

An Open Door is Before Us

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2007 Aglow Worldwide Conference – Friday AM Session

The theme of this conference is we are “A Voice and not an Echo.” God has raised an incredible voice in the earth through this apostolic ministry that is reaching into the nations of the world. We are in 70% of the world’s nations. 70%, but it began with a voice. It began with just an expression, just a prayer and then it was four. And as those four prayed, it became 125 and now, as we have said so frequently in our time together already almost 170 nations of the world. Forty years ago, this month, was the first event in the University District right here in this city.

I want to share with you some interesting information about the city of Seattle. The city of Seattle has experienced many ups and downs. Every time Seattle seemed destined to die, there was a new boom, a new rebuilding. There were at least six such cycles.

The lumber industry boom, then came the Klondike gold rush of 1897, then came the shipbuilding boom in the early 20th century, then the Boeing boom as commercial aircraft and the aviation industry was on the rise. Boeing is located here. Joanne mentioned Starbucks, then there is the technology boom with Microsoft and other companies that have to do with technology. Microsoft, the web telecommunication companies, such as Amazon.com, AT& T Wireless, Real Networks and my personal favorite, Nordstrom’s. The flagship store is just a block away from here. It all began in Seattle.

When the Boeing boom went into a major downturn in the late 1960s, 1970s many left the Seattle area to find employment elsewhere. There were a couple of local real estate agents that put a sign up on the billboard and it said, “Will the last person leaving Seattle please turn out the lights?” But it was in the mid-1960s and early 1970s when it looked like the lights would be turned out in Seattle that another light went on. And I know you are thinking Aglow and we are going to get there, but let’s take a step back.

The Charismatic Renewal

Father Dennis Bennett came from Seattle. He had been an Episcopal priest in the Los Angeles area and had had an incredible experience with the outpouring the Holy Spirit in his life. He left the Los Angeles area and he took a little defunct Episcopal church in Ballard just a little north of where we are now. It would become what was later known as the Charismatic Renewal Movement. It was a movement that would circle the globe. A light went on and it came from this city, it came from this place and the Light of the world - the Person of Jesus Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit began to move around the nations of the world.

A Worldwide Awakening Among Women

It was then that one voice expressed just a simple desire, to see women begin to come together and share the incredible thing that God was doing in their life through the power of the Holy Spirit. That first prayer meeting became the first meeting at the Edmund Meany Hotel in the University District. It was the genesis of what would become a worldwide movement, an unprecedented movement of God through the nations in the lives of women.

Never in history has there been this kind of a worldwide awakening among women. God is up to something. He says He works all things after the council of His will, so everything He does has purpose and significance and it fits in with His unfolding plan in the earth.

As we look at God's time clock, we do not know when Jesus will come again, but we know that He is and He said "When these signs begin to occur, look up because your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28 The world, the earth, is experiencing birth pangs in this hour and when birth pangs begin, a woman knows that her body is preparing itself to bring forth new life. We are seeing birth pangs.

The Word says that *darkness will cover the earth and gross darkness the people*, but when you see darkness continue to creep in and creep in and creep in, you can count on this, *My Light and My Glory will arise* and they are going to begin to see something in God's people that is startlingly different than the darkness that is encroaching on the earth.

We are humbled, we are blessed, and we are honored to be a part of this unique and unusual unprecedented move of His Spirit in the lives of women that has touched the hearts and the lives of women and families, cities, nations, churches. 169 nations.

Just as we have spoken of cycles here in the city of Seattle, I want to take a look back, since it is our 40th year celebration. It is time to look back and reflect on what God has done in this ministry because there has been a progression.

A Parallel Move of the Spirit

You have heard me say this before that when the enemy raises his standard, God raises a standard against the flood of evil that the enemy is pouring out in the earth. There is always a parallel movement. When you think back to the late 50s and into the 60s, the teaching that was coming forth from the university campuses was that 'God is dead. There is no higher power we have to answer to. If it feels good, do it.' As that message began to waft across this nation.

This nation has experienced a moral decline that we have never recovered from and so much of that horrible junk message, television, movies, music that goes out around the world comes from this nation. We are ashamed.

Looking back at the ministry of Aglow, you think back to 1967 when that first meeting was held, how significant that that was the same year that the city of Jerusalem was reunified under Jewish control. God was setting something in place in Israel, the apple of His eye, and He called forth Aglow. There is something parallel that was beginning to arise. We could not see it. It is so often that way in our walk

with the Lord. As we walk through life, we take one step after another. The other evening a group of us met together in my room and one of the ladies said, "It is like we are looking at God's chess board and you can see when you take a look back the hand of God moving those pieces into alignment for what He is doing in the earth."

Aglow - I do not have to say this to you, but Aglow was no mistake. Aglow was never about just gathering a few women together. When we say today raise up an army, God has raised up an army. An army of women that is covering the globe. No small thing.

So, in 1967, the reunification of Jerusalem, Dr. Christian Bernard performed the first successful heart transplant in South Africa, and it was a time of flower power in the United States that went around the world, too. It was the hippy movement. It was the summer of love. It was turn on, tune in, drop out. It was a counter cultural revolution that was taking place along with the message 'God is dead.' The first major rock festival was held in Monterrey, California that year. *Rosemary's Baby* was published and it was the first overtly occult book to become a bestseller. But God had a parallel movement that was arising in the earth.

When I think of this counter cultural revolution and their voices that were sounding out across this nation and ultimately around the nations of the world and how loudly they were speaking, God raised up a single man with a simple message. His name was Billy Graham and he began to speak a simple message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that went around the world. God *always* has His counter cultural revolution.

Back in the mid-1960s Aglow had six groups in Seattle and two groups in Canada. We had an Aglow magazine then, we sold it for ten cents. I wonder if the ladies at that point could have imagined what God was setting in place - that this would move way beyond the boundaries of a single city or even just beyond Seattle and our neighbor in British Columbia. It would move around the world.

By the 1970s, we had our first International Board, our first Constitution, our first, and only at that time, paid employee. We had our first International Conference in the mid-1970s, and Father Dennis Bennett was one of the speakers. Jack Hayford was a speaker and Pat Robertson. Quite a trio. By 1979, Aglow was in 20 nations. The women were amazed. They had not seen anything yet.

In the 1980s with the moral decline of this nation, there was also the rise of the AIDS epidemic in many nations of the world. AIDS would become the 7th leading cause of death amongst children. Running parallel to many events that were taking place at that time, there was a church growth movement and the prayer movement was beginning to rise in the earth. I think of Jeremiah 9:17-26, "Call for the mourning women, call for the weeping women that they might come, teach them how to cry out for us." They need to cry out for our nation. They need to grieve for what is taking place in our nation. They need to cry out into the heavenlies because once their voice is heard in Heaven; earth begins to feel the effect of those prayers.

Aglow Prayer Movement

There was a prayer movement that began to arise in this ministry in the 1980s. Interestingly in 1980, we held our first International Conference outside of North America and we have never done it again. We held it in the city of Jerusalem. That is significant. We did not know it then. So, in 1967 Jerusalem is reunified.

In 1980 I was appointed as President of Aglow and we held our first conference then in the city of Jerusalem. It was also in 1980 that Jerusalem was declared to be the undivided eternal capital of the state of Israel by the Israeli parliament. Not to draw attention to myself, but it is interesting because of what would ultimately come related to Israel that I was appointed as President that year and we went to the city of Jerusalem to hold an international gathering.

This is God's chessboard. I was sharing with the women the other evening that the very first outreach trip I took, it actually was not an outreach trip, I went to speak at all European conference. It was in 80 or 81 and it was held in Berlin, Germany. I think, too, that was part of the journey of healing that would ultimately come related to Israel.

In fact this last year when we went to the holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, in Israel, we had after touring Yad Vashem, we gathered together in a room that would enable us to sit across from one another. It was almost like an amphitheater, but divided in the center. I said I want you to share what stirs in your heart as you look at what happened to the Jewish people. And one of the women that stood Gisela, from Germany, I love her, she just began to weep and share along with Lorene Carlson's daughter, Lori Marvin, who is here today. They began to share out of their hearts both being of German descent the grief they feel. They began speaking into the spirit realm forgiveness for the German people and restoration for the Jewish people.

It was in the early days of my presidency, back really in 1980-81-82 that, I would not call it a slogan but a new word was coming forth, and you will recognize this, that Aglow would be a network of praying, warring, interceding women, covering the face of the earth. No small thing. We sing raise up an army. He has been about raising up an army all of these years with the touch of a keyboard we could raise a million intercessors in a moments time.

So, God was developing and guiding this movement in the face of world events. The sexual revolution the counter cultural activities, heated events escalating in the middle east, God was quietly working in this hidden ministry, at that time called Women's Aglow, now called Aglow International.

It was in 1982 – you can clap if you want to. We give God all the Glory. It is amazing what He has done! Aren't you amazed? It was in 1982 that we held our first prayer conference. The following year, here in this nation, we held a conference in Washington DC and we prayer walked that city inside and out in government buildings, in embassies, at the White House. We walked and prayed and called in God's order.

In the early 90s, we took our first prayer journey to Moscow. Mary Lance Sisk was with us, Cindy Jacobs, Beth Alves, Bobbye Byerly, there was a whole group of us. I think about ten that traveled into Moscow.

This is just as the Iron Curtain had come down. We prayer walked that city, calling forth the Kingdom of God.

Do you remember our conference in Orlando in 1991? Do you remember that there was a significant movement of prayer in our sessions? Do you remember Marfa Cabrera? She was on the platform and she had spoken and following her speaking we just began to call forth the nations and I looked back to see what the nations were specifically that we called forth. Mongolia was one, we had no activity in Mongolia, Iran, Iraq, Albania, Cuba. They are all currently affiliated with Aglow except one, Iran, and Iran, we are coming for you!!

Casting A Net of Prayer

We began holding 24-hour prayer watches. Do you remember we had a cast a net of prayer over the nations of the world? The whole body of Aglow began to cast this net of prayer over the individual nations. We prayed the borders. We prayed the seaboard. We prayed coastal highways. We prayed at shipping ports. We prayed in Capital buildings. We prayed in the ghettos, we prayed in the country clubs. We prayed by air, land and sea, casting a net of prayer over the nations of the world.

Again, in the early 90s we took a second prayer journey into **Korea**. I think there were 50-70 with me on that prayer journey. We prayed that city and then we all went up to the DMZ. We stood on the borders of North Korea and we called in the women from North Korea. They will be here. You will see that flag one of these days.

I think it was in 1993 that we released our first Aglow prayer map and we featured the 10-40 window. Do you remember that prayer map? Today, Aglow is in so many of the 10-40 window nations – I have lost the number. We have penetrated into that area of the world.

We took our 3rd prayer journey into **Mongolia**. There were 6 of us, I think, that went on that journey. It was back in the early 1990's and at that point, there were a handful – and I am not exaggerating – there were a handful of Christians in the nation of Mongolia.

We were in Ulaanbaatar, the Capitol of Mongolia, and we began to walk the streets and pray and call forth the Kingdom of God. At that point, a missionary friend of ours, Rick, who was in the process of translating the New Testament into the language of Mongolia. They had no Bible!

Today, we have a leader in Mongolia, Aase Sims, who was the National President in Norway. She left her home. She was at that time living alone. Her husband had passed away. Her children were grown. She left beautiful Oslo and moved to Mongolia and has been there all of these years raising up Aglow in that Nation. They recently called for a prayer meeting and a thousand people – men and women – came to that prayer meeting.

There are two new Aglow groups starting in the Gobi Desert. One of them has an outreach with Bible studies and a support group. They are also sponsoring a micro enterprise to help women start small vegetable businesses in the Gobi Desert!

In the mid 1990's we took another prayer journey into **Kuwait**. There are not a lot of high places to pray from in Kuwait, but we went up in a water tower and began to pray over Kuwait. We began to call in that nation and the nations in the Middle East. Today Aglow is in 11 Middle Eastern nations and a total of 36 Muslim nations.

When I think of you, Aglow women, you have moved across the face of the earth in times of earthquakes, fires, floods, mudslides, tsunamis, Katrina (hurricane), war torn areas. You have established Bible studies and Aglow groups in refugee camps. You women are tireless and dedicated, focused in your efforts. Your burning desire to see the Kingdom of God arise in the earth – it amazes me! It amazes Heaven!

In the nation of **Ghana**, they have recently completed an Aglow vocational complex. It is a 3-story building in Kumasi. Their aim is to change the lives of street children, teenage mothers, HIV orphans to give them a hope and a future. That is Aglow women! Just women like you and me.

Last year the President of Ghana gave a personal donation of \$5,000 towards the Aglow vocational complex. Then the first Western Union Foundation was given where they received a grant of over \$40,000. God is blessing the ministry of Aglow.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, they have started an Aglow Bible School in Kinshasa, the Capital. YOU are the women doing these things! They have a 9-month course teaching how to live the Christian life. Once you take the 9-month course, then you can become a member, not a leader – a member of Aglow. They are serious.

In the **Ukraine**, every Sunday afternoon for 7 years, they go into the women's prison to minister and hundreds of women have received Christ. They are invited into public schools to teach about morality, to teach about sex education, to speak to them about the value of life.

In the **Caribbean**, they hold Aglow family conferences, bringing families together, teaching young teens how to live, how to dress, how to act.

In **South Africa**, Aglow women have been asked to come into the Parliament chambers before every session to pray.

I know that women in many nations of the world, I know it is true in Great Britain, I know it is true here in the states in the United States, and in many of your nations, you have been given such favor that you have been invited in to public schools, to Parliament buildings, to significant events – I was asked recently to be one of the speakers to welcome the new Israeli Ambassador to the United States.

Women around the world are being raised up to be a voice and not an echo!

Orphanages. Don't we love children? We have orphanages in Latifa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Sudan. Most of you know Fran Lance. She has opened an orphanage in Cambodia.

In the year 2000 – we all know that we have the three mandates – Aglow stands on two legs, prayer and evangelism. And we are doing both. You are going to be hearing and seeing a new face tomorrow. You are going to hear her, see her, and you are going to be on fire! This woman has such a heart for

Evangelism and we are asking her to head up a whole new evangelist thrust, only we are not going to call it Evangelism, we are going to call it something like Life Transformation.

Three Mandates

We have **three mandates** along with the two legs we stand on – prayer and evangelism.

The restoration of the foundation of the Church is **male and female**. God told us what dominion would look like from the beginning and it was male and female. The enemy has come against that foundation to cause the Church to be weakened, to not acknowledge and embrace and be aware of the significant call and anointings on women's lives. There is coming an integrated movement of men and women coming together to build the church and cause her to be strong as God purposed.

We have a call to the **Muslim** world. We have a television series in the Arabic language that has a footprint across Europe, Northern Africa, Asia, the Caribbean. We have English subtitles so it is being shown in the United States and in other places that speak the English language. The response is incredible. God is touching Muslim people to turn them from a system that does not give them the hope that a relationship with Jesus Christ gives them.

In our times going into **Israel**, every year since the year 2000, taking anywhere from 250 up to 650 – and this next year, we are all going, right? It is the 60th year anniversary of Israel as a nation. It is significant! We took in a half ton of goods. We distributed clothing, medical supplies, cosmetics, toys, playground equipment to children and women and families. We have prayed the borders. We have met with the Chief Rabbis. We have met with the Messianic believers in the land – that tender shoot and vine that is growing and becoming strong. Aglow is there to support the nation of Israel and to stand with the Jewish people.

By the year 2000 we had gained 124 more nations. By the year 2007, 48 more nations to total 169. We have 121,000 volunteer leaders worldwide and we reach some 17 million people annually. Not too bad for a hidden ministry, a little women's group that at some point some people said of Aglow, "Will the last one there please turn out the lights?"

God has been gracious to us, not because we are so wonderful, but because He has a plan. Ultimately it is always about Him and His unfolding plan. We have become a voice and not an echo!

This past year I was one of speakers, along with other women, from the Knesset Women's Christian Caucus. The Conference was held in the city of Jerusalem. How significant was that from the city of Jerusalem we would begin to raise our voice and let our voice be heard across the nations of the world in relation to the abuse of women. **Violence against women** has become a global scandal. I have many facts and figures that I could share with you this morning, but I won't take the time because time is running out.

Let me share this quote with you. It is a statement that the Swiss Ambassador made recently. His name is Theodore Winkler. He said that the number of women who die because of gender related violence, deprivation, and discrimination is larger than the casualty toll of all the wars of the 20th century combined.

But Aglow has become a voice speaking out on behalf of the women of the world. Do you know what that root of anger, violence, hatred, and abuse is? Do you know what that is? In Genesis 3:15 when God said, “Forever and ever Satan, I am putting enmity between you and the woman.” Do you know why? It was the woman who exposed him for who he really is! The deceiver. He deceived me and I ate and God spoke into and said, “Satan, forever and ever, down through the ages, down through the centuries, she will be used again, and again, and again to expose you for who you really are in the nations of the world!

It is no wonder that the enemy has come against women in the way that he has. Violence against women, a global issue, a global scandal – well, we are here to make a difference.

Recently, I was talking with Joy Dawson. She is very direct. She was speaking the word of the Lord to me in relation to a couple of things. Something came up in relation to the enemy and enemy forces. She said, “Jane, darling, Satan hates you!” I shared this at our International Council meeting and the woman that you will see, and meet, and hear tomorrow – Janet Mangum said, “That is the BEST news I have heard yet!” You see, the truth is, he is not our enemy, WE ARE HIS ENEMY! Don’t ever forget that! Don’t you ever forget it! Women of the world, YOU ARE SATAN’S ENEMY!

Hear us Heaven, earth, and hell! We will not be silent! Our voice will be heard and we will be a voice in the earth and not an echo! For God has raised us up for such a time as this! We will not shrink back! We will not pull back! We stand as God’s representative figures in the earth – the female gender that He called forth and fashioned Himself to come alongside the man. To be filled with strength. To be filled with vigor and vitality and wisdom – Intercessors!

This call on this ministry, on your life as women, is so deep and so profound. You must NOT be about just cranking out another meeting. God has raised up an army in the earth!

Do you ever sit and think, “We hear these prophetic words about where we are and what season – do you ever think, where are we now? What is God doing? What is taking place? How do I bring understanding to what I hear out there, and yet, what the reality in my own life – how do I piece together?” I was doing that one morning. You know, we have all sown into things, haven’t we? We have given our money. We have given our time, our strength, our prayers, our hearts, our passion. We are there.

The Shunamite Woman

There were some significant people in my life. The Lord had told me this for two years. It is out of 2 Kings 8 where the Shunamite woman had gone to the land of the Philistines because there was a famine in the land and she went to dwell there for seven years. Now she was returning home.

She went to the King to ask for her house and her land. The King said to the servant, “You see to it that she gets her house and her land and I want you to pay interest on all of it for the time she was gone.”

The Lord just so quietly spoke to me and said, “That is your word. Your house, every family member, everything that has to do with your house, your household – it is yours. They are coming fully into what I have destined for them, purposed for them. And your land.” I asked the Lord, “You show me.”

You know, you get asked to serve on a lot of committees and do a lot of things and this year, I want you to show me what is my land because I will step off any committee that you are saying, “Not this season.” And I am in that process. But in a personal way, things that I had sown in to, given finance into, prayed in to, cried for – within a week’s time, at least a couple of the people I had poured in to and loved so dearly – they were gone. I was stunned.

A Mocking Spirit

As I sat in my chair, I actually went on a 3 day fast saying, “Lord, what is up?” The word ‘mocking’ just loomed before me. And this is what I felt I heard. For those things that are part of your destiny – now, I am speaking to you and I am including myself – for those things that God has prophesied over your life, those things you have sown in to, you have given yourself to, people, ministries, whatever it is. I would dare say that there are many in this room that are still waiting for some things.

As I sat quietly in my chair – my favorite rocking chair, sipping my tea, I could literally see a mocking spirit sitting on top of it all. As I began to think about that mocking spirit, I thought about that scripture in Mark 11:22 that says, “Have faith in God and speak to the mountain!” It does not say to pray to God. It says to speak to the mountain!

Do you have mountains in your life? Things you do not understand? Things that seem immovable? The Word says to speak to that mountain. Luke says that men ought to always pray and not lose heart. Some of you have waited long for some things. Some of you have things in your life that have occurred that do not make any sense. Some of you sitting here today are broken hearted, disappointed. You are here because you need a word from the Lord. You are here because you love the Lord. You have been faithful.

Sometimes you think, what happened? Sometimes it turns inward and you think, “I blew it. I messed up. Somehow, I have done something and I do not know what it is. My life is just so messed up. I am never going to get there.” Yeah, that would be the mocking spirit.

I began to think about Jesus and the wilderness. The mocking spirit came to Him there and in essence said, “If you are who you say you are, turn this stone into bread.” Jesus was not moved. Again, he came, Satan, that mocker, the mocking spirit to Jesus in the wilderness and said, “If you are who you really say you are, cast yourself off the Temple.” Jesus was not moved by it. He was a man on a mission and He would not be moved by the mocking voice of the enemy.

Then you turn over to Matthew 27 and Jesus is now on the Cross. The mocking spirit comes again. Over the Cross, they had a sign reading, “This is Jesus, King of the Jews.” And there He hangs, dying for all mankind and they are mocking Him. Here comes the mocking tone - “You who destroyed the Temple and will rebuild it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down off the Cross.”

Likewise, the chief Priests, the chief Rabbis – because last year at the Knesset Conference, speaking Judeo Christian beliefs into the issues that face women around the world. Isn’t it interesting that for the first time in many a year that the Rabbis and all the chief Rabbis of all the cities gathered together and told the Jews, “You cannot go to that conference.” We had Orthodox Jews serving on the Board!

So the chief Rabbis, the chief Priests with the scribes and the elders, mocking said, “He saved others. Himself, He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down from the Cross and then we will believe Him.” No they wouldn’t. Their hearts were stone. Their hearts were closed. He had walked before them for three years, showing them Heaven. Showing them the Kingdom. Showing them the Father. He said, “I do nothing, but what I see the Father do!”

Now that they had beaten Him and scourged Him, put a crown of thorns on His head, and nailed Him to a Cross, they are saying, “Okay, if You can come off the Cross, we will believe in You.” No. They would not.

You see, in order to transform all of our hearts, to make them hearts of flesh, to make them alive to the Spirit of God, to give Him entry into our hearts and lives, He came to make ALL THINGS new.

It says, “He trusted in God. Let Him deliver Him now, for He said that He is the Son of God. It was the ninth hour and He said – hanging on the Cross, He cried out to the Father, “Father! Father! Why have You forsaken Me?” The darkest hour of His life.

Perhaps at the darkest hour of your life, pain in your life, pain in your family, things that so twist and turn your heart inside out. You want to cry out with your whole being, “GOD! WHERE ARE YOU?” I wonder if in that moment Jesus thought, “This is way more than I thought it was going to be.” But as they were mocking Him, saying save Yourself, get off the Cross then we will believe You....He willingly, WILLINGLY gave up His life . He went down into death and He came up out of the grave victorious for you and me.

Now, this is what I want you to get.

The Key of Suffering

There was a door about to open into the future that could not be purchased any other way. But by being willing to hang there and bleed and die for all of us – because He was willing to wait – Are you willing to wait? **Do you know that the key off suffering purchases somethings that no other key can purchase?**

Because He was willing to suffer and die for all mankind, because He would not respond to that voice of that mocking spirit, history was changed that day.

I want to say to you that there is a door of hope standing before you today. You have been tempted to give up. You have been tempted to stop. You have questions. You have been disappointed. You have been hurt. You come together at meetings like this and you feel a little better for a while, but maybe the realities of your life are so painful to you that you think, “How do I go on from here?”

I want to say to you, I want to say to Aglow, I want to say to the Church, there is a door before us that is about to open that will forever change history! This is not the time to give up. It is not the time to cave in. It is not the time to think it is too late, you have gone too far, you have messed up too bad.

Stand to your feet. For every place that the enemy has defeated you, I want you to lift your hands before Almighty God today, and I want you to declare in the face of Heaven, in the face of earth, and

in the face of the enemy, “I will fulfill my destiny! And this ministry will fulfill its destiny! And every place where the enemy has come to steal, to rob, to destroy, to kill – every place where that mocking spirit has come again and again and again and again, we say YOU ARE DEFEATED! YOU ARE EXPOSED! YOU ARE EXPOSED! YOU ARE EXPOSED!