

## Section IX: Conclusion

The American writer and poet, Angela Morgan, wrote about the promise of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the poem we quote on page 70, she interpreted the signals to mean that women would “rise” to their appropriate place of status and significance. For her, that place was “nobler.” The goal, then, at the outset of the century was for women to rise to a nobler position.

As we reviewed the century through the analysis of data, tracking the important trends for women, we kept coming back to the central question: Are women today stronger and more noble? Have all our strivings and progress during this phenomenal century made us better women? Certainly, we are, on the whole, healthier; we live longer and remain in better health into old age. We have more professional degrees, and we make more money. But, we are still burning out too often, and our freedom and independence has come at a high cost in terms of connectedness – the biggest price women have paid is in the area of marriage and family.

Early on, feminism promised “free” sex. It also promised careers without consequences for children. Many women have found that they’ve paid an exorbitant price tag for both. The “free” sex brought on a scourge of sexually transmitted diseases, abortion, cohabitation and disconnectedness. Others have found their jobs to be an unbearable burden, and, too often, the fast track has turned into an out-of-control treadmill.

One fascinating finding of the report is that some women are refusing to have their children and families pay the price of their careers any longer. The trend in women’s employment status has currently taken a downward turn – the first such dip this century in times of prosperity (previous drops were in the early 1970s and 1980s, both times of recession) – and there is a corresponding increase in the number of women not in the labor force. This trend appears to be a matter of women choosing to stay at home, since the economy is such that women who want to work can find jobs.

Some spirituality is taking the form of paganism, Wicca, goddess worship, New Age and the like. But, the majority of American women are strengthening their faith through studying the Bible and worshipping God.

The promise of the 21<sup>st</sup> century rests on whether America reverses the disintegration of the family. We are fast approaching a point of no return with growing numbers of single parent families. The restoration of marriage and the family is no longer a luxury that would be nice; it is a necessity for the survival of American civil society. It is necessary for the future well-being of America’s women and children. The task is too big to be handled merely with secular resources; it will also take faith-based approaches and men and women of faith. Even many secular pundits are acknowledging that America needs a true spiritual revival. There can be no more important lesson for the women of the 21<sup>st</sup> century than this message that is such a clarion call from our *Profile of American Women in the Twentieth Century*.

*The signals of the century*

Proclaim the things

that are to be –

The rise of woman to her place,

The coming of a nobler race.

Angela Morgan  
American writer and poet

**Janice Shaw Crouse, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, The Beverly LaHaye Institute**

After serving in the White House as a George Bush Presidential Speechwriter, Janice built her own company, Crouse Communications, a political analysis and public relations firm serving organizations in the United States and throughout the world. In 1999 she accepted the challenge of launching the Beverly LaHaye Institute.

A recognized authority on presidential communication, cultural, family and women's issues, Dr. Crouse's editorials, columns and articles have appeared in major newspapers, journals and magazines. She is also a frequent public speaker addressing conference, college, community, business and civic audiences. She drafted and edited *The Christian Women's Declaration* now in its eighth printing and endorsed by hundreds of women from across the nation and across denominations. She has been featured in articles in various media: *Christianity Today*, *Marriage Partnership*, and *The Washington Times*. Several of her speeches have been published in *Vital Speeches of the Day*, and she has been interviewed or has appeared as a commentator on numerous radio and television programs.

Dr. Crouse's academic roots run deep. She was Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Taylor University and professor and debate coach at Ball State University and Asbury College. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees at Asbury College. She is also on the Board of Directors for Good News. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Task Force to Combat Violence Against Women and the Task Force Against Sexual Trafficking of Women. She edited and produced the *Jubilee Appeal*, an evangelical declaration, and position papers on the major issues on the agenda of the Eighth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Harare, Zimbabwe. In addition, she helped lead a 6-member team of evangelicals at the WCC Festival and Assembly in Harare.

In addition to directing the Beijing Project of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, which sent a 9-member team to the 1995 Fourth United Nations' World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, she edited and produced the *Beijing Bulletin*, a daily report on the conference, and the *Re-Imagining Rebuttal* (a critique of the 1995 Re-Imagining event in Minneapolis) and the *Jubilee Journal* (a critique of the WCC-Harare Assembly). She is a contributing author for *Essential Practices*, writer of the chapter on "Faith." At BLI she has covered United Nations conferences and the major political conventions by writing commentaries, available on the web at [www.beverlylahayeinstitute.org](http://www.beverlylahayeinstitute.org).

Dr. Crouse has been a recipient of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year and National Leadership awards. She and her husband, Gil, live in the Washington, D.C. area.

### **The Beverly LaHaye Institute: A Center for Studies in Women's Issues**

Founded in May, 1999, the BLI was established to analyze the factors affecting women into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Believing in the unity of truth, the Institute recognizes the power of accurate data and sound analysis to inform and substantiate policy positions. BLI is named in honor of Mrs. Beverly LaHaye, founder and Chairman of the Board for Concerned Women for America (CWA), the nation's largest public policy women's organization. The BLI is the "think tank" and research arm of CWA. Through professional quality research and education, the Beverly LaHaye Institute stands strong in defense of the family and biblical values. To these ends, the Institute will:

- Conduct basic and applied research that will help preserve and strengthen America's families
- Sponsor policy forums where experts will discuss issues relevant to women and families
- Analyze social science behavioral research and data to highlight facts that substantiate Judeo-Christian values and lifestyle principles
- Write and present briefs on relevant issues confronting legislative bodies
- Write and disseminate opinion editorials and press releases about contemporary issues
- Provide literature reviews and annotated bibliographies
- Build and maintain a web site providing research and information to the public
- Provide family and cultural indicators
- Compile social and demographic data
- Publish position papers, reports and monographs
- Provide commentary on relevant issues for media and other public forums

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