

**ICDF NETWORK**

***FLAGS  
AND  
BANNERS***

***2017  
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](mailto:bensley@clara.net)

## **WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION**

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Hello dear worshipping friends!

Andrew, Darlene and I send greetings in the precious name of Jesus. The 1990s song still says what we are all about. “*We want to see JESUS lifted high, a banner that flies above the skies*” - written by our friend Doug Horley.

We have been very busy this year with conferences, teaching, sewing, providing the “body of Christ” with the tools to worship creatively. We have seen some amazing worship and praise dances using flags, banners ribbons, streamers and billows. It is exciting to see how far some areas of the church has come in its worship.

I have been reading some older books on ‘dance’ written in the 1970s and 1980s and I am so grateful for their persistence in the face of opposition at times, to continue releasing those in the church who feel the call to worship creatively.

We had a wonderful time of ‘Christian dance’ at the CDFB national conference. We have included in this Newsletter below some of the many photos taken of the dancers using flags and billows.

**The main Conference speaker, Liz Babbs, had a wonderful Dove Flag!**



**Helianthe and Anne-Marie from Holland, dancing with their fan flags!**









If you have a story to tell of your journey into creative worship and praise we would love to hear from you!

Thank you for those who took part in the 2017 Cyberforum run by Darlene. There were some very encouraging words. Please feel free to take part next time. We want to hear from you!

*Marie Bensley*

## Twirling Banners

We first saw twirling banners in the early 1990s when Lynda Georgeson from Australia came to visit England. She brought a team of young people who were touring various countries sharing the beauty of creative worship. The team used twirling banners. Since then Kingdom Dance Resources have made and sold them!

They are small 'flags', approx. 75cm x 54cm, but they are different from the normal worship flags as they have the way of twirling round the pole and the poles have knobs. This makes them heavier and ideal for more dynamic WARFARE worship!



One of our teachers, Doreen Basar, made a speciality of using these when she worked with young teenagers. They would form a



dance troupe in the open air witness of their church.

As they are different, flag dancers like to experiment with them and Doreen has led some workshops for us including at the 2017 National CDFB weekend. Everyone enjoyed themselves!



## News from Darlene West

**Greetings from Canada everyone!**

I hope you enjoy this short write-up of Flagging Highlights.

I must say that interest in using flags in worship has remained the same, if not increased in the last year.

It seems to me that more believers are recognizing the **value** of using flags in worship whether they are from a large city of over 1 million people, or a small town of 5000.

Believers are accepting their true identity in Christ Jesus whereby having the **freedom** to express their love and devotion to the Lord in a creative fashion by using flags to worship Him.

What a blessing when pastors and leaders encourage their flock in the use of their God-given gifts and talents and forms of worship.



The reason I prefer to teach Flagging Workshops with ages 8-88 years in one class is because having children in the class causes adults to have a sense of awe and a wonder at the exuberance and agility and speed at which children learn! It raises everyone up to a higher level of freedom that children demonstrate. Children have the ability to laugh at their mistakes and carry on learning, and in turn the rest of us follow that example by extending grace to ourselves and others. Having all generations worship together in one accord blesses the Lord's heart. He is in our midst and we sense His Presence.



The Walk for Jesus was so great in Edmonton. It was a nice summer day with a gentle wind. No tracts, no preaching, just linking arms with other believers lifting high the Name of Jesus through song, dance and movement.







Best not to leave your flags on the floor lest a child uses them for a photo op, praise the Lord!



*Testimony:*  
“Darlene, thank you for all you have done to empower us. We have confidence and freedom in using flags since you left. You would love to watch our Pastor’s flagging now it’s beautiful, powerful and determined. What a legacy you have planted into us, for his glory. We are carrying on. Keep teaching and demonstrating the character of God. Be blessed as you are a blessing to others. I mean it you’re a wonderful, a strong, fierce warrior for the Lord. Carry on!” Sylvianne Greenwood-Plante

May I say “thank you!” to all of you Intercessors who pray for this ministry and for ICDF. In my own flag ministry I have found that it’s the Intercessors who understand the heart issue of using flags and it is you who often use flags to express your devotion to the Lord. This is probably because you spend hours in the Lord’s Presence. Thank you to all the Intercessors!



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

You can visit Darlene’s website at [www.westworksflags.ca](http://www.westworksflags.ca)



## **Highlights from a report by David Stanfield in Australia**

### **Banners on the Water**

Sue is a friend of mine from Wagga Wagga on the east coast of Australia. The family moved 3500 km from the east coast to the west coast of Australia to care for her father.

One day she had a vision of banners being flown over a local waterway. She prayed about what she saw and felt to set up a workshop to show people how to use banners and then lead them out on boats over the waterway. She gathered a small team around her and they set about making it happen.

She didn't know what it would look like - she just stepped out!

They thought the churches of the city would rally to it - they didn't! The response was so dry Sue began to question her motives.

We didn't cancel. "*For God nothing is impossible - I'm in!*"

Out of the blue Cindy Jacobs in the USA prophesied about the western coast of Australia needing to be protected - and we were going to be there with banners!

On the day before the assignment Sue and I walked to the estuary - and suddenly we knew this was an important prophetic act on behalf of the indigenous people of the region. It was not until we were there on the site that the Lord revealed His intent.



We ran a workshop and then went out on 5 pontoon boats on the estuary with dozens of banners flying. It felt amazing! There was unity, there was authority and there was power. We travelled in convoy on the boats in silence. Doing it in silence was powerful.

Then at a pre-determined signal we all shouted together and put up a shield along the western coastline. And something shifted in the atmosphere.

### **The Serpentine River**

More than 7 months later Sue felt to go and banner up and down the Serpentine River further south. "*For God nothing is impossible - I'm in!*"





There were new people and new places - a Western Australian group was beginning to form. After a workshop on the Saturday where we each listened for our own assignments, half the team came up the river on a pontoon decked out with banners - while the rest of us waited for them on the bank. We had the most precious time of worship, communion and intercession.

Several people waved banners over the water - and two people jumped in wrapped in them. Deep repentance. Deep unity. Deep joy. Very clearly there were indigenous issues involved again.

Participants left to continue their personal adventure.



### **The Noongar Nation**

Four months later Sue heard "*Now banner on the waterways between Geraldton and Esperance!*" and her response was "*For God nothing is impossible - I'm in!*"

In February 2018 we will be engaging in the biggest banner journey I have even been involved in. Three weeks on the road, dozens of waterways, five workshops!

### **David Stanfield**

*Those of us in the ICDF Flags & Banners Network send our prayers and blessings for this adventure with God!*



## **TESTIMONIES!**

Marie,

Finally I have a window to keep my promise to you and write of my experience at the CDFB National Conference.

As to my eye opening moment.....

Since I came over to the UK in '86 and started attending the Open churches, I have become acclimatised to most of the differences from my Anglican background-

worship bands and their music,  
prayer and preaching,  
home groups and most facets of church life.

However, one aspect that I could never feel comfortable with was - you guessed it - Dance... and also flag waving and ribbon twirling.

Dance was for me out of place....and usually not done very well. Most dancers seemed only capable of running from A to B and taking a "pose", then running from B to C and taking another "pose" (usually with a grimace of some sort)....and then repeating what they'd just done over and over ...and unfortunately over again ad infinitum. Most dancing and dancers were for me amateurish and uninteresting and took away from, rather than adding to, my experience of worship.

However.....and it's a BIG HOWEVER... on the Sunday morning while we were playing our worship music, I watched the dancers, and particularly Anna Arnold, dance. And I experienced my "AHA!!!" moment. Anna and her dancing partner were beautiful, and wonderful to watch. Their outer expression of their inner Love and Worship for Abba was exquisite. I saw each heart dance.

HalleluYah.

So I know what dancers can do as their expression of worship now. I realise that regardless of the skill level of the person dancing, that person is giving their ALL at that moment....in much the same way as we musicians do as we play....

So bring on the dancing and flag waving and ribbon twirling and joy and emotions of the dance in praise to Abba. I'll play my strings off for them!

Blessings, **Gordon Campbell**

Dear Marie,

Firstly, thank you for all the effort you put into making Brunel Manor a special time. There were several reasons it was very special for me:

1. I met kindred spirits – some of whom I hadn't fellowshiped with for decades!
2. I got closer to the crowd Heather 'herded' to the dance w/e – all very lovely believers
3. I danced with God!! This is why I came and this was THE highlight
4. God set me free to worship Him more and to unleash the 'stallion dancer' in me – I learnt to trot, now to canter and gallop!
5. I'm keen to share more expressions of worship at our church as God opens doors.

Love to you and yours, **Bob Reeve**





Hi Marie,

I arrived at Brunel Manor in a bit of sorry state wondering how I was going to manage / “get through it”, though God had already showed His hand in an amazing way by providing a lift from Dorchester and even a lift round the rail station so that I didn’t have to climb all the steps! My ears were blocked by wax, I’d just finished antibiotics for an infection and was walking with difficulty and, therefore, concerned how I’d get down the corridor to the bathroom in the night. Anxiety/worry was ruling.

But God had it all in hand (no surprise when you think about it!).

1. After prayer first thing Saturday I managed to hear all I needed to.
2. I told the Lord I wanted to be able to kneel down and lie prostrate before Him, rheumatoid arthritis had made this impossible without help.
3. At Mary’s workshop on Meditation & Expression Psalm 139 went in deeper. I couldn’t lie much because of my stiff knees. I came away greatly encouraged that at long last my exercises would no longer be a chore and I could incorporate scripture and build up my spirit too. Wow!
4. Jan’s scarves workshop taught me a lot and the dusting will never be same again!
5. However, breakthrough came pm at Helianthe’s workshop. I found myself crying as hidden “stuff” came up including fear and the powerful song “*No Longer a Slave to Fear*” built me up. Two of the leaders were individually prompted to pray for my physical healing which they did after the workshop. (I later noticed it was near the cross on the wall). I was anointed with oil and the power of God came. I then went out taking a staff with me and walked to the bottom of the estate and back up the slope which I’d wanted to do but didn’t think possible. I was met by folks who’d heard my ecstatic cry of “*Hallelujah!*” and we danced a celebration dance: “*We are moving in the power of God*”. Praise the Lord!

More blessing was to come in the evening. I found I could get up on my toes and when the billow was lifted high I went under, knelt and then lay down and later was able to get up again without help. Wow, another prayer was answered. Thank you Jesus!

However, I believe the workshop that affected me most spiritually was Anna’s “*Contemporary Dance for Beginners*”. It was moving and I gained deep insight into what it means “to live and move and have our being in Him” and being one in spirit with Him (also Deut 10:12 amplified when I got back).

Liz Babbs’ teaching was also very helpful.

This was an amazing weekend and the ending was truly wonderful for as the Bensleys waved their banners over us I was soaked in God’s tremendous love - too much to contain! Thank you Andrew & Marie for your faithfulness to God.

To God be all the glory, great things He has done!

**Janet Swaine**

*PS. I’ve also been “de-compartmentalised” out of religious boxes!!*



## *Introducing Steven Turner*

**Steven is the new ICDF youth network co ordinator. Based in the UK.**

Steven danced in the final celebration at the CDFB national conference in October this year. He uses to great effect all his dance skills with flags, ribbons, streamers, staffs, and modern youth movement styles. He often works with a poet and they perform Dance / poetry evenings with a gospel outreach. They also did an event using this medium about modern day slavery.



- ◆ *For more information on this and other ICDF Networks visit [www.icdf.com](http://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.*