

**14th Assembly of the  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR MISSION STUDIES  
August 11–17, 2016  
Seoul, South Korea**

**Conversions and Transformations:  
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

**Revised Draft-2**

---

**AMY CARMICHAEL OF DOHNAVUR: MISSION TO CHILDREN**

**Dr. Jesudason Baskar Jeyaraj**

Amy Beatrice Carmichael born on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1867 in the village of Millisle, County Down, Northern Ireland and grown up in the Presbyterian Church, came to India in 1895 and settled down in a small village called Dohnavur in Tirunelveli District of South India to rescue children from being dedicated to gods and goddesses as *Devadasis* (Temple sacred Prostitutes) and educate them. She devoted her life not only to the welfare of Temple children but also to those children deserted as orphans and abandoned mothers.

The mission context of her period is important because India was under the British colonial rule (1784-1947). When Amy came to India at the age of 28 years, the political control continued with the British Raj and religious context in the South India was dominated with the influence of Hindu culture. She had to deal with the laws, legal system and officials of the British, superstitions and oppressive customs of Hindu families. Those accepted Jesus Christ were baptized. Some of them were taken into the Fellowship for further nurturing, care and protection from the attack of their Hindu relatives. The Fellowship also educated them and arranged marriages for the converts to continue as Christians. This Fellowship is continuing the vision and ministry till today (for more than 100 years) even after the death of the Founder in 1951.

My attempt is to narrate briefly the life of Amy in the *Section I*, the socio-political context of British colonial period and her ministries in *Section II*. She did not write theology from the perspective of children except devotional books, autobiographical notes, poems and letters. *Section III* will discuss her theological understanding of God and children.

---

No of words 248/273

**Dr. Jesudason Baskar Jeyaraj**

*Chairman, Christian Forum for Child Development-India*

*Director, Jubilee Institute, Madurai, India.*

**E-mail:** jbjeyaraj@hotmail.com

---