

ICDF NETWORK



FLAGS AND BANNERS

2018

Newsletter



**Joint Co-ordinators:-
Marie & Andrew Bensley
Darlene West**





Warmest greetings from the Flags and Banners Network of International Christian Dance Fellowship!
It is our pleasure to send you this Newsletter that is packed with encouraging stories and pictures for you
to read and for your viewing pleasure.

*A note of thanks to Andrew who has blessed us by gathering and formatting this newsletter and we want to
thank him for his investment of time and for using his creative gifts for the body.*

As the annual fee for Networks paid to the CDFs has been dropped, in future our newsletters for the
Network will be supplied in PDF format to be attached to e-mails. If you have received this Newsletter as
a hard copy, and you haven't already done so, please do give us your e-mail address if you would like to
have future copies e-mailed to you, so we can add you to the database.

If you would prefer to receive a hard copy, please forward a cheque for £2.75
(payable to "Kingdom Dance" and sent to us at Sunset Hallows, 21 Admirals Close, Watchet TA23 0QD)
to pay for printing, post and packing.

Thank you for your interest and support over the years. Do keep in touch,

Many blessings, **Marie & Andrew**

YOUR NEWSLETTER

Many thanks to the contributors for this newsletter. Do YOU have something to share? If so, we would
love to hear from you for our next issue! We would especially welcome articles from abroad. Please
email your article to:- bensley@clara.net

WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION

In the UK contact:-

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Greetings dear expressive dancers !

There are so many good things going on as the dancers with flags, streamers, ribbons and banners comes more and more into churches across the globe.

They are being used in Worship, warfare, intercession, healing, outreach and for pure joy! When I first picked up a flag to learn about using a flag in worship in 1994, it was almost unheard of!

Now so many churches have opened up to the idea of dance and using flags. Some have started with the children and as they have found out more about the beauty and power of moving totally surrendered to the Lord in worship have included the dancers in the sung worship time.

We still have a long way to go as there can be opposition to dance and the flags. We pray for those who introduce it that they would be sensitive and not overpowering.

I always teach that unless you are dancing a prepared piece for the group that is to be part of the worship time the dancer with flags should be at the side or even the back of the church. This is to show that their worship is as valid as those who prefer to stand and sing! Flags are great for outside praise and witness. Those who live in warm countries can use them very well as they attract attention and then the message can be shared.

The photographs on the cover of this Newsletter were taken at our Brunel Manor Dance Break, when we had a celebration for the ICDF reaching 30 years. Doreen Basar choreographed a lively praise dance using staves and also the flags of the Nations, and then we laid the flags on the floor and had a time of intercession for all the countries in ICDF. The dance was reprised at the National Conference of CDFB, and photograph of that occasion is shown here!



In 2019 Anna Arnold is taking flags to India with the ICDF tour. We asked for flags to be donated so they could be left at the churches there. We had a very good response and I had to alter a few so they could go on the aeroplane!! In the next newsletter I will let you know what happened in the India tour.

My own personal story is that I love to move with my flags as I enter the Presence during worship. Although I used to be a singer (even earning money for it). I find my worship is so much deeper and more intense as I give myself over to the joy of movement and the colour and beauty of the flags. I am sure this is your experience too.

So as we continue to dance, and perhaps with age the body is not as mobile as it once was, we can still move using the flags to express our love for the Lord.

Every blessing

Marie and Andrew



FLAGS ON REMEMBRANCE DAY!

2018 marked the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War One, and this was remembered in many ways. Jacqueline and Paul Haywood, members of the Christian Dance Fellowship of Britain, choreographed a moving flag dance using "Poppy Flags", with other members of their church taking part.





News from Darlene West



Greetings from Canada. How is everyone doing in the nations of the earth? We are living in challenging times for sure.

May the Lord direct our hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance. (*2Thes3:5*).
In God's Presence is fullness of joy.(Ps16:11). May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.(Rom15:13) May we shout for joy over God's victory and lift up our banners in the name of our God. (Ps20:5)

I thank God that flags and banners are physical instruments of praise and worship for many when we have no words or have run out of words.





The highlight of this year was being part of the Battle For Canada revival meetings, a remnant whose focus was and is to gather before the Lord to hear His voice, to humble ourselves, seek His face, repent and turn. The first 5/10 days were a solemn assembly, hearing stories of First Nations people and the abuse they experienced. It cut me to the heart. Gut level forgiveness was asked for and extended. Many well known speakers were there, yet seldom introduced. No one hurried to the mic but preferred others. I wonder if it is the beginning of the nameless and faceless generation whose aim is to make only the name of Jesus lifted high. The last half of the gathering included times of extended praise and worship. Many were using worship flags and taking flags back to their home cities, yes Lord! I had brought long telescopic poles to use for a specific purpose but offered them to leaders for the mounting of provincial flags as the Holy Spirit led. These poles were gifted to travel with the gatherings across the nation.

This year I also attended my first outdoor Christian Pow Wow! I've never experienced anything like it. It felt like one big family gathering. The gentle Presence of the Lord was so manifest. Worship was so wonderful with creative arts worship flags and shawls and ribbons. There was an overwhelming sense of freedom with honor. I felt like I was standing (or dancing) on holy ground.



Darlene West, Joint Coordinator, Flags & Banners Network, ICDF (Westworks Flags, Canada)



Journey around the Noongar Nation, Western Australia by David Stanfield

I recently led a group of 17 people on a bus tour around south west Western Australia.

Our assignment was to stop at each of the waterways in the territory covered by the Indigenous Noongar people group, listen to the Lord, lift up banners and declare His purposes over the rivers, lakes and estuaries.

It was a fantastic journey and we managed to pray and raise banners at more than 47 different waterways as we travelled over 3000 km in a small convoy.



One of the highlights for me was travelling with the local Noongar Christians through the territory cared for by their ancestors. It was fascinating to see the incredible richness and variety in this indigenous nation in the south-west corner of Australia.

The early European history of this area is generally unknown in the wider Australian population. We prayed at strategic massacre sites that had not been spiritually addressed up to this point.

We also discovered about a dozen rivers where terrible things had been done to the local population and the traumas continue to this day.

It became clear as we travelled that the waterways have always been a strategic place for living, gardening and hunting and when Europeans arrived in the 1800's, they also wanted the rivers as strategic transport, agricultural, and living spaces. Most of the clashes between the two cultures occurred on or around waterways.

At the same time, it was a very grievous experience to travel with the custodians of the land and see the devastation that had been caused to huge tracts of it.

Salinisation, caused by tree clearing, has wreaked havoc on thousands of square kilometres of delicate, healthy bushlands. As an agricultural scientist and a nature-lover it was devastating to see the damage done in the last 170 years.

It also became clear that the injustice that had been perpetrated upon the original inhabitants of the land was continuing in our day. It was a sobering experience to walk in an indigenous



person's shoes for just three weeks.

We took banners representing the names of God and lifted them up in some of the deepest, grief-filled places in the nation. I will be able to give a more thorough report of our experience in the coming months.

During the three week journey there were several times where the team just broke loose and enjoyed ourselves, and raising banners was often a part of that.

We celebrated at a stunning natural feature called 'Wave Rock' which is in the Noongar Territory, and which you can see in the photograph here.

While we were at 'Wave Rock' I realised that about 50 years ago the Lord planted in me a desire to come there, and now here I was, standing there with one of the locals.



David Stanfield

How Flags were used on a First Nations Reserve in Canada by Belma Vardy

Flag ministry looks a little bit different when I take it to the Reservations. I bring my flags but don't come prepared to give instruction re flags.

I do bring 50 pounds of blue material and make what we call "The River of Healing". I give the community a whole list of items to bring to support the set up for the River. This time I felt God saying.....lay down some flags..... I hesitated.....not sure of myself.....BUT GOD....and I felt—I just need to step out and be obedient to Him.

The Chiefs and Pastor asked me to share my story—which has many similarities to their lives and resonates with their people. After which I ask people to walk through the River and at the end of it is a cross. As they make their way through the River, burdens are released and people get healed and set free. Once they reach the cross—those flags were laying there as an option for people to use for worship. Allow me to share a story of one of these transformational times
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I was on a First Nations Reserve in Canada. We set up the River and I invited people to walk it. Many came, but three women balked. They represented three generations: grandma, daughter and granddaughter. All three stood screaming, wailing and crying at the beginning of the



river. They put one foot in, took it out. Put another foot in took it out. Unable to step into the river, they did this for 45 minutes. Finally, when they began to walk with each step they shook, wailed in grief and clung to each other's shoulders. But they made it through. It took 2½ hours.

There was a marked change in the women when they reached the end of the river. Their faces beamed. They were free, filled with joy and laughter, sharing an infectious happiness they had never before experienced. In their new-found freedom their steps were light, as if their feet were on holy ground. Once they reached the end of the cross, they picked up those flags and started waving them, starting worshipping with them,and THEN a young man got up, ran to the drums and pulled the blanket off that had been there for years — dust flying everywhere. He started playing the drums, the woman waved their flags and then started dancing with them. Other joined in. There was a breakthrough and the beautiful thing is— I did not lead or teach about flags, they were led of the spirit of the living God to pick up those flags and use them to worship their Creator. They were now leading their own people in the dance.



Both grandma and daughter shared stories of devastation in their families. They both had lost their husbands, one by suicide, and one by murder, their bodies swept away in the current in an actual river on their property.

It was surreal to hear their story. I felt a deep sadness for them and was grateful I didn't know the circumstances before I asked them to walk the river. I was even more grateful that they had conquered it. Along with everyone, I was in awe, but I also marvelled at Gods omniscience.

I was so thankful that I obeyed that still small voice and laid down those flags around the cross. It just demonstrates that our smallest obedience in response to His command can yield the greatest results!

Belma Vardy

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Facebook: [belmvardytravels](https://www.facebook.com/belmvardytravels)

ICDF Children's Network Co-ordinator

Canada



Flags across the World!

We know that people worship with flags in many countries across the world.

Here are two of our friends:- Judy Lam and her group from Singapore, and Amy Whalley from South Africa!



- ◆ *For more information on this and other ICDF Networks visit www.icdf.com*
- ◆ *This and all ICDF Networks are run voluntarily for the support and encouragement of CDF members / ICDF Supporters*
- ◆ *The Flags & Banners Network encourages ICDF Network subscribers to maintain their membership of a national Christian Dance Fellowship if there is one in their country, or become an ICDF Supporter if there is not.*