


**ICDF**  
**FLAGS**  
**AND**  
**BANNERS**  
**NETWORK**



*International Christian  
Dance Fellowship*

**2016**  
**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**

In the UK contact:-

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Springs Dance Company, e-mail: [info@springsdancecompany.org.uk](mailto:info@springsdancecompany.org.uk)  
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In Canada contact:-

Darlene West, [info@westworksflags.ca](mailto:info@westworksflags.ca), Telephone: 403-283-4824, [www.westworksflags.ca](http://www.westworksflags.ca)

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Hello dear worshipping friends!

Here we are at the end of another year filled with dance, flag worship and LIFE itself.

We all have to live and serve in the place where God has put us. Sometimes it is good and rewarding and at others it is a struggle. That is why we have the CDFs and the ICDF, so we can keep in touch and encourage one another.

The calling to be a dancer and a worshipper with flags can be fraught with problems as well as bringing much joy and blessings.

I have just received an email from someone saying how blessed they have been using flags in worship and how it has brought them to a deeper place, however someone in their congregation has said the flags are a 'distraction'. My reply is to keep using the flags but to be more aware of *where* you are using them and also to share your testimony either in word from the front if your church has 'sharing testimony times' or to write about your experience in the church newsletter under the heading of '*My testimony of finding deeper worship*'. This may help the persons who have objected to understand more!



Teaching at a "Lydia" meeting in Plymouth, November 2016



Andrew and I have had another busy year with lots of dance, flags, workshops and selling Kingdom Dance Resources. We are both involved in the running of our CDFB and also the Region in which we live.





This takes time, thought and much prayer.

Our other big commitment is to the 'Worship through dance' week at Brunel Manor in the UK. This is a lovely time with dancers who enjoy creative praise and worship, and is a joy even though it is hard work in the preparation!!!

This year our theme was **WORSHIP THE KING of LOVE**. The workshops included many kinds of dance - styles were around the themes of **RANSOMED, HEALED, RESTORED, FORGIVEN**.



You can see here some of the photographs of our dancers with flags, and also with staffs. My co-leader Debby Ward is also shown on the cover, and in the photo to the left, dancing with her flag at the "Gala Night" we hold, when dancers are able to show their own choreography.

We had an amazing time with testimonies of restored enthusiasm, openness to the Lord, and sheer delight in dancing with passion!

***Marie Bensley***



## **TESTIMONY by Marie**

This past August we had news that one of our beautiful twin baby granddaughters had a very rare and life threatening genetic condition called CYSTINOSIS and FANCONI SYNDROME.

This came as a great sadness and a shock to us all and Andrew and I were cast down by the news.

Although we prayed I could not shake off the feelings of 'heaviness of heart'. I was not able to dance with my flags at all and stopped going to my church where I lead the dancing and went to another where they do not know me so I could sit and try to pray, although my heart was so sad.

In November we had arranged to go to a concert given by PAUL WILBUR and to join a dance group of Messianic dancers led by Ginnie White. She did not know our story or about the heaviness we felt. She said I was to dance at any time and join in with her group whenever they were at the front just as the Holy Spirit led. I stood at the back for some time and the music, the singing and the dancing was so joyful I started to use my flags at the side.

Wilbur started to play a well known Messianic song '**LET THE WEIGHT OF YOUR GLORY COVER US**'. I felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to move to the front with a beautiful flag which has a dove on it. As I danced it was as if no one else was there! I danced totally giving myself to the Lord and the dance.

In all the other dances Ginnie White and her team usually stepped forward and joined the dancer at the front but this time she did not move so I danced the whole song as a solo. Afterwards I felt an amazing sense of peace and calm. The heaviness and darkness I felt before had lifted.

Hallelujah!

Since then I have been restored to being free to dance in my church to His glory.  
*That is the power of dance!*







## News from Darlene West

### Greetings from Darlene West in Canada!

I pray that you are all well and that you've continued to lift your flags high for the King of Kings!

I'm looking over my calendar for 2016 and see that I invested months of time with my elderly mom and stepdad this year, downsizing them into a small condo, then waiting for their house to sell. I've driven back several times to give them a hand. For many my age, it's payback time to look after our parents in exchange for them raising us.

Following is a photo montage from this year:



**Flagging Workshops, Children's Camp. Ribbon Flagging** outdoors at a Public Library (I carry flags in my vehicle at all times. I was with my mom and having a bad day and nothing in me wanted to worship but I set my face like flint and decided to worship anyway! I parked at the local Library and took out my very tiny speaker and quietly played my songs and praised God anyway!)



**Prayer Meeting.** Our local weekly Prayer Meeting where we linger in worship, sometimes for an hour.

**Outdoors.** A friend and I drove to Jasper area and worshiped outdoors in God's creation.







**Revival Tent Meetings:** I was invited to be part of a small town Revival where I taught local saints Processional Flagging. The speaker was so moved that she requested us to open the last session with the same processional.



**Special Conferences where worship was heavenly:**



**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)



## Flags & Banners Network Workshop in Ghana, 2016 – Anna Arnold



*Presentation dance during morning worship  
- photo courtesy of Roz Hancock*

I had the privilege of representing the Flags and Banners Network at the ICDF Conference in Ghana, July 2016. The various networks were introduced to the conference delegates through a poem written and read by Australia's Lucy Jarasius which lead us through the history of the preceding ICDF Conferences. The poem reading was accompanied by a display of photographs interspersed on the stage with live bursts from each network representative presenting a brief description of their network in movement. Each delegate was then invited to join one of the network workshops taking place that afternoon.

Workshop venues at the conference, hosted jointly by CDF Ghana and CDF Ireland were varied and in some cases out of the ordinary for many delegates

and teachers. The Flags and Banners Network were given a wonderful semi outdoor venue to use for our workshop where we had plenty of space, good height (so often a problem when teaching with flags) and an excellent floor; more importantly being a semi outdoor studio we were able to benefit from a slight breeze which kept us cooler in the searing heat of the afternoon. Delegates from Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Sweden, Ireland and Australia attended the workshop and all but 2 or 3 of them had little or no experience of working with flags. It was a delight for me to give them a brief introduction to the biblical use of banners, the significance of some of the colours and some simple moves. Using these movements we went on to learn a couple of worship dances that I had pre-choreographed. The first was a dance that individuals could use either in their personal worship time or as a presentation piece; the second was a group dance for 4 people. Both pieces were picked up very well by the participants who were clearly enjoying the opportunity to dance with flags perhaps for the first time.

As the workshop drew to an end many of the delegates asked to repeat the second piece we had learned. This we did and as people danced the Spirit of the Lord was clearly present with us. Delegates, who only an hour before had no experience of dancing with flags were dancing and worshipping with such beauty and freedom. The group continued to dance and sing in spontaneous worship long after the piece was finished. What a powerful time of worship we had; I was so blessed to be present and witness this time. What more can a workshop leader ask for than for their workshop to lead to a time of pure worship of our wonderful creator God!



*Anna Arnold*

*Some of the workshop delegates with me from Ireland, Ghana and Kenya*





## ***The use of Flags and Banners during a Prayer Watch - by Mary Jones***

***This article, and the accompanying photographs, were first published in the ICDF Newsletter - December 2016***



The ICDF Prayer Watch teams visited Israel in 2012 and 2015 and will go again next year. For the first time there was also a Prayer Watch combined with a conference that took place in Ghana in 2016. Each time we have found flags/banners an important part of our effectiveness. As we carry them around on our prayer trips people will often stop us and ask what country they come from or what they represent. It gives a great opportunity to share about the Faith and what we are doing. Sometimes people wanted their photos taken with them after they had talked or prayed with us.

They are also effective for those who are wielding them extending their movement and prayer, helping any self-consciousness as attention is drawn to the banner rather than the person using it. There is something very powerful in praying with a banner, emphasising the prayer, feeling its power and movement and so helping to increase faith, authority and ministry.

When we were using a script the banners worked well in combination with movement to suggest the elements and parts of a story. As they were abstract they succeeded in representing concepts, God and non-human elements. They also helped to draw people's attention to what we were doing because they could be seen at a distance and attract interest with their movement and colour.

On the Prayer Watch in 2015 we used a script for the first time together with acting, dance and banners. The four parts of the script covered the salvation story from Genesis to Revelation and included scripture, declaration and prayers. As we went from place to place we chose the section/s of the script that seemed most appropriate for what we wanted to pray for in that area.

We had four flags/banners from David Stanfield's collection to represent the four elements and four important theological truths. The blood flag was used to represent both blood of sacrifice and the earth; a white and blue banner I had specially ordered represented air and the Holy Spirit; the fire banner was also used for glory; and the blue water flag for water and the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ We started with Creation and the Air flag represented God breathing into Man the breath of life.
- ◆ In Sacrifice for Sin the red and blue flags represented the water and blood used in OT sacrifice as the two flag bearers worshipped around the altar as Abraham sacrificed. With the Cross long red and blue cloths were placed coming out from the cross on the ground and people were invited to come to the cross while the blue and red cloths were waved over them prayerfully.
- ◆ For Redigging the wells and releasing the power of the Holy Spirit we used the blue flag for the water, waving it over the well, and the fire and wind flags were effective for the coming of the Holy Spirit in the upper room.
- ◆ In Preparing the way for the Messiah all the flags were used in celebration.

When we return in 2017 we will also be taking national flags with us as we remember and pray for the nations who took part in the liberation of the Holy Land in 1917 from the Ottoman Empire, so enabling the establishment of Israel and the return of Jews from all over the world.

***Mary Jones***



## ***News of Dance with Flags from Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia!***

***We heard about this group from emails sent while purchasing flags from Kingdom Dance***

We are a humble and small team which only started in January 2016. The church we are based to is Skyline SIB, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. The church encourages banners, tambourines and other worship tools/ weapons to worship God. At times, we dance with free movement, dancing on the Word of God. For the photo on the right I used banners bought from you - a Purple Cross flag and a Gold flag - during the song "How great is our God".



Blessings, ***Jenny Yong***



## ***News From Canada!***

***An old Fashioned Revival Tent Meeting was held in Rimbey, Alberta. Darlene of Westworks Flags was invited to participate in the event and to teach on Processional Flagging. After the event, Darlene received the following emailed response (see 2 photos on top of page 6)***

We opened the Tent Meeting with a Flag Processional to the song "The King is Coming" (Gaither Version) and we closed the weekend to "The King is Coming" (Newsboys Version).

It was an incredible time of worship and moving of Holy Spirit. There were very few dry eyes in the place as the Presence of the Lord was ushered in during this time.

I can say that learning about and incorporating Flags into our worship has added a new depth and dimension when entering the Holy Place. The beauty of flagging is there are no age limits to worship. We have children as young as 2 and adults in their 80's who love to participate.

Thank you Darlene, from Rimbey New Life Fellowship Church for introducing us to this new marvellous dimension of worship. We look forward to another workshop with you!

***(Cheryle B)***