very tender love that counts nothing too much to endure for our Lord, crucified."* – And risen!

## Your part in our work

Those of you who are acquainted with Amy Carmichael's writings will know the importance of prayer in her life, and prayer has continued to be the life-blood of the Fellowship through the years. From the beginning, the Lord gave her a small but growing band of Prayer Partners, who



began to share her burden for the babies and children in such deep moral and physical danger. They understood that there were battles to be fought and won that were unseen as well as seen, and found that their burden could be translated into prayer that involved them vitally. The sensitivity and dangers that accompanied the work, especially in earlier years, meant that widespread circulation of prayer needs was not considered to be wise. So Private Letters were sent to those known to be committed to praying, and this set the pattern throughout the ensuing

years. Each generation of the Dohnavur Family has grown up aware of, and deeply grateful for, the prayers of these friends overseas and in India.

If you would like to be a part of our work, would you prayerfully consider becoming a Prayer Partner? To assist you in this, we should be glad to send you (free of charge) our quarterly Prayer Letter, *'Dust of Gold'*. This is a small publication containing a letter from the Leader of the Fellowship and several short articles about the on-going life of the Family, including points for prayer.

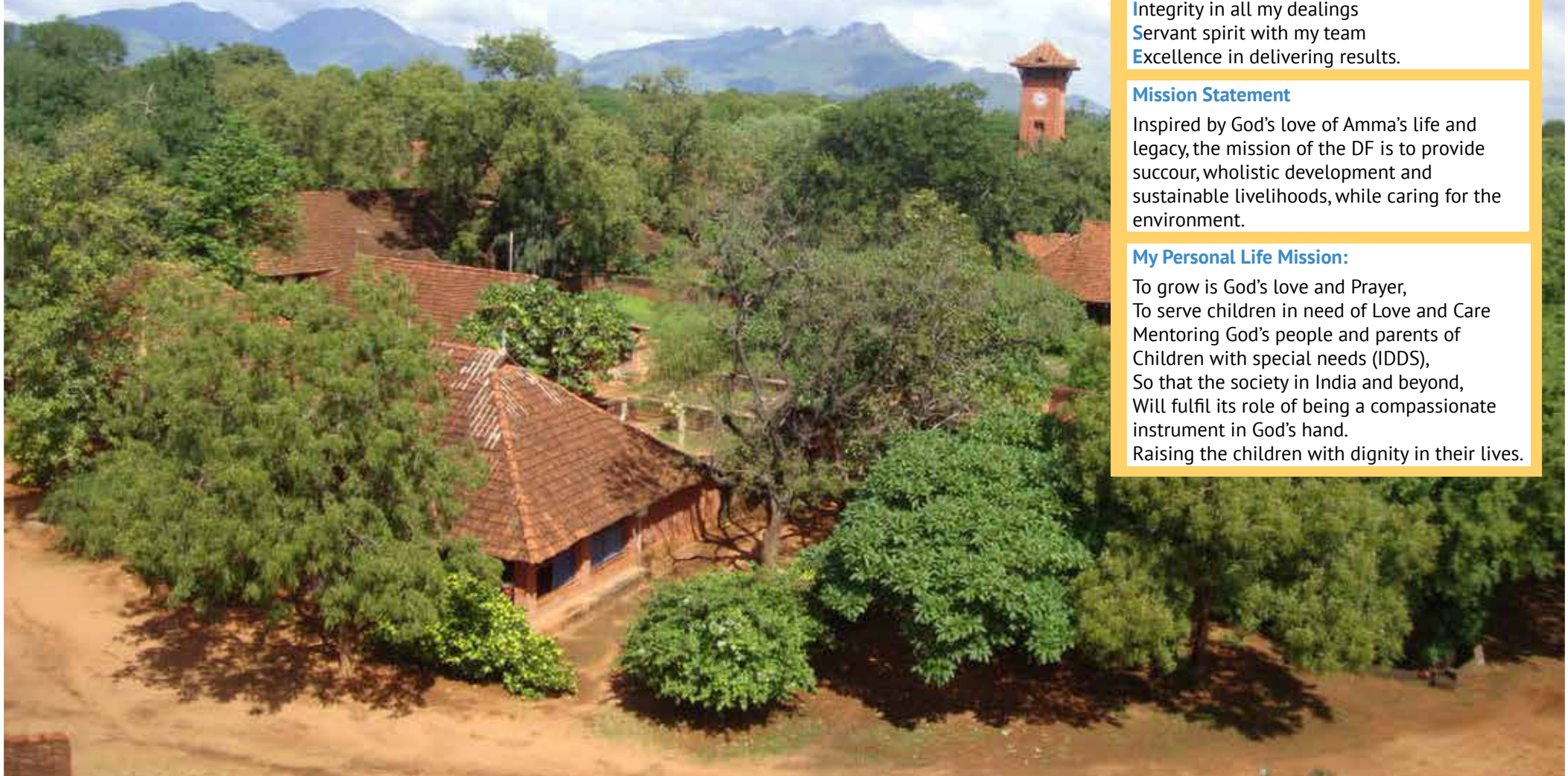
# Fact Sheet

<b>Founded</b>	1901 by Miss Amy Carmichael (1867 – 1951)
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide a happy home and Christian upbringing for children whose own families are unable or unwilling to care for them and who are therefore in danger of exploitation, abuse or even death.
<b>Numbers</b>	In 2024 there was between 150 and 200 in the Family, and over 665 in the Santhosha Vidhyalaya School.
<b>General Body Members</b>	Staff workers who are committed Christians and carry responsibility in the different parts of the work. New Members are added by unanimous agreement.
<b>Doctrinal Basis</b>	Faith in the Bible as the Word of God, the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Evangelical, interdenominational, working with other churches in the area. Services are held in the Fellowship's <i>House of Prayer</i> .
<b>Finance</b>	God meets the ever-increasing needs through financial gifts of his children worldwide, in answer to prayer.
<b>Children's Home</b>	Cared for by Indian sisters in Cottages of children ages 5 to 11 and 12 to 18. Each house caters for up to 15 girls (including some who may, because of special needs, come home only during school holidays).
<b>Education</b>	The children who join DF at a young age, attend the Santhosha Vidhyalaya English medium School; the CSI Tamil medium primary school in Dohnavur village. These and other girls who have studied in the Tamil medium, attend High School in neighbouring Eruvadi town. The parents decide which option their child is given. At 18 years, a few go on to university; others take various kinds of vocational or college training.
<b>Employment</b>	Many find work in Christian institutions and organisations, or secular jobs all over India. Many marry and establish Christian homes. Some have marriages arranged by their parents, and some return to help in the work in Dohnavur.

<b>Hospital</b>	70 beds. Out-patient attendance, including general medicine and specialities such as diabetes. Elderly care and palliative care. Dental Clinic; Leprosy patient Clinic; Minor surgery. In-patients for DF and The SV School. Prayer room and Christian literature available for patients. <i>Our Aim</i> – that all patients and relatives should hear the Gospel.
<b>Outreach</b>	Daily prayers with employees in farms, workshops, fruit and vegetable gardens and rice-lands. Regular visits by sisters to local villages to share the Gospel and teach on a one-to-one basis. Church groups from South India come for retreats, organised by their own churches, but hosted by the DF. Special meetings at Christmas and Easter, attended by patients and friends of different faiths, from diverse backgrounds.
<b>Santhosha Vidhyalaya</b>	Co-educational English-medium boarding school primarily for children of missionaries of Indian nationality. It is on our premises and run in partnership with the <i>Santhosha Educational Society</i> which administers it.



- **Amy Carmichael** wrote many books, a number of which are still in print, as well as compilations from her unpublished writings. Those who worked with her, and some who knew her, have also written about Amy and the work of the Fellowship.
- **'Dust of Gold'**, our quarterly **Prayer Letter**, is sent free of charge to anyone who would like to pray for our work, and who asks to be put on the mailing list. Requests may be sent to the UK Office or to the contact addresses given on the Dohnavur Fellowship website.
- **Praise & Prayer Notes** are sent monthly, free of charge, to those who already receive **Dust of Gold** but would like more frequent news for prayer, and who write to request the Notes.



**DOHNAVUR FELLOWSHIP  
VISION, MISSION, CORE VALUES  
PERSONAL LIFE MISSION**

**Vision Statement**

Lives uplifted, enlightened and empowered

**Core Values:**

I Value RISE:

- Relationship more than money
- Integrity in all my dealings
- Servant spirit with my team
- Excellence in delivering results.

**Mission Statement**

Inspired by God's love of Amma's life and legacy, the mission of the DF is to provide succour, wholistic development and sustainable livelihoods, while caring for the environment.

**My Personal Life Mission:**

To grow in God's love and Prayer,  
To serve children in need of Love and Care  
Mentoring God's people and parents of  
Children with special needs (IDDs),  
So that the society in India and beyond,  
Will fulfil its role of being a compassionate  
instrument in God's hand.  
Raising the children with dignity in their lives.



**You can donate directly via a Bank Transfer or Standing Order**

Account name: **The Dohnavur Fellowship Corporation,**

Account No. **02149232**  
Sort Code **30-93-92**

Gift Aid forms can be requested from the UK Office

Or Cheques made payable to "*The Dohnavur Fellowship Corporation*" can be posted to the above address.

[www.friendsofdohnavur.org](http://www.friendsofdohnavur.org)  
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