



Dancers in His service

I LOVE Christmas!!

Even as I write this, I'm tearing up. I had an extremely modest upbringing so Christmas was never about the gifts, but about the love. My parents had our home painted in December every year and to this day paint still smells like Christmas to me. I love the song that says: "Christmas isn't Christmas till it happens in your heart." We each have something that stirs the Christmas spirit in our hearts. May you find what Christmas really is, deep inside of you as well.

The silliest thing about the season for me is the fact that the KING was born, to a virgin, in a stable, wrapped only in swaddling!!! When they went looking, there was no room at the Inn. My prayer is that when He comes looking, the KING will find a place to lay His head in our hearts!!

Having started my spiritual journey as a devout Catholic, Mary has a special place in my history. She found favour with God – wow!! His choice in spite of herself – and against the odds!! For those of you who feel the odds are against you, I pray the Holy Spirit to overshadow you during this time so that the Christ in you may become your hope of glory!! He IS our hope!! I'm not a singer but I am a worshipper and I sing my own version of the Magnificat – directly out of the book of Luke!! Dancers, spirits will touch heaven as your feet touch earth: as your souls magnify the Lord and your spirits rejoice in God our Saviour, may all the generations from now on call you blessed!!

In closing ... my absolute favourite scripture: Isaiah 9:6

"For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

This verse speaks to every prophecy concerning Him, illustrates the various aspects of His reign and transcends millennia.

During this time, as we commemorate the birth of the child whose cloak of Majesty was simple swaddling robes, may we hear the rush of angel wings as we join Heavenly Hosts in proclaiming:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests."

From me and mine to you and yours, have a blessed, peaceful Christmas!!

Maira Townsend - ICDF Pastoral Adviser

From the Joint-Coordinators' office

Welcome to our final ICDF newsletter for this year where we will be revisiting the highlights for 2019. Much has happened and some changes have taken place that you have read about in our monthly newsflashes. We take the liberty of reminding you of some of these.

From India to Sweden

The first half of the year was focused on the Dance and Culture Study Tour in May. It was a huge event for us and was life changing for many. We have also announced that our next international gathering will be in Sweden when we will have a conference in the year 2022. To see some photos, see our Newsflash

https://www.icdf.com/sites/default/files/documents/newsflashes/icdf_newsflash_june_2019.pdf



Photo: St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Tamil Nadu, India

ICDF Website

Much has been written over the previous months about our website being prepared to go Mobile Device Friendly and we were able to announce that the first phase has been completed in October. Work is continuing for the other sub-sites. We invite you to explore the website, especially our publications that we continually add to so that it would be a place where papers connected to dance in the Christian context can be accessed for information ... www.icdf.com



ICDF Steering Committee

In September we introduced you to the new Steering Committee who will be taking us forward for the next three years.

Photo: From left to right Noel Filemon (Suriname), Lucy Jarasius (Australia), Liesl Townsend (South Africa), Jan Dyer (Britain), Saartjie de Wet (South Africa), Barbara Wood (Ireland) and Sue Sutherland (Britain)

Prayer Circle

Led by Kaye Strauss, anybody can join to pray for the ministry of ICDF. This group played an important part by forming an Outer Prayer Shield before and during the time of the Dance and Culture Tour in India.

<https://www.icdf.com/en/support-us/support-us>

Social Media

We bring to your attention once again our social media presence. Please make use of our sites as listed below.

- Network Blogs: <https://icdfnetworks.wordpress.com/>
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UC8qmQVDheUHRIPsAfLxT-Pw
- Instagram: icdfsosial (#ChristianDance #ICDFworld #ICDFfamily)
- Facebook: International Christian Dance Fellowship (page and group)
- Pinterest: icdfsosial (boards: Instruments; Health; Garments; Teaching; The Word; Quotes)
- Twitter: @ICDF (announcements only)

“Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide, do
not hold back; lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.”

Isaiah 52:2 (New International
Version)

ICDF Networks Newsletters

There have been wonderful newsletters published by the ICDF Networks that give us more insight into the many ministries that are out there ...

<https://www.icdf.com/en/networks/network-newsletters>

ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry

After pioneering the diploma for many years Mary Jones has stepped down as director and Debbie Bright has picked up the baton.

2020 Trimester dates: 17 Feb-8 May; 25 May-14 Aug; 7 Sept-27 Nov

More information can be found on the website at

<https://www.icdf.com/en/education/icdf-diploma-or-certificate-dance-ministry>

ICDF Foundation

In the November Newsflash we gave you an update on the work (and fun) of the Foundation Board. Anybody in any part of the world can get involved so if after reading about them you are interested in finding out more, please contact Jenny at ... jenny_dennis@yahoo.com

For the ICDF Foundation November newsletter ...

https://www.icdf.com/sites/default/files/documents/newsflashes/icdf_newsflash_november_2019.pdf

To find out more ... <https://foundation.icdf.com>

Thank You

We thank you, too ... our Country Leaders and Network Leaders; our country members and network members; our ICDF Friends and supporters; the ICDF Foundation and their supporters; the ministry of our ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry; our Prayer Teams; and our behind the scenes teams. ICDF wouldn't be ICDF without your response to God's Call to be a part of it. We thank you for the gifting and anointing that you bring. We pray God's blessings over you. We pray, too, His grace as we come humbly before our God to serve Him in relationship together. We thank you for your support of the Steering Committee and of us through this last year. With our love to you all, in Jesus.

Jan, Saartjie & Liesl



Photo: "Dancing Rumbi" from the ICDF archives



Manifesto

We are a movement of God, not just an organisation called together by God. In order for us to be an effective movement we need to be organised and accountable, but we are not just an organisation.

We are a body, a part of the body of Christ in movement. We are connected as a body each with our different functions, but connected and moving in the same direction and with purpose.

We are a body that communicates. Just as the body communicates through its nervous system so we communicate through the structures and methods that are available.

We want to be a testimony of God by moving forward, as one, with Christ at the head. Wherever we are positioned we want to make an impact through the leading of the Holy Spirit in the church, the community, the world.

Financial Support

This last year has seen great generosity in giving to both ICDF and to the ICDF Foundation to help us fulfil our mission calling. This financial support to ICDF has come through country tithes, regular giving, and donations for projects and bursaries. For the part you played, a HUGE THANK YOU to each one of you.

Looking to the Future

Our financial vision remains as last year and ideas for supporting this through Regular Giving we copy below. With our thanks for your continuing support

Regular giving

Regular giving can be monthly, annually or somewhere in between. This can be done through our website at ... <https://www.icdf.com/en/support-us/support-us> There you will find choices of how you can donate

Regular giving is needed for ...

i. the day to day running of ICDF

ii. Projects

From time to time these we announce. Our latest project is to launch an Online Shop that is to be linked to the ICDF website.

iii. the Bursary fund

We have a vision for a bursary fund receiving donations regularly so that by the time the fund is needed the donations are already there.

Please pray and if the Lord prompts you to help financially, please complete the form on the website at ... <http://gatherings.icdf.com/funding/support-form> or email us at icdfworld@gmail.com. Thank you.

Country News

ICDF Canada

News came from different parts of Canada:

From the Calgary Chapter - "Snowy greetings to you all from our little dance community in Calgary, Canada, together since 1995. This past year has brought a few challenges to our dance committee and we felt God guide us to scale down from 9 workshops a year to 2 in the Fall and 2 in the Spring. Our good friend, Laurel Bridges will lead us into the New Year with her workshop entitled, "Do Not Fear." Such comforting and life giving words that, apparently, are spoken to us 366 times in the Bible. We consider ourselves so fortunate to be part of the global family of dance worshipers and we thank and bless all of you who so faithfully keep us in contact with one another. Rejoicing with you as we celebrate Emmanuel, God With Us."



Photo: "River of Life" workshop presented by Belma Vardy in Calgary

Anita (Vancouver, British Columbia) says, "We are excited with what God is building here on the West coast and we look forward to what 2020 is going to bring."

*For prayer: They need a space where they can do things.

From Jennifer Balshaw, Country Representative - "I've received emails from people from -- literally -- coast-to-coast asking about what we have available and if we can connect them with a dancer."

Diane Hobelaid says, "Several people are praying and introducing dance to a few people seeking information. Belma Vardy had a very successful session with some ladies at a local Mennonite church. A few former CDF'ers have met and we are moving forward prayerfully regarding future plans."

- Jennifer Balshaw

ICDF Ghana

Dance as a ministry in churches is now a common thing and most dance performances are choreographed pieces in popular dance styles. There are however a few churches that have a traditional day of Sunday worship where they do away with the western musical instruments and use only traditional musical instruments to accompany all songs sung. People also come to church dressed in only traditional attire and, during praise time, are encouraged to dance their traditional dances. It is exciting and is gradually catching up.

In addition ICDF Ghana is taking dances to popular spots in town to minister to people as open air crusades. In 2019 there were 6 such dance crusades, outreaches to the prisons in Accra, and a special invitation to perform traditional dances to minister at the installation of a Traditional Chief at Nkwanta district.

Plans are already in place for outreaches in 2020.

- Seth Newman

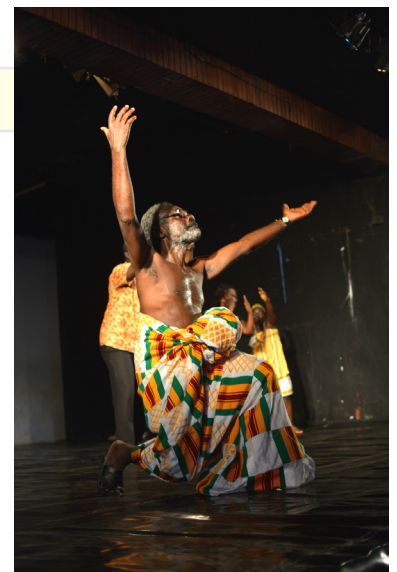


Photo: "Seth Newsman" in traditional dress at the Ghana conference

ICDF Sweden

At the end of September 2019 we had a three day long dance conference in Aarhus together with our Danish members. We had two guest teachers, Steven Turner and Andy Raine, who taught us choreography, how to dance with flags and how to use music and movements to express a message in our dance to God. The picture is a photo that was taken during the service we participated in on the Sunday of the conference.



Photo: Taken at the Aarhus conference

In Sweden we are now preparing to host the next international conference which is to take place in 2022, something we are very excited and happy about.

- Gunnel-Maria Palmqvist

ICDF Australia

Isaiah 43:18-19 New Living Translation (NLT)

18 “But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

Our search for a new, fresh-visionary country leader continues! Please join us in prayer for God’s person/s to hear the call to take us deeper into the 21st century.

Meanwhile, we thank the Lord that The New Thing (TNT) monthly meeting of creatives has just completed 2 years of regular gatherings in Sydney’s Greater West. Slowly but surely, new people are finding out about this group facilitated by dancers, rather than dance just being an optional add-on in a context of music/singing worship ministry. That’s new. That’s exciting. The symbols of Fire and Water have been particularly evident since TNT’s inception. Sharon Ereaux and I have travelled to Brisbane, Queensland, coming alongside fledgling groups and individuals to encourage and inspire fresh hope and vision for those connecting and reconnecting with CDF ministry there. Spiritually speaking, new sparks and old embers are being ignited.

We’re beginning to develop some resources for anybody inspired to initiate similar groups around the country, and perhaps beyond? Pray with us for these Thunder from Downunder projects to be produced.

2020 is a Leap Year, hence TNT has been exploring ‘The FAITH of LEAP’... thanks for joining your prayers to ours for deeper, higher, more into God’s purposes for ICDF ministry in these lands we now call Australia, and indeed, wherever we may be in God’s beloved world!

- Lucy Jarasius



ICDF Brazil

ICDF Brazil is an emerging ICDF country. Their vision is to promote the International Christian Dance Fellowship in Brazil, to network with others dancing for the Lord in Brazil and to connect internationally. We are an interdenominational fellowship that provides support and networking for people involved in Christian/Messianic dance and movement arts. We encourage and support both the professional and the amateur artist through resources, training, workshops, conferences, books, tapes, videos, newsletters, fellowship and prayer.



Photo: John and Carol Bassi

Events for 2020:

National Christian Dance Conference and National Conference for ZOE Dance Instructors - 26 January 2020

Mega Flash Mob for Jesus - 17 March 2020

The ninth International Praise Dance Conference - 27 September 2020 www.conferenciapraise.com.br

Season scripture: "You have changed my cry to joyful dance, removed my sadness from me, and surrounded me with joy." Psalm 30:11

- John and Carol Bassi

ICDF Britain

Hi Peter from ICDF Britain here.

Well we have had a great year. Britain had a good representation in Kanyakumari. All our regions held workshops with some great teachers. Our National Conference in Shrewsbury was a great success, with workshops as diverse as Mime and Cheerleading.

Next year we turn 30 and the National Conference will be a weekend in Northampton. The Midlands East regional team have planned some excellent workshops and celebrations. Our website has all the details so you can see exactly what is going on. We will be saying goodbye to some of the leadership team in 2020. They have served us faithfully in their positions and we are grateful for all the effort they have put in.

- Peter Hothersall

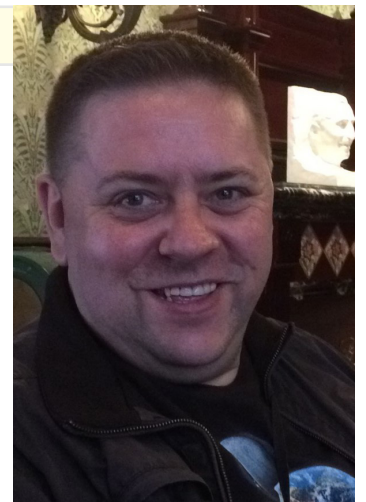


Photo: Peter Hothersall

ICDF Ireland

We have had a good year of Fellowship and learning from each other. Our Heavenly Father has also blessed us with new people. We have been meeting each month mostly in Belfast although we have also had the opportunity to meet in Dublin, Holywood and Enniskillen.

The workshop in Enniskillen introduced Children to the CDFI program which is now going to lead to 'Praise Him in Dance' picnics for families where parents and children can learn the art of dance and worship together. We also aim to extend our work into the community, firstly starting in Enniskillen in November 2020, through street evangelism and presentational dance within the Enniskillen Salvation Army.

- Julie-Anna Richmond



Photo: Provided by CDF Ireland

ICDF Korea

CDFK's 20th Anniversary Concert was held on Tuesday 29th of October at 8pm, SamSung Hall, EWha University, Seoul, Korea. Ten performance groups danced on that day with dancers who were Christian University professors and members of CDFK.

The concert opened with a performance called "With the Light - Angels sing the birth of Jesus". About 700 people were there to enjoy Christian Dance, and performers were praised for the high quality of their dance.
- Michelle



Photos: From the CDFK 20th Anniversary Concert

ICDF South Africa

This year CDF South Africa has been through many exciting journeys. One of them was seeing our National Coordinator Liesl Townsend become part of the ICDF Team. We know that she will do a fabulous job.

A highlight was definitely the India Cultural Tour. It has bridged the gap between our international members. The country, people, culture and food...yes, I said food was amazing to experience. We ran successful, blessed workshops in our provinces and have been ministering to churches and at small and big events across South Africa. Our teams are building their committees to grow into fully functional teams with expertise from all sectors coming in.



Photo: The South African team in India

In 2020 we are starting a CDF Ministry Dance Company that will be used to spread the wings of the organisation and to train the greater dance body. This special task team will be available to do workshops and training in Africa and abroad. We also saw the launch of our dance syllabus that will be a useful tool in training our members. Our dance teachers continue to excel in their respective fields winning competitions and taking the light of dance to shine all over the world. Our Mpumalanga branch has taken off and we look forward to planting seeds in Kimberley next year.

In 2020 CDFSA turns 30 years old and we are hosting a week- long of festivities in Cape Town, the Mother City (as it is called). It will consist of a Dance festival, workshops, training, tours and a Prestigious Gala Dinner. I hope to see you all in South Africa next year, blessings in dance.

- Melanie Erasmus

"The most valuable thing the Psalms do for me is to express the same delight in God which made David dance." C. S. Lewis

The Place of Much Learning

In Galatians 1:15-18 Paul narrates of his encounter with God and the grace shown him. Thereafter, he spends 3 years in Arabia where he confers with no man but is taught by God. In this time of his life, he is metamorphosed. A spiritual transformation and change of his mind (metanoia) from the law he was raised in to the grace given him before he was conceived in his mother's womb. This grace is revealed to him by Christ Jesus alone. Needless to say, Paul was not ignorant of the scriptures before, but by grace he had this encounter, a revelation of God's love in which he found a new purpose.

Romans 1:16 - 17(NKJV) reads,

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

ICDF Uganda is in this great place right now. The place of learning what ministration is in dance. The place where the depth of our learning about ministration happens beyond the walls of studios, technique, altars, audiences and great dance movement. The place beyond the gifts that have created room and opened doors for us. That place of worshipping in spirit and truth. (John 4:24)

Hebrews 11 reminds us by faith we understand that the worlds (eons) were created by the word of God...how else can we claim to worship God without the understanding of His word. We are to draw all our worship from His word.

Have you ever wondered what was beneath the great deep that darkness (ignorance) was covering up in (Genesis 1:2) and why the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters? I have, from the day we launched ICDF in Uganda in 2016, longed to know what was beneath this awesome depth of scripture and often times I sit silently, think through and yearn for every meaning from these words as a pattern for my learning.

Daily, I am getting closer to the answer as deep calls unto deep. The place of much learning is where mandate is affirmed. As we await our commissioning in the spirit, we have one testimony that the cloud cover has already been ripped away. We are under an open heaven. That revelation will be to every man that seeks it. As worshippers, understanding how far deep in God we can draw beyond the gifts and the groove, to the place of calling (mandate) and commissioning because our message as I am certain is for nations.

Ephesians 1:17-19 says, "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power..."

A distinction on our lives has to manifest. We are a pearl in and of Africa for a reason. Some day soon, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.



Jacqlynn Tamusime