

American pastor's wife Jean Darnall believes that she was given a vision from the Lord for Britain. The year was 1967 and at the height of what became known as the Charismatic renewal. Although that period is now long past, many believers continue to hold the vision dear.

The Original Vision (1967)

DURING those weeks a vision came to me. It appeared three different times, during prayer, and it was the same vision each time. Now most of my revelation from the Lord is what I just 'know': He makes me know something, and I speak it forth. But now and then I have a vision, and when I do I have a pretty good one! Some people have a very garden-variety type of visions: they're getting them all the time, you know. But I just have them now and then. And it's usually a milestone: a turning point or very large directive in my life.

And what I saw was the British Isles, as in a bird's eye view. A kind of haze was over the whole, like a green fog. And then little pinpricks of light began to appear from the top of Scotland to Land's End. Then the Lord seemed to draw me closer to these lights, and I saw that they were fires that were burning. They were multiplying from the top of Scotland to Land's End. Then I saw lightening come and strike those fires, the brightest spots particularly, and there was a kind of explosion, and rivers of fire flowed down. Again, the sense of direction was from the top of Scotland to Land's End. But some of those rivers of fire didn't stop there. They went right across the Channel and didn't stop there. They went right across the Channel and spread out into the Continent.

The third time this vision appeared I figured the Lord was showing me or trying to tell me something. I was in Dorset by this time, at St Mary's (Church of England) with Rev Ken Prior, and I asked him if I could stay an extra day. You know, there's nothing quite so awkward as an evangelist the day after the meetings are over. But I said, 'Could I stay an extra day in the vicarage and pray? I need to find out what the Lord is trying to say to me.' Because up to that point I was really still on my way to Hong Kong. And the Lord spoke to me very clearly. It was a wonderful day. It certainly changed the path of my life.

When I say the Lord spoke to me, I don't mean that it was an audible voice. But it was a knowing. That strong knowing, like reading at the end of a book and knowing exactly what was going to happen. And you can't change it: it is written. And so it was written upon my heart, the meaning of this vision.

Phase One: The Glowing Fires

The Lord impressed it on my Heart that those fires I saw were groups of people whom He would make intensely hungry for New Testament Christianity. They would start reading their Bibles and saying, for instance, as they read the book of Acts, 'Well, where is this happy church? Where are these people so full of the power of the Holy Spirit? Where are these miracles? Where is this growth, this vitality, this courage, this boldness that these people had? Is that for today – can we have it today? Should the church be this way?'

And as these questions were being planted in their hearts, the Lord Jesus said He would make them very hungry for the Holy Spirit; He would fill them with the Holy Spirit, and out of those gifts would flow ministries that would enrich the Body of Christ. The whole concept of the Body of Christ would come alive, and barriers between denominations and different types of Christians would break down as people met each other. The Lord said He would move these people all over the country. After he had taught them gifts, he would move them to another place where they would carry that fire, and where they would meet others also who were being renewed by the Holy Spirit. He would put them in different situations from what they were used to, so that they would get to know people of other denominations, other cultures and other classes, and be able to communicate to them the blessings that the Lord had given them. And then He told me that during that time He would also test them. There would be great testing of faith, great waiting times. He would teach them spiritual warfare. He would show them the meaning of the power of the blood of Jesus, the name of Jesus, the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Phase Two: The Coming of the Lightning

Then I asked the Lord, 'What does the lightning stand for?' And he said, 'Unlike the first part, in which I will be speaking to Christians and preparing My church and renewing it and reviving the saints, the lightning represents a second part of the vision, in which I will bring a spiritual awakening to the nation that will be a witness to the unsaved, to the un-churched, to the non-Christian.

Through these believers I will bring a witness to this land. They will be an army of witnesses. And I will begin to release their ministries so that when they give their testimonies there will be apostolic signs following and accompanying their testimonies. Where ears have been deaf and hearts have

been hard and eyes have been blind, I will touch the people of this land and they will begin to hear the testimony of My people, they will begin to see the manifestations of My power, and their hearts will begin to believe. Thousands and thousands of people are going to come into my kingdom through this army of witnesses, through this people movement – not characterized by any particular evangelist or great organisation at the front, but just My people rising up, led by My spirit and beginning to move forward with a new faith for evangelism, a new zeal to share Jesus with others. And as they give their testimonies, I will release their ministries of healing and miracles, and there will be signs and wonders accompanying their ministries. So many people will be saved, in the villages as well as in the cities, in the schools, in the government, in media, in industry. It will affect the destiny of this nation; it will determine the course of the times.

Phase Three: Streams across the Channel

Then I said, 'Lord, what about these streams that go on across the Channel into Europe?' And He said, 'That represents people who will rise up in the midst of this people movement, this army of witnesses in Britain, whom I will make My communicators.' (Note 1.) Now I hadn't used that word very much before in ministry I said, 'Lord, what do you mean by communicators?' And he said, 'They will not only be people endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, with strong faith, but they will also be people talented in the arts. They will be writers, musicians, singers and actors, and also technicians in television, radio and the mass media. I will call and send them and put them in strategic places. I will bless their natural talents with my Spirit, and they will be good: they will excel. They will be leaders in their fields. I will send them into Europe, where they will meet other people in the media, and through them I will release the word of God very fast in Europe. The result will be another wave of a spiritual awakening, with thousands coming to Christ throughout Europe.' Well, I got kind of excited after I'd heard all that from the Lord, and I said, 'Lord, why are you telling me this? I'm on my way to Hong Kong.' And He said, 'Oh, no you're not: you're going to stay right here, and I'm going to bring Elmer here.' And I said, 'What do you want us to do, Lord?' And He said, 'I want you to nourish the fires that I light.' So I'm not the firelighter. The Lord is the Firelighter.

A Time of Waiting

My husband was in Hong Kong another year before he got here. But when he came, several pastors asked him if he would start a school for leadership training for people who had been filled with the Spirit and had gift ministries. He said, 'Well, I'll set it up for a year, and then we'll go back to the

United States.' We forgot that we didn't have anything to go back to – you know, we'd sold the house and given away everything. I had given the money to the poorest people I could find – young preachers just starting out in the ministry. So there was nothing to go back to. But we still had that mind-set. It took a little while for the Lord to make us realize that He had other plans.

That was twenty-one years ago. And during those twenty-one years I have ministered all over this country, as Pastor Black has mentioned. But I have never gone away up to the north of Scotland. Many times I've said to my husband, I'd just love to go up there and find the fires that God has been lighting.' And he has said, 'Well, why don't you go on? I don't mind, if you want to get ahead of the vision.' You know, it's very easy, when you get a revelation from God, to think you've got to go out and make it happen. That's very unwise – it doesn't bother God much but it sure can be embarrassing for you. You can fall flat on your face. I've tried that a couple of times, and I think I've learned my lesson on it. So I said, 'No, I don't want to do anything like that. I want to go when the Lord really calls me to go, if He needs me.'

A Brush with Death

Last August our college sponsored a conference with a wonderful man of God named Judson Cornwall. Just before he came, I collapsed in a church service with a near-fatal coronary. Graham Kendrick was standing beside me; I was so glad he was there because he prayed for me right away and I was wonderfully touched: instantly the pain subsided. It took me a little while, though, before I got home. I thought I had a bad case of indigestion! But the Lord did heal me, and I was able to attend the conference.

And a Revelation from Heaven

And one day, between lunch and the afternoon session, I said to our team, 'Let's just pray before we go upstairs.'

I was thinking about very matter-of-fact things like how long should the worship go on, and where would we take the offering and so on. I certainly wasn't thinking about the visions and lights and fires. And suddenly the Spirit of God came upon me. I don't know if you've ever had anything like that where God's power and presence comes on you so mightily that suddenly everything else is forgotten. It wasn't that I couldn't have stopped; but I didn't want to. I began to weep and weep, and

strong crying came upon my heart, real, deep sobs. I knew that the Spirit of God had brought the Lord's burden upon me. And I said, 'Lord, what is happening to me?' The closest thing I could compare to the intensity of the anointing that was upon me at that moment was when the Lord called me into the ministry when I was only fifteen years old. And I said, Lord, what is this? It's something very important.'

One word He spoke to me: "*Scotland*".

Phase Two at Hand

Scotland. I knew what it meant. I knew that He wanted me to come up here, and I knew that he wanted me to come up with a special message. That message is to say to as many people as I can, in as many places as I can, that the second part of that vision is right at hand. It's here, folks, that spiritual awakening: it's starting; the very first signs of it are already upon us. Your generation are going to see a harvest of souls in this land such as you have never seen before. And it's going to have a tremendous effect not only upon this nation and the British Isles, but upon many other nations.

The first sign: Men at Prayer

There are three things that the Lord has asked me to share about this vision everywhere I go: three signs of this awakening. The first is that the Lord is sending a strong call to prayer among men. Early Morning Prayer meetings will start all over the land as men desire to pray, and they will start asking their pastors and leaders, 'Can we meet together before work and pray?' In those prayer meetings there will come strong intercession and an increased faith and vision in these men's souls for the nation. They will not only pray in their own churches, but soon they will start combining together in other churches, with other church groups. And in some places these prayer meetings will grow too big for the building, and they will come out in the open and pray in the parks or in front of town halls.

Wouldn't that be nice, to have a prayer meeting right out here, of hundreds and hundreds of men lifting their voices in prayer for the nation? And it will be a sign in itself: these prayer meetings will be a witness to the nation, and many people will come to the Lord just by witnessing these prayer meetings, and hearing the prayers of these men.

The Second Sign: Christ Revealed to the Young.

The second thing is that the Lord is going to send a tremendous revelation of Himself to boys and girls in this country. Between the ages of nine and fifteen particularly, children will begin to have a revelation of Jesus. They will see Him, they will know Him, they will hear Him, He will speak to them. He will come to them in visions and dreams, He will reveal His word to them. They will be converted and filled with the Holy Spirit and gifted by Him. And they will start praying. They will be healed themselves, and they will start praying for each other; and there will be wonderful healings through these boys and girls.

They will not only be the children of Christian parents. The Lord is going to manifest Himself to those who are in non-Christian homes where there is no love nor real family unity, where there is no knowledge of the Lord at all: perhaps not only for one generation but for many generations no Christian person has been in that family. But Jesus is going to meet them and reveal His power and His presence to them and His love for them. When they start coming to our children and to our teachers and telling what they are seeing and hearing from the Lord, our duty will be to receive them and love them as they are- because they will be rough diamonds, and they will have rather unusual, un-churchy language. But their experiences will be real. Some of their experiences will be so unusual you may doubt them. At that point receive their testimonies at face value, give them the word of God, and teach them how to love: because these children will have ministries not only as children, but as leaders in their adult life, and they will bless your country and other countries. So receive these children, teach them. Those of you who teach Sunday school, those of you who have children in your home and neighbourhood whom you are concerned about, begin to ask the Lord to raise your level of expectation of what they can receive, because they are going to start hearing. And just like the adults, they will start hearing the word and receiving the Lord and being able to receive deep spiritual experiences in the Lord.

The Third Sign: Anointed Preachers

The third thing the Lord said He would do relates to the raising up of preachers. Although this awakening will not be characterised by great evangelists at the beginning, it will produce great preachers. You are going to hear evangelists with such fire, such powers of persuasion that they will touch thousands of people and win them to the Lord Jesus. God is giving these preachers not only to Scotland; He will send them to other parts of Britain, and many to other parts of the world, with an

ever increasing ministry of winning many people to the Lord.

Beware of Jealousy and Criticism

When the Lord reveals something to you, then you pray into it, not to make it happen, but to pray that as many people as possible will be involved and touched, and hear. And when I pray for this particular part of the vision, for these preachers and evangelists, I just feel the sorrow of Jesus' heart, for He says to me that He has already given to this land in recent times good ministries, strong ministries, that He wished to increase, but they were cut off, and hindered, and narrowed in the dimensions of their greatness because of jealousy, criticism and envy. In my spiritual warfare I have been coming against that spirit of jealousy, envy and criticism – because I think that it will try to rise up again, even in the face of the tremendous anointing God will give these preachers. So I just ask you to be on guard, be alert to that, and if you feel those feelings and emotions rising up in you against some ministry that God is blessing, be generous in your heart, be quick to repent of it, and ask the Lord to take that away, so that you can contribute and nourish and support those ministries, rather than stand back from them with hostility and jealousy. The Lord is going to use them whether you like them or not. But it would be a lot better if you liked them and got right there beside them, because then you could share the joy of winning souls for the Lord Jesus – because that's what it's all about, folks. The Lord isn't sending us for fun and games, any more than He sent the charismatic renewal for us to have Holy huddles and exchange spiritual gifts like Christmas presents all the time. That isn't the purpose of the renewal. The purpose is evangelism. It's to get out there into that harvest that God is preparing. And you sons and daughters of Scotland will be part of a modern ministry movement that will bless the whole world, and Scotland will greatly contribute to this. So be part of it.

A Deluge of Power

You young people, you are going to see miracles and effective ministry such as our eyes have never seen, as the Lord pours out His Spirit, not only upon the Christians, but upon the unsaved, in these days. So be encouraged. Jesus said men ought always to pray and never give up – because this harvest is bound to include some of your friends, some of your neighbours, your families, who need the Lord. So have faith, have courage.

Take Courage

When I first came to England, Jeanne Harper met me, and drove us from Heathrow in a little Mini car, riding on the wrong side of the road, you know! My daughter and I had five pieces of luggage each – we thought we needed all of that – and so the car was heaped up inside and out with all this luggage. As Jeanne was driving furiously through the peak hour traffic, my heart was thumping, first because I was excited to be here, and secondly because of all the traffic and double-decker buses and everything.

I looked out over the tops of the cases and saw a great big red sign with gold letters saying, Courage! Take courage! And I said to her, 'Isn't it wonderful how your government has put up all these morale boosters!' She said, 'Oh, these are ale advertisements.' I said, 'Oh, well, I'll take it in the right spirit!'

So have courage, folks: take courage, and know that God is with us, and He has chosen to cause our eyes to see things that He has prepared for us in this age that are beyond anything we could ask or think. He will do it, according to the power that works mightily in us as His church. Praise the Lord.

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Ed. Note 1. In the days of the Old Testament prophets, some of these men found it difficult - with the vocabulary and understanding of their day - to articulate what it was that God was showing to them.

Perhaps in the same way, Jean Darnall was being shown by God a vision of what we would now recognise as the age of multi-media and the internet, but - just like the prophets - she struggled to find words to describe these things. "Communicators" is probably the nearest she could get to it.