

Keeping First Things First

Linda Jones

2021 Aglow Conference – Friday AM Session

Thank you for such a warm welcome. I was actually terrified when Jane said she could not come and I was, also, totally at peace. I am not sure how that works – terrified and peace. Jane did give me her notes.

Jane is asked a great deal of questions, mostly, ‘Where is Aglow going?’ She often replies that we are in transition. We may not know exactly where we are going, but we do know that God is with us. We do know that we are going to be part of the Third Great Awakening.

Aglow, as most of you know, is over 50 years old. God called us together and then, I like to think about the fact that He put Aglow in His hand and blew it all over the world. We have women all over the world who are just like us. Men, too.

Recently we were on a phone call with the leaders in South America. They were preparing to show the conference webcast by Zoom all over South and Central America. Jervae Brooks, Kathy Sanders, and I were on a call with them and it was really funny because their interpreter did not show up. They spoke Spanish and we spoke English. We were trying to communicate and somehow it worked as a couple of them spoke a little bit of English. They are doing exactly what you are doing in your nation in their nation! They are making a difference just like you are making a difference!

Aglow, a Gift of God to the World

Aglow is a gift of God to communities all over the world. As you go about what you are doing in your community, there are women all over the world going about the same things in theirs.

The last year and a half was not easy. Yet, because of the ingenuity of women all over the world, I believe that Aglow has reached and touched more people in the last year and a half than we do in a normal year. The reason is technology. You learned how to Zoom. You learned how to do conference calls. You gathered more often as you gathered weekly by Zoom and phone. I know groups that gathered daily at 4 am for prayer. It has been amazing as this has happened all over the world. In fact, the National Board in Canada is teaching Aglow women in Africa how to do a conference on Zoom.

So many conferences were held in the nations on Zoom. In Spain, they had 23,000 people who saw their conference. During the last year and a half, we had 51 new groups that affiliated in the

nations....during a lockdown situation! While we lost a few groups, we have gained groups, too. God is so IN Aglow!

We are strategically placed all over the world. If God blew a whistle calling for His army to arise, women and men all over the world would stand up. We are a mighty, mighty army and YOU are part of that. I do not want you to think that your Lighthouse is just a little group unto itself. You are part of an amazing group of women.

Sometimes people will come up and ask, "Are you still in Aglow? Is Aglow still alive?" You bet! Aglow is alive and well and there is a day coming when we are going to be seen by the whole world. They are going to say, "Oh my goodness! Is that the group of women that we did not even think were around anymore?" God has saved us for the Third Great Awakening and we are going to be amazing!

I believe that Kimmy Wiant mentioned today that when Nellie in South America decided she was going to show the webcast in Spanish, they expect over 1,000 people. It spread and now they are going to show it in Brazil in Portuguese. It will be shown in all of Central and South America and Spain. We welcome you and we are so excited that you are with us.

For 14 years there has been a prayer call every Monday night led by Sandy Wezowicz, Israel Education and Awareness Director, and Diane Moder, Islam Education Director. There is an average of 150 people on the call each Monday night. The US Regional Directors have been taking prayer teams into Washington, D.C. each month since 2008. They connect with other prayer groups, Family Research Council, and government officials. A different team goes in each month for 13 years. They have been faithful! One thing we found out as we began to go into D.C. was how much prayer was already taking place. It is encouraging to know that there are people there praying, that there are people in Congress praying and we go in to support them. It has been amazing. Those groups are grateful that Aglow has come month after month and they look forward to us coming. One thing about Aglow women, we know how to pray! Our prayers are making a difference around the world.

We have Men of Issachar who will be meeting this afternoon with Dave McDaniel.

I encourage you to go to the Aglow.org website and check out the news stories from around the world. Please take advantage of this incredible information.

How many of you are watching the Jane videos that come out each Friday? It comes out by e-blast to those in the Aglow database each Friday and then is posted to the Aglow International YouTube channel. If you have not 'liked' the Aglow YouTube channel, please go there and do so. Messages come in from around the world telling how much Jane's words bless those who hear the videos.

I am going to get back to Jane's notes in a little while. I felt like I could not stand up here and try to teach from Jane's notes. My goodness, that would not work. So, I have been asking God to help me.

A Tale as Old as Time

I feel like last night He told me, “Well, just talk about the tale as old as time.” And I said, “Beauty and the Beast?” He said, “No. Not that one. The other one.”

There is a tale as old as time and as we go through the weekend with Lance Wallnau and Dutch Sheets, we are going to hear some amazing things about what is happening in the world. That will be for us corporately.

But I feel that God wants to talk to us today, individually, about our hearts. That is really what Jane was going to speak in her message for this meeting. In a little while, I am going to show you a video that Jane made earlier to send to one of the nations. It will fit right in.

God spoke this to Jane several weeks ago in the middle of the night “rend your heart” and she sent this in a greeting to a regional event in the South Pacific, I think. It will work to show a small piece of that greeting here.

Back to the tale as old as time.

The “Me Principle”

Every war that has ever been fought on the earth or in Heaven, was because of the “me principle.”

Satan in the first war, Lucifer, was created to be beautiful. He was beautiful - created to lead worship. He had a “me” problem. He decided that he would exalt himself above God. That did not turn out too good for him.

Who Is Going to Sit on the Throne?

Really, the question through time has been, “Who is going to sit on the Throne?” And we come down to our own ‘me problem’. It is the same thing. Who is going to sit on the throne of our heart?

Eve had the same problem. When Satan tempted her, her thing was, “You mean that God has been lying to me? You mean that if I eat this fruit, I can be like God?” And all through the ages – I thought of Hitler. One man with a ‘me problem’ who thought he could rule the world. He did not need God.

Really, that is the same problem that we have today in the world. Who is going to sit on the Throne? And I believe that today, God wants to deal with our ‘me problem’. We all have it in some level or another.

The ‘me problem’ in each one of us causes us to strive. It causes us to hate our brother. It causes us to be jealous. It causes all manner of things because we want to be sure that ‘me’ rises to the top. Really, in every situation, the only Person who should rise to the top is the Lord Jesus Christ. He lives

in each one of us and our 'me problem' often wrestles with, or overlooks, or totally ignores the One who resides in us and wants to have preeminence in our life.

It is not ME that has preeminence. It certainly should not be ME. It should be Him.

Today I feel like God really wants to talk to each one of us. We are Christians. Most of us have been Christians for a long time. We do not have blatant sin in our lives. We do not because we love the Lord, yet there are little things in our hearts that we do not see as sin. It is there.

There are not different levels of sin. Sin is sin. That is how God looks at it. We are living in a day and coming into an even bigger day – in fact, Jane has in her notes that *hell is coming at us*.

I think you are aware of what is happening in the world. You can see that hell is coming at us. There are people who are leading that do not believe in God. They do not think that they need God. One of the US Congressmen recently responded to a colleague who was quoting from Scripture, "Do not quote Scripture here. We do not need any of that. We do not need God." That was said by one of the elected, governing officials in the United States.

This is an attitude that we see in the world today. We do not need God. Someone else said that – Lucifer. The demons of hell are trying to overtake and rule over God. And the question still remains, who is going to rule?

God is Going to Sit on the Throne

I want to say to you, God is going to sit on the Throne. It is the tale as old as time. God is going to sit on the Throne. Make no mistake about it.

As we Christians, the Body of Christ, come to understand that we were made for this time, we were born for this time, each one of us was born at this time of God's story. We were born at this time of history for purpose.

It is no accident that you find yourself living where you are. He plants. He planted you in the city where you live. He planted you in the nation where you live for a purpose, and there is more power in you than you can even imagine! The Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, resides in you.

Be One as Jesus and the Father are One

John 17 talks about 'as I am in you, He is in you. I am in the Father and as I am in the Father, You are in Him, too. You are in Me, so you are in the Father, too.' Those are pretty strong words, and that is where each of us are. We live in Christ.

Does it matter how you feel? No, because your position in Christ is the truth. God is in you and God in you is stronger than what is in the world. We only have to stand up, rise up, and believe it. It is time for the Ecclesia to come together.

In a meeting yesterday, Dave McDaniel said, “The Body needs to be in unity.” That does not mean that we will always agree, but we must be in unity.

I really feel that as the denominations broke off, it became a major problem because God intended the Church to be one. Now we have denominations that fight each other over some little thing that they do not agree with. It puts us out of unity. It takes our energy. God intended for us to be one and not fight each other over minutia, details or anything else. Those things do not matter. All we need to know is that God is God and He is for us. He is with us. He is on our side.

Jane’s Video

I was awakened in the night a couple of nights ago, and the verse was, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me? I will take up the cup of salvation. I will call upon the Name of the Lord, and I will pay my vows to the Lord, now, in the presence of all His people.” Psalm 116:12-14

This is exactly what we are doing to get together. We are in His Presence and we are rendering unto the Lord our deep gratefulness for all He has done for us, the salvation He has given us that has removed from us all our past, our sins, and silly decisions that we made down through life.

He has brought us into a new way of life. He is leading us daily by the power of His Holy Spirit. We take this moment together to render our praise unto His Holy Name. We take this moment to render unto His Name our deep gratitude for all the ways He has come to us and continues to come to us, to save us and to bring us along in His ways that we might be gathered together in His Kingdom and live eternally with Jesus while reigning and ruling on earth. Are you excited? We are rendering our gratefulness unto God.

What a God! What a work He has done.

Back to Linda’s comments:

It is so good to see Jane.

This morning, what I really want us to do is to search our hearts. Try me and see if there is anything in me that is not of You. All the small things. All the things we worry about. How many of you can stand up and give testimony of something you worried about that came to pass? It is a waste of time.

Ask God to show you what is in your heart – if you have aught against another. Serving as the Executive Director of the US field, I receive a lot of reports of strife on Lighthouse and Area Teams. It

is heartbreaking. Sisters and brothers, we should not live in strife. And usually this strife comes because of a 'me problem'.

God wants us to have a 'you' thought. What do you think of your sister? What do you think of your brother? You must have good thoughts toward them. It is important. It is important that we dwell in unity. Even if you do not agree, you can still dwell in unity.

The pandemic has split families simply because of vaccinations. Some people do not want to be vaccinated. Some people do. Okay. Good. Why do we have to fight about it? Why do we have to come to blows about it? We should allow everyone to do what is right for them.

That goes for anything really. I remember when I first came on an Area Team. We spent HOURS – and I mean HOURS – squabbling over the color of paper we would use for the flyer for the Retreat announcement. That is the truth. What difference did it make that we all had our opinions and it needs to be 'my way'? That is seven women each with their own opinion. Hours upon hours. Somewhere along the way, we said, it really does not matter, you are the VP of Retreats, choose the color that you want.

We make mountains out of mole hills that really does not mean a hill of beans in the end. Let it go. I think that is a Disney song, too.

I believe that I have explained enough about what I mean. What I really want us to do. If the worship team would come. Please stand.

As you stand, I want you to think about there being an altar in front of you. See yourself climbing on the altar, just like Abraham laid Isaac on that altar. Are you ready to slay the 'me problem'? Put yourself on the altar and let God slay you. Yes. It needs to go. Father, do Your work in us now. We are laying ourselves open before You. More than anything, we want the things in our lives that hinder us – whatever they are – callings, ministries, desires to be greater than others, to have more – you do not need that. All we need is Him. Give it up. Everything. All of it.

Kathryn Kuhlman said when asked what did the anointing she ministered with cost her – she replied, "Everything. It costs everything."

Where we are going in the coming days, we must give it all up. We have to give it all up to know Him, to know Him in a way we have not ever known Him before. We have known for years that there is a way that we need to know Him that we have not reached. Today we need to go there with everything that we are.

Come Home

If there is someone here who does not know the Lord, I want to invite you down to the front so you can give your life to the Lord. You need to do it. He is waiting for you with open arms. He is not

holding anything against you. He does not care where you have been. He knows all about it. He does not care. He says, "I love you. I have been waiting for you." Come. Teens. Rededicate your life if you have been away from the Lord. Come home. Come home.

Where you have felt like the prodigal son, pick yourself up and go home. Come home to the Father. He will put a robe around you and a ring on your finger. He will gather you in His arms and kiss you on the cheek because of how much He loves you. Do not be afraid.

We prayed in the Spirit today quite a bit. If you are not filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, I invite you to come. Someone will pray for you. It is a gift. You do not have to tarry long at the altar. It is a gift. God wants to give it to you. Be brave and come on down.

For the rest of us, allow God to do what He wants to do in your heart. Give your heart to Him freely. Surrender it all. Do not hold back. Let Him have it all. It does not count for anything. Give it up. As the worship team plays, cocoon yourself in with God and let Him have it. Let God love you.

There are people here and watching by webcast that need a reset in their life. You must give yourself over to the Lord Jesus Christ in a new way to allow God to reset your priorities, to reset the things in your life that are leading you or perhaps driving you. You need to reset your life for the Lord today.

Yes, we have a room full of people here and maybe you do not want anyone to know that you need to reset your life today. The truth is, we all need a reset. Take courage and come forward and allow God to reset your life.

As you go from this place, expect God to speak to you the rest of the day.