

# ANNA HOWARD SHAW, FRANCES WILLARD AND KATHARINE BUSHNELL

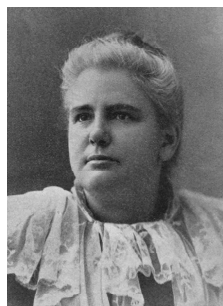


Photo Credit: Susan B. Anthony, public domain

Anna Howard Shaw



Photo: General Commission on Archives and History

Frances Willard



Photo: General Commission on Archives and History

Katharine Bushnell

## Advocates for New Rights for Women

Courageous Methodist women leaders such as Anna Howard Shaw, Frances Willard and Katharine Bushnell achieved empowerment and new rights for women.

**Anna Howard Shaw**, in 1904, became president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and pressed for women's right to serve as voting delegates to the Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference. In 1880, she became one of the first clergywomen in Methodist history when she was ordained by the Methodist Protestant Church.

**Frances Willard**, an educator teaching at Northwestern, demonstrated impressive success achieving new worker rights and voting rights. She advocated for an eight-hour workday, a higher age of consent for girls, and legal assurance of women's right to vote. Willard also became active in the temperance movement, serving as president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) from 1879–1898.

**Katharine Bushnell** was a student under Willard, from 1873–1874, when Willard was dean of the

women's college at Northwestern. Accordingly, Bushnell developed an interest in social justice, especially regarding the inequality of women. She later joined Willard in the WCTU.

In 1879, she became a medical missionary in China, forming a pediatrics hospital in Shanghai. In 1886, having returned to Chicago, Bushnell became National Evangelist of the Social Purity Department. With Elizabeth Andrew, she founded the Anchorage Mission in Chicago, ministering to 5,000 women a year. Her advocacy for women included investigating the use of prostitutes by British troops in India.

For the rest of her life, Bushnell's overarching concern was the welfare of women. This included exposing translations of the Bible that perpetuated the subjugation of women, leading in 1908 to her development of *God's Word to Woman*, which walked women through all the passages in the Bible that had been mistranslated because of male bias.

Source for Bushnell: Anneke Helen Stasson, <http://www.bu.edu/missiology>, with modifications.