



ICDF Networks

November 2020

ICDF Networks for Children and Youth



The ICDF Network for Dance for Children is for all who are or would like to be involved with teaching and leading children in Christian dance. To become part of the Network contact Belma Vardy at ...
belmavardy@celebrationofdance.com

The ICDF Network for Youth Dance is for teenagers and young adults who dance. Being a member provides an opportunity to connect across the globe. To connect please contact Steven Turner at ...
youth.icdf@gmail.com

To see more from each Network please go to ...
<https://icdf.com/en/dance-children>
<https://icdf.com/en/youth-dance-0>

“If I could relive my life, I would devote my entire ministry to reaching children for God!”
— Dwight L. Moody, evangelist

ICDF Network for Dance for Children

We are privileged to introduce you to Belma Vardy and Anna Gilderson, who together will be serving as leaders for the Children's Network in the next season. Belma is the current leader for the Network.

Belma Vardy

For over 35 years, Belma Vardy has taught and presented throughout North America, the United States, Europe, South Africa, Asia, United Kingdom, South America, the Islands and the Arctic inspiring people of all ages and denominations to discover intimacy with God through creative movement and worship dance.



Her ministry touches people in areas such as inner healing, deeper experiences of the Father's love and new levels of freedom in worship. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she has produced worship dance videos/DVD's for children, youth and adults. Due to her special love for children she was appointed the Network Leader for the International Christian Dance Fellowship's Network for Dance for Children. Belma also served for 7 years as National Coordinator representing Canada for adult worship dance with the Christian Dance Fellowship of Canada.

Belma works with leaders and elders in the Inuit, Metis and First Nations communities to bring a ministry of freedom through artistic expression of their culture. On the request of the First Nations Chiefs and Pastors she has written her story in a book called "Because God Was There" as an avenue to help bring hope, healing and freedom to their people. Belma lives in Ontario Canada, the home base for the Celebration of Dance ministry. Please visit her ministry facebook page called *belmavardytravels* and her website www.celebrationofdance.com. Belma is very excited at the prospect to have Anna come on board with her as Joint Leader!!

Anna Gilderson

Anna Gilderson has been teaching all over the UK for the past 20 years, sharing her passion and inspiring others to deepen their relationship with Jesus using dance and movement. Anna's journey of teaching began in the early days volunteering with charities and teaching at Christian camps. Then in 2009 Anna took time out to take part in Elevate Foundation apprenticeship with Springs Dance Company. This was a pivotal point that encouraged her to step out and set up UC Grace.

As UC Grace began, Anna worked a lot with schools and community centres, developing groups, and giving access to dance to those that didn't normally get it. It became clear, as UC Grace developed that God was nudging it down a specific route. The route to encourage, grow and release people to encounter and root their faith through exploring God's word with dance. Our faith helps us display who God has made us to be, the qualities and purpose he's written on our lives, things that should be celebrated, encouraged, grown and then released.



Anna now runs training sessions for dancers and leaders, dance weekends and online resources. Her passion for children has been a common thread throughout her work and she is due to release a Teaching Children Dance and Movement book in 2021.

Anna is excitedly looking forward to working alongside Belma to grow and develop the Children's Network for ICDF. She is passionate about building community to strengthen relationships and connect and grow others.

To find out more about her ministry visit www.ucgrace.co.uk or find her on Facebook under *ucgracedance* and Instagram as *uc.grace*.

Hello all our brothers and sisters worldwide

We are so pleased that God has made our paths cross to connect us to serve together in children's dance for the International Christian Dance Fellowship. We are excited to see what lies ahead, to be able to connect with you, share ideas, encourage one another in the area of teaching children or wanting to serve in teaching children.

Blessings from us both!
Love, Belma and Anna

Treasures in God's Kingdom

Belma Vardy shared this testimony with us that illustrates how precious the children are to our God:
A recent children's worship dance /prayer class...we spent time getting closer to God using creative movement....then unexpectedly I heard....

"I see Jesus!"
"What is He saying?"
"He said He loves me and told me to love other people"

The testimonies continued....

"I saw Jesus pray for me"
"Don't be afraid, I am with you."
"I will lead you to fly like the birds in the sky"
"Jesus is smiling at me"
"Jesus showed me a table and said "come sit with me, I want to spent time with you"
"Jesus is telling me to love other people the way God looks at them"
"Jesus is saying....You don't have to listen to what other people say about you — you only have to listen to what I say about you"

My heart was stirred deeply listening....

Isn't that a message we need for these uncharted unprecedented times we are living in right now?! "Open the eyes of your heart and look to God's Face...and draw upon His strength...."

Isaiah 11:6 does say...a little child shall lead them...

Exodus 3:12 "I will be with you". The strength Moses got to do a big job did not come by looking at himself, his circumstance, what was going on around him, but it came when Moses sought the Face of God. It was in that time that he heard...."I am with you", "My presence will go with you."

I Chron 16:11 "Always look to Him, seek the Lord and His strength, seek His Face always".
And as we look to Him, may the Lord turn His Face towards you and give you His Peace. Amen

God wants to use children to speak for Him. They are powerful instruments in the hands of the Almighty God. Let's not just consider our ministry to children but consider their ministry to us.

Belma Vardy



ICDF Network for Youth Dance Online Youth Conference

2020 saw the first ever ICDF Youth Conference and it was a dance conference like never before.

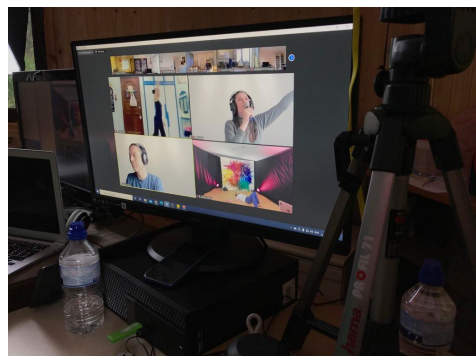
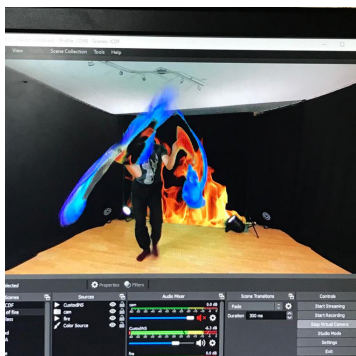
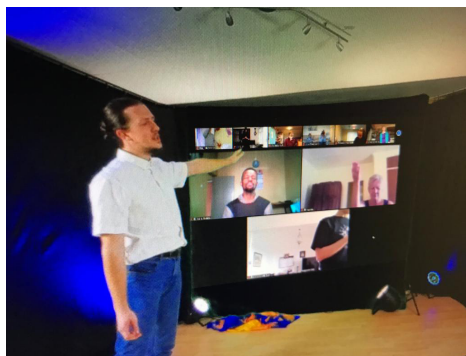
The pandemic has meant many people all over the world have gone through a revolution in the ways we can connect. Earlier in the year, God gave me the vision to host the CDF Britain National Conference on Zoom for 2020 and that got me asking the question, “What if we looked at doing an international event for the ICDF Youth Network, taking this new opportunity to connect young Christian dancers across the world like never before?”

14th November saw over 40 dancers from 10 countries connect together over Zoom. With the day running from 9am-7pm UK time we had teachers from 4 countries teaching Street, Contemporary, African Fusion and Bollywood. I don't think I have ever done 4 such energetic workshops, but it was amazing to learn from young teachers all over the world.

In the centre of the day we had a celebration with worship, prayer and performance pieces. It was great to see some of the innovative dance pieces that are coming out and have an opportunity to worship together. We might not be able to hear everyone while worshipping over Zoom, but we can see people and see them dancing in worship. We are in a visual age and dance is part of that.

If you know any young Christian dancers get them to like the ICDF Youth Network Facebook page or email me youth.icdf@gmail.com to connect to the Youth Network mailing list.

Steven Turner



Here are some of the comments from the participants:

“Thank you for today we had an amazing time in Rotterdam.” ~ Netherlands

“I had such a great time learning and worshipping Jesus with you all.” ~ Blessings from the Bahamas

“A wonderful day. Thank you all. Good to meet dancers from around the world. Feeling free!” ~ England

“I joined so late but feeling blessed already. Thank you.” ~ Nigeria

Prayers were made for the nations:

“I am seeing Asia will create in colour which is bringing life and joy into many hearts across the nations. Also a chain around Asia broken by the power of God.” ~ England

“May our Lord be lifted up in the Americas - high so that all eyes are turned to Him.” ~ England

“SofS 8 v 5a. May the European church come out of this time of wilderness leaning on their lover, Jesus, and that like the Israelites in the wilderness, our clothes will not be worn out and we will be provided for constantly. Deuteronomy 29: 5.” ~ England

“May Africa and Europe turn back to God, away from sin and back to God. Turning. Turning.” ~ England

Young Voices ... an interview

We introduce you to Thea Webster, a young dancer from Sydney, Australia as she answers a few questions ...

Please tell us something about yourself - who you are and how you came to dance.

When I was a little girl I was always full of energy and my friends and I would make up our own little dances. When I was about 10 years old I joined a community dance group that took all children and they taught us some basic dance routine (different styles), and that's where my love of dance really started. I was able to get a dance scholarship to a local dance school where I learnt a bit more about technique and some different skills. I now do competitive dance with my uni (University of Queensland) and we are currently waiting to hear back results for our National online competition.

You do many different styles of dance - Hip-Hop, Contemporary and even Pom. Did we miss something?

Yes I do all of the above. I used to do Jazz as well but unfortunately missed out on that team this year.

Do you have a favourite style - one that you fall into more easily than the others?

I can't say one is easier than another. I feel the beat and music a lot more than I do technique which is something that's hard within a team/group. But my favourite is Pom. It's a bit like cheerleading as we dance around with pom poms. It is very difficult but the most rewarding once you have performed. It also allows me to smile the most which is great for me.

How would you describe your dance as the expression of your faith?

As I said before, I feel the beat and music of a song more than anything else. Drawing into this allows me to connect with everything around me and I'm able to show this onstage. This year God gave me some challenges within my dance and I've come to realise that my expression of faith can come in many different forms within my passion for dance.

You are part of the younger generation that are stepping up to take on leadership within the Christian or worship dance scene. What would your message be to the young dancers about joining in with other dancers in a movement such as The New Thing (a monthly gathering of creatives in Sydney) and ICDF?

Life changes all the time, and you might move in and out of different places and roles but your passion is always there. This movement is a space that can help young dancers express what they need in this particular time, and this might change but that's what we are here for, to grow with each other, within ourselves and with God through this God given gift and passion we have received.

Finally - if you could have a conversation with anybody in the world, who would that be?

The first person that popped into my head was my Grandma. She was a loving and caring soul and I know she went through a lot in her life but she always believed in us and to have a conversation with her would feel like an endless world of possibilities. I also believe she would connect me deeper with faith.



Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life. - Samuel Ullman