

# WOMEN GREATHEARTS

**READER:** Through the centuries, there have been many Women Greathearts. Tonight we will recall some of their works with the hope that a new emphasis will be given to our own work for the building of God's Kingdom on earth.

**FANNY CROSBY** - a writer of religious hymns. She was the author of more than six thousand hymns. Born in 1820, she lived to be 95 years of age. The victim of wrong treatment for her inflamed eyes, she became blind when just a few weeks old. She taught in a school for the Blind. In 1850, Fanny Crosby was converted during a revival campaign.

In February, 1913, the Cambridge, Massachusetts, Salvation Army Band visited a home where she was staying and, in tribute, played many of her hymns. Tears came to her eyes as she stood and listened. During the lull in the playing, she recited the words "A wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord".

(Background Music)

**KATHERINE HANKEY** - Person portraying Katherine stands as soon as name is mentioned, and remains standing until Narrator finishes.

Was born in 1834. Her father was a wealthy Banker and, as a family, they moved in highest society. Even as a girl at school, Katherine was an earnest Christian. At the age of 18, she commenced a class for Shop Girls in London. From this Bible Class, many of the young women, fired by her spirit and example, became Christian workers.

It was, however, after Katherine journeyed to South Africa to bring back an invalid brother, she saw as never before the great need of the Mission Field. All this and more is to be found in her hymn "I Love to Tell the Story". (Background Music)

**FRANCES ALEXANDER** - (Frances stands) was born in Dublin. As the dedicated wife of a clergyman, she ministered to the poor, the sick and the suffering. One day she set out with a basket on her arm to do the marketing at Derry. As she journeyed, she passed a little grassy hill. Perhaps it was Springtime, for her thoughts travelled to another 'green hill' where a loving Saviour died for the sins of the world.

On her return home, she wrote the verses of a hymn for the children of her Sunday School class, and you may be sure she told them of the little grassy knoll on the way to Derry, with which they were all familiar, and I don't suppose they ever again passed that way without thinking of that other hill "Without a City wall, where the dear Lord was crucified, Who died to save us all".

Singing Company sing - "There is a Green Hill Far Away".

**PAULINE JOHNSON** (Pauline stands to her feet and remains thus until Narrator finishes).  
A Canadian Indian. Daughter of a Mohawk Chief, born on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford. An Indian girl, whose forebears brought terror and death to many of Canada's early

settlers. An Indian maiden who, while loving her own people with something akin to passion, yet pledged her allegiance to the Christ, of whom the white man spoke, and worshipped.

She has left to us a rich legacy of poems; we bring to you now one of the loveliest of them all:

PAULINE RECITES:

BRIER

Because, dear Christ, your tender wounded arm  
Bends back the brier that edges life's long way,  
That no hurt comes to the heart, to soul no harm--  
I do not feel the thorns so much today.

Because I never knew your care to tire,  
Your hand too weary guiding me aright,  
Because you walk before--and crush the brier  
It does not pierce my feet so much to-night.

Because so often you have hearkened to  
My selfish prayers, I ask but one thing now;  
That these harsh hands of mine, add not unto  
The crown of Thorns, upon your bleeding brow.

(Pauline returns to her chair)

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL (Frances stands and remains standing until Narrator finishes)

Was only 42 years of age when her life's work was finished, yet how much she contributed to the world in that brief span. A brilliant musician, her lovely singing voice was often heard in the Concert Halls of London. Then there came the moment of decision -- her life should be dedicated fully to God, and from that time on she sang only sacred music.

On one occasion, Frances went to visit some friends. There were ten people in the house, some unconverted, the others, joyless Christians. Earnestly she prayed that first night "Lord give to me all in this house". And he did. On the last night of her visit, the two daughters of the household sought her out, and made known their desire to become Christians. Step by step she led them into complete faith in Christ. On returning to her room, the verses of a much loved hymn took form in her mind.

Soloist to sing    Take my life and let it be--  
                          Consecrated Lord to Thee.

CATHERINE BOOTH (Catherine stands and remains standing)

Affectionately known as The Mother of The Salvation Army.

Champion of the downtrodden and outcast from her earliest years. At the age of fourteen, because of a spinal ailment, she was confined to her room for many long weary months. In her loneliness, the young girl with the enquiring mind turned to serious study. Little did she realize that every hour thus spent would, in the years to come, pay rich dividends in a spiritual ministry.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with her husband, William Booth, Founder of The Salvation Army, she was also a wonderful Mother to her family, all of whom were outstanding leaders.

Her preaching of the Word moved multitudes to repentance and faith in Christ. She had the joy of seeing her own Father kneel at the Mercy Seat, and she knelt beside him, leading him gently back to God.

Catherine Booth -- Wife, Mother, Preacher of the Word:

(Catherine, who has been standing with open Bible, moves forward and reads a Scripture portion, then returns to her chair and is seated.)

These are the greathearts of the past, but what about women in our own communities, who are not so great, or are they?

Take Sue, for example. (Sue is a typical, middle-aged attractive woman, plainly dressed. She wanders in and looks at those characters from the past, then speaks wistfully):

**SUE:** What's the use! I wonder why my life could not have turned out the way Jane's did. There she is with her husband and family doing things together. Why, I almost feel as if a spell is cast on me. Jim gone now for months and the children on their own, and here am I alone in this place. Sure, I have a little money, but money can't buy me happiness. I wonder what I can do to fill the vacuum in my life! Perhaps I should go back to church and join in Christian fellowship. It's a thought, anyway."

(Sue sits and reads)

**READER:** Then there is Mary (a bride of a few months)

**MARY:** Only three months since we were married and already I fear some of the joy has gone out of our lives. Sure, Jack and I enjoy the parties and the gaiety, but there are times when I feel so empty and I wonder where I can find real peace of mind. I remember when I attended Sunday School. There we learned of Jesus and His promise to give peace. I have neglected to attend church since we were married. Perhaps God is speaking to me. I wonder how Jack feels about spiritual things. When he comes home this evening, I must talk to him about it. (She sits and is working on needlepoint.

**READER:** In the homes and institutions of our country there are large numbers of women who are known as Senior Citizens. They have much to teach us if we will listen. (An elderly woman recounts the days when she had her own home and family around her.)

**ELDERLY LADY, MRS. JONES:** What days they were! More than fifty years ago Ned and I were married. It was such a good life! Then the children came and we were all so happy together. How precious are the memories of those days when we sat around the family altar and talked about God's love and grace, and then spoke to our Heavenly Father in prayer. There's where I received strength to face these days, when I am now alone. But I am really not alone because God is always present and His love still keeps me happy.

There are so many thoughtful people in the world who come to visit us here and take us out. That lovely smiling lady from The Salvation Army. Shall I ever forget the day we went to their Home League, and she has promised to call for me again. (The lady sits and looks at a photo album.)

There are amongst us today women who are great in their love and compassion for others. This Home League member is typical of these women. (A Home League member comes to the front and speaks.)

**HOME LEAGUE MEMBER - MRS. WHITE:** There are so many avenues of service open to me that I am almost overwhelmed. I wonder how I can help these women whom I have met since I started to visit. Sue Jones, she is such an attractive woman and very comfortably situated, but her life is so empty. I am going to keep on visiting her and soon, I believe, she will come to the Home League, and then to our Sunday meetings. We'll pray for her.

There's Mary; she is such a dear, newly married, of course, and finding the adjustment is a little difficult. Jack is a fine boy, too, but they are young and need direction. I am going to ask our Captain to counsel them.

Dear Mrs. Jones, over seventy and such a cheerful spirit. It did me good to visit her. I'll ask her to pray for my two friends, also.

God is wonderful! His Word tells us "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. I know I shall never be great as the world counts greatness, but I feel great being a Christian. To God be the Glory!

Group sings : "His love remains the same".