



ICDF Networks

March 2020

Messianic Dance and Tambourine



Dance began with G-d, it was always His from the beginning! In Zephaniah 3:17 we read “He will rejoice over you”. The Hebrew ‘root’ word for this is Ya’gil literally “spin around in sudden emotion/joy”. This means God is dancing for joy over Jerusalem/His people. We read also that “we are made in His image”. To me this means that we too are to rejoice in the dance over Him and lift up His Son Yeshua ha Moschiac (Jesus)

Vera Chierico

Using Tambourines with Messianic Dance

I find it impossible to start this year's annual Messianic Dance and Tambourine newsletter without wishing all the readers health and safety in this trying time. Starting with my daughters unexpectedly quick wedding (her US Navy brother was sent to Southampton in March to teach the Royal Navy for weeks, she wanted him at the wedding). I had so many teaching presentation dance events from March to May. Dorset, Holland (ICDF Nederland), Italy, Vienna and Slovakia were booked. Needless to say all have been cancelled as I'm sure have many events of the readers!



Miriam Dancing (Photo from the "Joyful Papist", Wordpress)

The specific thing about Messianic communal circle dance is of course the communal worship. It's so uplifting to be among dance worshippers who feel just like you and lift up Yeshua together with you as you are listening to music with pure scripture, which means much more to me anyway, than words talking about G-d which also has its place. I probably will not be solo dancing around my living room during the 12 week social distancing period as many other ICDF worshippers, because my 35 yrs of history in Messianic Dance is so ingrained in me to hold hands in a circle with people who are as much family to me as any Chiericos!

My last two newsletters had a bit of a chronological flow of a 45 minute lecture I give about Biblical dance as worship from G-d Himself dancing in Zephaniah 3:17 (the word JOY there meaning 'spin around with sudden emotion') to the return of Yeshua with whom we will dance in the New Jerusalem. The last one focused on Men in Messianic Dance and those who worship with Disabilities. This time I've been asked to say something about the Tambourine aspect of the Network.

In the summer of 2002 I was invited to teach at the ICDF Puerto Rico praise conference. The National Coordinator had seen my classes in the CDFA conference in Australia and I was thrilled to have received the invitation since I could use my Spanish. But more importantly (don't laugh) at 16 years old, and being a big fan of Jewish teenage singer Helen Shapiro, I wanted to use my trained voice, be a famous singer and travel the world.

Then I saw West Side Story! POW!!! Jerome Robbins choreography just about knocked my socks off. Every muscle I had in my body CRAVED to dance like that. Never had any film been as powerful in dance as that. So I decided (after many years with the Royal Academy of Dance classical training) to be a dancer. The film was set in New York and was a Romeo and Juliet story using Americans and Puerto Ricans as rival gangs. I'd never heard of Puerto Rico but being a supporter of the 'underdog' I was on their side. Bear with me I'll get to the point.

I left the UK about a year later to tour Italy as a dancer and kept dancing and travelling for 25 years before returning to the UK as a Believer, and mother of 3 American children. Puerto Rico was still on my heart and I would never have believed that taking 5 members (including my 16 year old dancing son) of my New Jerusalem Dancers to Australia would open the door to meeting the CDFPR coordinator and getting invited there. Neither could I have ever guessed that it would open the door to a brand new area of ministry to me and NJD.

Using Tambourines with Messianic Dance ... continued

The British contingent at the conference always sat on the front row of the concerts because that's where the 2 metre wide fan was on stage left! (I don't do heat very well). The opening routine of one of the concerts was led by Papa Pandero, (Father Tambourine) a lovely man who was becoming a friend of me and my son. Once again those proverbial socks were about to take a knocking. About a 100 men and women came to the stage and floor in front of the stage and even the sides, all wearing the National dress of their Latino countries, and began a routine they had learnt in a few days. I don't remember the song but their POWERFUL patterns, spins and moves caused me to just sit, then stand with my mouth open. Again, I'd never seen anything like it and I was hooked!

I got hold of a book and learnt to read the patterns which had names like ...

Covenant

Acts

Trinity

Full Gospel

Hope

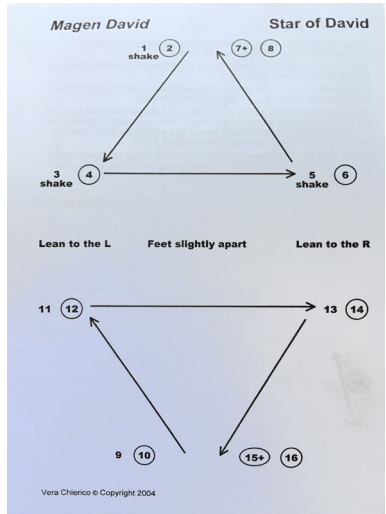
Joy

Victory

I had taught many of those tambourine players in my 'Messianic dance for Men' session having used a Spanish version of Paul Wilbur's "Shouts of Joy", so it was a bit personal to see them powerfully worshipping with tambourines. When I returned I choreographed a 6 1/2 minute dance to Paul Wilbur's English version of "Shouts of joy" for my NJD. Some of you will know there are 2 instrumental sections in the track and I used those to introduce for the first time the patterns I had seen and learnt.

To play a tambourine or indeed any percussion instrument without being disruptive one needs absolute spot on musicality gifting. Did I mention that I played percussion with a Latino band in NY before I became a believer? Most dancers have that but I only had a few NJD dancers who learnt the patterns and would happily play a tambourine. Interestingly it 'grabs an audience'!

Of course Tambourines are 'Messianic' since its Biblical and much of the Bible points to the Messiah? Three years after that conference, during my morning run in a field behind home during which I normally pray, I kept seeing Biblical words and patterns that the word suggested to me. I couldn't figure out why, until a week or so later as I ran I made patterns in the air with my hands and realised that I was being given 'Messianic Tambourine patterns' which are actually described the word! I wanted my audience to get the same buzz I did playing a tambourine so we had to buy special things for the computer (not me ... I delegate very well) in order to get these patterns in a book form. I can't remember how many times I've had to order new copies of the book. In fact at the CDF Malaysia conference in 2006 (Asians and Latinos love tambourine) I ran out of the books very quickly and had to photocopy many more while I was there.



Magen David *Star of David*

1 shake 2 7+ 8

3 shake 4 5 shake 6

Lean to the L Feet slightly apart Lean to the R

11 12 13 14

9 10 15+ 16

Vera Chierico © Copyright 2004

Magen David

1&2 - Shake and tap with arms lifted up, slightly off-centre to the left

3&4 - Shake and tap with arms to side bottom left

5&6 - Shake and tap with arms to side bottom right

7&8 - Shake and tap with arms lifted up, slightly off-centre to the left

9&10 - Shake and tap with arms slightly off-centre to bottom left

11&12 - Shake and tap with arms lifted up to left

13&14 - Shake and tap with arms lifted up to right

15&16 - Shake and tap with arms slightly off-centre to bottom right

Note: Shift weight to the left and right according to the directions the arms are moving

Using Tambourines with Messianic Dance ... continued

Tambourines are used in warfare!

Isaiah 30:32 says 'Every sweep of the rod that ADONAI imposes on him, will be to tambourines and lyres, as He brandishes His arm against them in battle.' In the Tenakh, the Hebrew Bible, the words 'Tabret' and 'Timbrel' are used about 20 times each.

Here are some examples:

Tabret

Genesis 31:27

1 Samuel 10:5

Job 17:6

Isaiah 5:12

1 Samuel 18:6

Isaiah 24:8

Isaiah 30:32

Jeremiah 31:4

Ezekiel 28:13

Timbrels

Exodus 15:20

Job 21:12

Psalms 81:2

Psalms 149:3

Psalms 150:4

Judges 11:34

2 Samuel 6:5

1 Chronicles 13:8

Psalms 68:25



Photo: Vera Chierico

I am happy to send these patterns to any where in the world, please go to www.njdworld.uk for details.

I wish I could encourage readers of this Newsletter with something to get us all through isolation and lack of normal events. We are missing out on Spring and in many places Autumn both of which I love. Just do whatever you can to be outside safely and with the required 'social distancing' and take in as much nature as you can. Thankfully I can cycle in the Kent country side in England and grow my food in my kitchen garden without feeling that there is a world Pandemic. It's what I'd be doing between travels anyway!

Be safe and PRAISE HIS NAME WITH TAMBOURINE AND DANCE .

(while I practiced my tambourine patterns at home I used a styrofoam plate so as NOT to disturb my neighbours!!)

May the LORD bless and keep you all.

Vera Chierico - (Joint Network Coordinator)

This network aims to share ideas and choreography for Messianic Dance and Tambourine. Messianic Dance can also be known as Davidic, Israeli or Hebraic. The title is not as important as the fact that they all have Jewish roots

To become part of the Network contact :

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“Songs of the Rabbi”

Hello and Shalom from Nevada!

We have interesting news and updates. First, because of the current covid-19 we decided to postpone our Pacific Northwest tour. There have been many closures in our part of the world including our daughters’ schools. After much prayerful consideration and discussion, our family came to the consensus that it would be wise to reschedule our tour until after Passover.

This week we have released our new DVD set, to “Songs of the Rabbi” which was produced by Ted Pearce and Matt McKeown. Their vision was to recreate what happens at the local Messianic congregation on Shabbat morning. With little rehearsal, Messianic worship teams all over the world, go over their music set for the morning service and then the congregants come together and enter the glorious time of celebration. Many excellent Messianic artists came together for this project. All the music was written by Messianic Rabbis who have been the pioneers of this movement.

When Messianic Dance Camps was given the go ahead to choreograph for this project, two things were clear. First, it was a privilege for us to honor these Messianic Rabbis by creating dances for their songs. Second, it was very similar to coming together with the worship team on a Shabbat morning, creating the dances to their worship sets for the congregation, and leading out in the dance for the Shabbat service. This new 2-DVD set has 15 choreographed dances and we have made it available on download as well. We hope that you enjoy these dances to “Songs of the Rabbi”! You are invited to view the first dance <https://www.mdcinfo.com/songs-of-the-rabbi-dances>

In His love,

Ralph and Mindy Seta - (Joint Network Coordinators)
Messianic Dance Camps International



Photo: Ralph & Mindy Seta

Brit Chadashah Dance Ministry

Towards the end of last year we received a news update from Brit Chadashah Dance Ministry, Sydney, Australia



Messianic dance is an expression of worshiping God with our whole selves and is an integral part of Messianic Jewish Congregations and Fellowships worldwide. Its almost a year since our dance ministry at Brit Chadashah Fellowship started and I am immensely encouraged by our progress toward feeling that we are indeed worshiping rather than feeling just plain awkward and anxious. In this time we’ve had three dance workshops and have established a small core group enabling us to lead others into experiencing God’s presence. A number of us have had recent injuries - an injured knee, a broken foot, a broken neck, shoulder injury. We are surely under attack as our worship becomes more

powerful. The year is quickly passing and before it ends we will have one more workshop - in November. In the meantime I encourage those of you who feel drawn to Messianic Dance ministry to let go of your fears and join in.

What the dancers say ...

- My family is so uplifted by Messianic Dance. Dancing for Adonai in a Biblical manner that is full of joy! We are blessed by finding NJD and Vera's teaching. My daughter and I enjoy every month. We have shared Messianic dance with many, and is always a blessing to those who can join in and for those who can watch.
- Understanding the Scriptures from a more Hebraic perspective and learning Hebrew brings Scriptures to life when our English translations have just one word. Knowing that words like 'hell' and 'love' have different words and meanings in Hebrew and Greek, it should come as no surprise that words like 'joy' also can mean dance and there are many instances in Scripture where the meaning of a word is dance or spin, spin around etc but we don't see it. It is exciting to know we are always learning and can't wait to be with Adonai to fully understand the Scriptures and dance for Joy for Him in the New Jerusalem!
- I don't generally enjoy dancing but have joined in with communal dances as well as holding banners and blowing the shofar at events. I do find that Messianic dance, to songs that use words from Scripture and have powerful music, is uplifting and brings another level to fellowship and worship of Elohim, whether watching an NJD performance piece, or taking part.
- I enjoy blowing the shofar for some of the dances. I have learned that God commands us to dance, so I dance. I have joined in NJD events from time to time. One specific dance (the Chasidic Mens dance) I particularly enjoy joining in with. It is fun dancing as part of a group. I also enjoy watching some of the dances.
- I have always loved to dance, even when I was a toddler. Since we found Messianic Dancing, my love for dancing has grown immensely, especially since I'm dancing for the LORD, and in doing so I am obeying Him and His Scriptures.
- Since joining NJD I have learned many new skills like choreographing, and teaching dances that I've learned through NJD, other places, and the ones I have choreographed myself. Another skill I'm learning is being 'on stage' in front of many or even a few people, and learning when things don't quite go to plan, to go with the flow and not panic or show my concentrating face.
- Not only have I learned to dance, I have also learned to flag. It is a bit of a challenge but I think doing the piano helps the coordination of my right and left hand in working together. I use flags in a few of our presentations now which I am really enjoying. It adds a wonderful burst of colour and joy.
- Being with NJD, and dancing round the country has definitely boosted my confidence; while dancing professionally in front of/and with people, helping and teaching people I have never met before, and even in day to day life. I love worshipping through dancing and flagging and seeing the enjoyment it brings to others, and the glory it gives to God.
- I love the fact I can carry out my passion for dance in a Biblical manner, and to know I'll be dancing with people from the Bible, distant relatives, and family and friends in Heaven and in the New Jerusalem.
- I am always blessed by how G-d comes when two or more are gathered together in unity. As we worship together in a circle dance, just as in the Tenach, G-d restores, heals and strengthens us to live our lives of worship. This year I have been taught and worshipped with many new dances. One which is becoming a favourite of mine is a healing dance to the song "A Resting Place" by Paul Wilbur. It always seems appropriate to pour G-ds blessing on the other dancers in the circle.

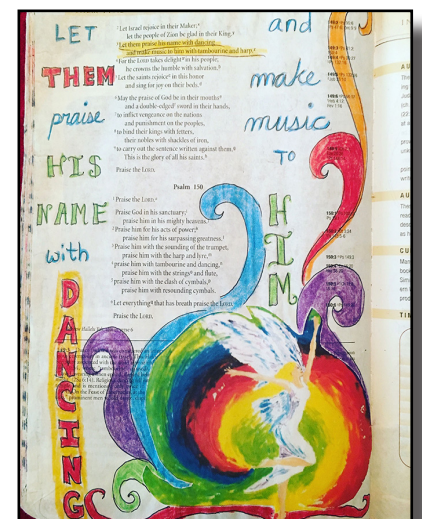


Photo: Pinterest