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# The Martin & Gracia Burnham Foundation

April 2014

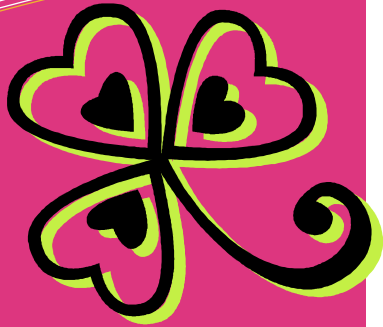
## In Ireland on St Patrick's Day!

I was honored to visit Saint Patrick's grave in Ireland recently. Saint Patrick's story is a hostage story. Maybe that's what intrigues me about his life.

Patrick was taken hostage from his home in Great Britain by Irish raiders when he was 16 years old. After 6 years of slavery, he was able to escape and return home. God evidently did some special things in his heart while he was a hostage. Upon returning to Great Britain, he went to seminary to study the Scriptures. God burdened his heart for those that had held him captive and he returned to Ireland to preach the Gospel of Jesus. His knowledge of the language and customs in Ireland gave him credibility as he ministered.

I love this story. And I think of the scripture that says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." I think Patrick would be shocked if he knew that his life is celebrated every year on March 17<sup>th</sup> - the day said to be his death date.

Maybe you are going through a hard time right now and you don't see how this trial could possibly lead to anything good! Keep trusting. Keep looking for God's hand in everything. God writes beautiful endings. I know that to be a fact!



Not too far down the road (and a ferry ride away) from Saint Patrick's grave, is a plaque honoring another of my heroes, Amy Carmichael.



Amy Carmichael was from Northern Ireland and became a missionary to India. She was an unlikely candidate for missionary work as she suffered from neuralgia (a painful shingles-like disorder). Amy is best known for rescuing Hindu temple children who were forced into prostitution by the temple priests. She authored many books that are still a blessing and challenge to us today!

In 1948, three years before Amy died there in India, temple prostitution was outlawed. She asked that no stone be put on her grave. BUT, with the help of my friends, I did find a plaque honoring her memory – just at sundown – outside a church in Millisle, Northern Ireland. My heart was full – and I felt as if I was treading on Holy Ground there in that churchyard.

# Fancy That! Parliament, You Say??

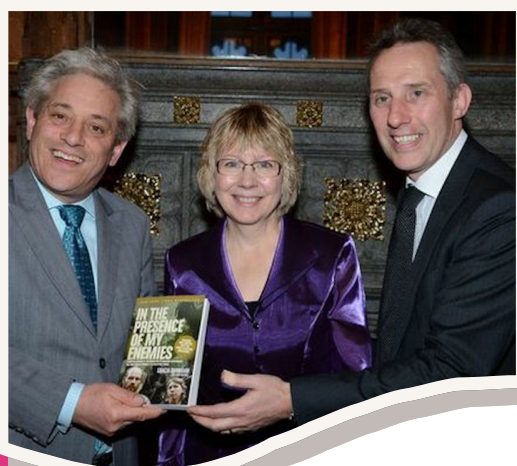


I guess I have spoken a few crazy places these past years since my jungle experience. The cattle sale barn on a Saturday night. The yacht factory. The county fair. FBI hostage negotiators training.

I can add another “crazy” event now. Parliament. In London. How did that happen, you ask? I’m not quite sure myself. Believe me, that isn’t something I WANTED to do. But sometimes God just puts something in our path and we do it to the best of our ability and ask Him to bless it.

People like stories of redemption and hope...whether a cowboy at the cattle sale barn or a member of the House of Lords.

What really gives people hope, though, is realizing that that same God that you just heard about in another person’s story is working on YOUR behalf to give YOU a future and a hope. Do you think God really thinks about you and your situation? Do you think He is really concerned about your family? Do you think He loves you and can work things for good in your life? He does ... and He can!



**This trip to Ireland and the UK would never have happened if it hadn’t been for the kindness of the Dobsons – friends who are interested in the message of “hope” being spread. They invited me there and took good care of me. I am also mindful that this Foundation would not be vibrant and healthy if not for**



**the kindness and generosity of YOU who faithfully give. We just do our “little bit” and God does mighty things with it. I am sure that Saint Patrick and Amy Carmichael would be the first to say that what they did for God was just “a little bit”. They were just doing what God called them to do – and look at what God did! Thank you for the “little bit” that you do on behalf of The Martin and Gracia Burnham Foundation. God is multiplying your “little bit”. I am humbly grateful.**

*Gracia*

**For Donations**  
The Martin & Gracia  
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