



ICDF Newsflash

November 2020

ICDF Diploma

We have had another exciting year of beautiful work produced by our students, in spite of Covid-19. The Diploma is an online course and so, with a little review and some small adjustments by the tutors, we have continued to offer the full Diploma, even for students who are in lockdown.

Another plus is the flexibility of this course. Students have the option of completing the **ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry** (25 credits), or studying only the subjects that interest them most and achieving the **ICDF Certificate in Dance Ministry** (15 credits).

If you are wondering what the Diploma is about and whether this study pathway is for you, then we offer a number of **tasters** that are samples of Diploma subjects. These tasters are offered **free-of-charge**.



**Be rooted,
equipped and
released**

The trimesters for 2021 are:
15 February to 7 May
24 May to 13 August
30 August to 19 November

We are proud to share with you the work of three of our students on the next few pages of this Newsflash as an example of some of the projects that have been done.

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Debbie Bright

reACT: Is the Choice Yours? - Tonia Nifong

Tonia Nifong's video developed as part of her Diploma final project. Tonia is from USA and received her Diploma at the ICDF gathering in India in 2019. This interview is an excerpt from an interview that first appeared in the newsletter for the ICDF Network for Academics, Writers and Researchers (AWARe).

How did you decide that this would be the subject for your project?

I was initially drawn to many topics, but ended up zeroing in on the relationship between mercy and judgment. One day, I was listening to the lyrics from a Bethel song, "My past embraced, my sin forgiven, I'm blameless in your sight, my history rewritten. You (God) delight in showing mercy, and mercy triumphs over judgment." That God actually delights in showing mercy, and that mercy triumphs over judgment, speaks of joy, delight and new beginnings winning a war that most people fight in their lives. I knew that I had to explore, through dance, this very personal and involved way that God relates to his children.



How did you choose the sites for your dance video?

Originally, I had planned to do the dance as a live stream on Facebook, with questions for discussion posed to the audience. After discussing logistics like different time zones and technical needs with Dr. Bright, I decided on a dance video. Once I decided on a video, I considered dancing at a few different sites that would be associated with judgment or mercy, such as a youth detention facility, a prison and a courthouse. I thought I would then transition to a few sites associated with mercy, such as a flower garden or area of beauty.

Again, after discussing with Dr. Bright, I realized that I could simplify the project to just two locations: one involving judgment, a courthouse, and one representing mercy, the beautiful outdoors, set against Pikes Peak, a beautiful mountain, in the town where I live. God really worked out all of the logistics. When I asked to use a beautiful, historic city courtroom that dates back to the 1800s, they let me use it, for a very small cost, and waiving the need for expensive liability insurance. God opened that door for me. In fact, throughout the project, I sensed God saying, "You bring what you have, and watch me bring what I have."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SByn6AJS_FE&feature=youtu.be



The Diploma tutors from left to right are Debbie Bright, Mary Jones, Françoise Bale and Susie Bond

Wide Open Spaces - Brian Millar

Brian Millar's video produced as part of his Diploma final project. Brian is from Ireland and is hoping to complete the Diploma by the end of 2020.



I believe that this video project came about through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I wanted to express something about the restrictions and challenges experienced by the Church because of Covid-19 - an answer needed by the body of Christ.

When setting out to develop the video, my first images concerned the death of things past: “Yesterday’s fire has gone out”. To portray this, I used the imagery - visual and spoken - from the Catholic Church’s Ash Wednesday practice of applying ashes to people’s foreheads. I dressed as a monk. My first idea had been to include actual people in this portrayal, but, instead, I used yesterday’s newspapers and applied the ashes to them. I believed that the oppression would be broken by the word “Fire” and a proclamation about Christ coming to cast the fire of his “strong love” on the earth. I saw people getting up from their seats, in answer to his call, and moving towards the fire.

With a sense of the Holy Spirit’s urging, I decided to organize two Saturdays for filming, once our very restricted Sunday services had returned after the initial Covid-19 lockdown. Assisting me was my friend and ‘church technical guy’, Gabriel. Gabriel and I worked together for the first Saturday, and I invited other people to come to the second Saturday. I had no idea who would end up coming, or what to ask them to do after they got up from their seats. I eventually realized that the best plan for this group was that they participate in movement sequences – a procession and haka-like choreography and proclamation – choreographed, by me, for different subjects in the ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry course [The History of Dance in the Church and Church Worship (Mary Jones) and the ICDF Networks Elective, Men in Dance (Andy Raine)].

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and stretching experienced through doing the whole course. I cannot say how highly beneficial it has been. And, as it turns out, this video is going to be part of my final project, something I did not foresee!

<https://youtu.be/Xjb1JAb7u-A>

Learning is the process of acquiring new understanding, knowledge, behaviors, skills, values, attitudes, and preferences.
Wikipedia

Lessons from a Garden - Christine Gershom

Christine Gershom's blog, required as part of her study of an ICDF Network - in this case, the Academics, Writers and Researchers (AWARe) Network - reproduced here with Christine's permission. Christine is from India.

I'm not much of a gardener to be honest. I have been known to even kill succulents on occasion. My neighbours, on the other hand, have a beautiful garden and the highlight is a thick vine that climbs on our common fence and that has grown up along the side of our building all the way up to the roof. The vine bears the sweetest white flowers that when in full bloom fall like a carpet on our lawn. As our monsoons set in during the month of September in South India, our neighbours cleared their garden in preparation for the floods. As they cleared all the foliage they even cleared up the vine from the root up. As I watched them chop and clear my lovely view the gardener caught my sadness and said as if to console me that the vine would stay green for a few days after which it would die. As predicted, the luscious green vine stayed that way for 3 days. On the fourth day, when I woke up there was the vine wilting and beginning to dry up. Over the next week it completely dried to a crisp and now looks like a skeletal version of its original glory. The gardener returned after two weeks to pull it down and destroy it. I was reminded of what Jesus said in John 15:5 which says "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

As I watched a lush vine lose its beauty and purpose as it got disconnected to its roots- the source of its nourishment I was reminded that for me to live a fulfilled and abundant life I needed to stay connected to Jesus. It could feel tempting to get attached to my talents, success, my connections or even my family more than I am connected to my heavenly father. While I may not display signs initially of losing that vital connection, eventually my life will start to show the dryness and fruitlessness. I aim to stay connected to Christ for apart from Him I can do nothing.

