

TIMELINE OF THE LIFE OF KATHARINE C. BUSHNELL 1855-1946

Born Feb 5, 1855 the 7th of 9 children. Credited large family for ability to concentrate while traveling. Raised Episcopalian	1855	Elizabeth Cady Stanton appears before the NY state legislature to argue for expanding the Married Woman's Property Law ¹
Converted at 17	1872	Susan B. Anthony arrested for trying to vote
Entered Northwestern studied classics; began study of Latin and Greek. Studied medicine concurrently. Became a student of Francis Willard dean of the women's college at NW.	1873 thru 1874	Supreme Court rules that a state has the right to exclude a married woman from practicing law. Supreme Court rules that citizenship doesn't give women the right to vote. WCTU ² formed
Attended Chicago Women's Medical College--specialized in nerve disorders	1875 thru 78	1878 US Senate proposes female suffrage. Wording is unchanged when it finally passes in 1919.
Graduated from med school 3 years younger than other students. Started additional study but left to go to China. In China 3 years; possibly founded pediatric hospital in Shanghai or nearby Kiukiang. ³	1879 thru 1881	1879 Frances Willard becomes the president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Bushnell sought God about whether women should be in ministry. 1881 Spelman College founded
Left China in ill health with Dr. Frances Gilcrest who had TB and went to Gilcrest's home in Denver - stayed with her until she died. Established medical practice and became head of western WCTU Social Purity department ⁴ .	1882 to 1886	WCTU ministry helped prostitutes to become Christian and escape the lifestyle. Established WCTU chapter newspaper <i>The Challenge</i> ; offered biweekly lectures; circulated letters to other WCTU chapters.
Med practice ended. Became Head of Social Purity Department for WCTU--Chicago. Bushnell pleased to change careers--Desire for Christian service had motivated medical.	1886	Founded and supervised daytime Reading Rooms. ⁵ Founded Anchorage Mission, a dream of Willard's, with Elizabeth Andrew ⁶ - served 5000 women a year ⁷
Traveled nationwide--lectured & trained WCTU chapters to set up reading rooms and shelters. Travel time spent in study. No salary; lived on donations and hospitality of those she lectured. Temperance was a secondary problem to her. ⁸	1886 to 1888	1886 Suffrage Amendment defeated by US Congress. 1887 Susan Salter, Argonia, KS, is first woman mayor in USA 1888 International Council for Women is founded & 1 st 3 vols. of <i>The History of Women's Suffrage</i> published.

Exposed Wisconsin lumber camps holding women for sexual purposes. Testified before legislature.	1888	Wisconsin Legislature passed legislation against this "White Slavery," but the practice continued.
Came to England at request of Josephine Butler. ⁹ Bushnell and Andrew sent on worldwide speaking tour by WCTU. Butler requested a "quiet" side trip to India to investigate brothels serving British troops. ^{10 11} Legislation banned Lock Houses ¹² and annulled the Contagious Disease Acts.	1889 thru 1892	1889 Jane Addams, a Quaker, founded Hull House in Chicago to provide childcare, education & training to immigrants. 1890 Wyoming 1 st state to join union with voting rights for women. 1891 First WCTU meeting held in Boston.
Orient – China – explored effects of opium – debate in England for and against its use ¹³ Bushnell and Andrew's findings were used to oppose the government report.	1893 to 1895	1895 Anti-Opium demonstration in - in London preceded release of government report favoring the opium trade. Report was defeated but trade continued.
Uncompromisingly fought reinstatement of Contagious Disease Act and Lock Houses. ¹⁴	1896 to 1897	1896 Women granted suffrage in Utah as part of a campaign against the practice of polygamy.
Bushnell, Andrew & Butler resigned from WCTU when leadership criticized them & did not fully support their position. Butler encouraged Bushnell to hold meetings based on her Bible study.	1898	Bushnell stated that social evil will never be gotten rid of as long as the subordination of women is taught by Christians. She believed that God intended Christian women to be fully equal with men.
Returned to US & began new work.	1899	1902 Women in Australia get vote.
Investigated San Francisco brothels and the practices regarding women suspected of prostitution with Andrew--wrote their findings. ¹⁵	1904 thru 1907	1906 Term <i>suffragette</i> first used President Grover Cleveland said: "Sensible and responsible women do not want to vote."
Published <i>Heathen Slaves and Christian Rulers</i> with Andrew.	1907	Julia Ward Howe--1st woman elected to Nat'l Inst. of Arts & Letters.
Returned to England where she studied & wrote for 7 years and began work on GWTW as a correspondence Bible study for women.	1908 thru 1913	1908--1 st Mothers' Day held in Philadelphia. 1911--1 st International Women's Day – Europe.
1914-16 Bushnell returned to US --exact year unknown.	1914	WWI began in Europe.
Federal Social Hygiene Program in US during WWI – like Contagious Disease Acts. Wrote <i>What's Going On</i> to oppose this program.	1917	Vagrant women were considered prostitutes and fell under this Act. Most countries in Europe granted suffrage after WWI between 1918-21

First published <i>God's Word to Women</i> in book form.	1923	Women get vote in US--27 th country to grant universal suffrage.
Late 1920's returned to China. Remembered & well received. Worked in pediatric hospital.	1928?	Jessie Penn-Lewis published <i>Magna Charta for Woman</i> , a simplified & less costly discourse than GWTW.
Returned to US.	1931	Japanese invaded China.
Oakland – wrote articles, Bible studies and carried on correspondence with people all over the world.	1931 thru 1945	1945 Germany & Japan surrendered, ending WWII. Women holding “men’s jobs” during war laid off and replaced by returning men.
Died thinking her life’s work was of little use. She was wrong.	1946	Thank you, God, for the life and work of Katharine Bushnell!

¹ Gave women right to control property owned at the time of marriage or inherited or given afterward—could not be used to pay husband’s debts without her consent.

² Women’s Christian Temperance Union.

³ Bushnell first questioned the accuracy of Biblical translation after being told that a translation problem in the Chinese Bible was because of local custom.

⁴ Promotes moral society based on Christian principles. Government laws would not condone immorality.

⁵ Sing, pray, talk about forsaking life of sin. Helped women find work or return home.

⁶ Bushnell’s partner for next 30 years.

⁷ Mission for homeless women in Chicago.

⁸ Bushnell felt the abuses resulting from drink were symptoms of a deeper problem. She believed the root cause of the degradation was the bias of both the writing and the translations of the Bible by males. *GWTW lessons 77-79 & Brief Sketch...*, p 20 & in *Oh Thou Woman...*, p. 23.

⁹ Head of Social Purity Dept of WCTU in England & mentor & friend of Bushnell.

¹⁰ Legislation said they were illegal, but in reality they were still there.

¹¹ *Oh Thou Woman...*, p. 50 prostitution and opium were partners. Young girls 7-8 years old trained as prostitutes. Although some government officials were professing Christians—English, American, etc, they did nothing to stop and even supported these trades.

¹² Lock houses--Women forcefully detained and examined for venereal disease.

¹³ Contagious Disease Acts - allowed arrest of any woman suspected of prostitution to have compulsory checks for venereal disease. If the women were suffering from sexually transmitted diseases, they were placed in a locked hospital until cured.

¹⁴ Bushnell believed in universal standards and did not give ground to cultural differences—Butler, Andrew and Bushnell were ostracized for their uncompromising stand. They considered the Contagious Disease Acts to be akin to legalized surgical rape and government sanctioning of prostitution.

¹⁵ Men who were caught in brothels were immediately tried, but women were held and not tried until they could be examined to prove they were not infected with disease.