

## *A Woman Who Cared*

One night in 1837, a young woman named Florence believed she heard God's voice informing her that she had a mission. Nine years later, that mission began to take shape when a friend sent her information about the Institution of Protestant Deaconesses in Germany. She entered the Institution to learn how to care for the sick.

In 1853, Florence became superintendent of a woman's hospital in London. When the Crimean War broke out the following year, she volunteered at once to care for British soldiers, leaving for Constantinople in haste. Once there, she was given charge of nursing at a military hospital. Even though the doctors were hostile toward her and the hospital was deplorably filthy, she dug in her heels and began to care for her patients as best she could.

First, she used provisions she had brought with her from London. Then she spearheaded a correspondence campaign to re-supply the hospital. She spent many hours each day in the wards, caring for the soldiers who entered the hospital. The comfort she gave on night rounds earned her the nickname *The Lady With the Lamp*.

This woman's selfless giving eventually made her name synonymous with compassionate nursing care. She was Florence Nightingale.

Her story proves that God can do great things through people who don't care who gets the credit. The Bible puts it this way: *Be completely humble and gentle* (Ephesians 4:2).

--Beecher Hunter