



ICDF Networks

August 2019

Movement in Prayer

The ICDF Network for Movement in Prayer aims to share ideas for movement and prayer; for members to support each other in prayer projects; to answer the call for prayer internationally through support in prayer or in person; to celebrate the outcome of prayer; and, where possible, to share ideas for movement and prayer, to meet in our countries / localities to move and pray.

To become part of the Network contact ... icdf.movementinprayer@gmail.com



Traditionally, the apostle Thomas is believed to have travelled outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel, travelling as far as the states of Kerala and Tamil-Nadu in present-day India. According to tradition, Thomas reached Muziris, (modern-day North Paravur and Kodungalloor in the state of Kerala) in AD 52 and converted several people, founding what today are known as Saint Thomas Christians or Mar Thoma Nazranis. He is often regarded as the Patron Saint of India, and the name Thoma remains quite popular among Saint Thomas Christians of India. During our recent visit to India a group of pilgrims visited one of the churches believed to have been planted by St Thomas. The photo above shows the detail of one of the places of interest on the site. More can be read about this special time of prayer in India on page 5.

PRAYER IN MOVEMENT in Aotearoa New Zealand

During one of our corporate devotional times we felt that there was a focus on “the spirit moving across the waters” from the top of the South Island to the bottom of the North Island so the idea of a prayer and worship road trip was born. During this conference we also gathered at a local park to worship and move corporately in prayer for our nation and intercede for our Christian dancers to arise – it was a windy day in winter!

In October 2018 we drove up to Nelson at the top of the South Island and prayed for ICDFANZ at the Centre of NZ Hill (which is the geographic centre of Aotearoa). We interceded for our indigenous Maori Christian dancers and for our Messianic Israeli dancers to be as one with-in ICDFANZ. We worshipped/prayed/danced/took communion and the shofar was blown and the patu (Maori war club) was held up in declaration. We then travelled to Picton where our inter-island ferries depart from and repeated the process on a compass inset on the Picton foreshore and prayed/worshipped/danced for the gates between the North & South Islands to be open for our Christian dancers to be free to move openly across New Zealand.

Following the prayer road trip we connected with our North Island Christian dance brothers & sisters and our old CDFNZ leadership team in Auckland. This paved the way for our first AGM in 17 years! We had a wonderful time of worshipping the King of Kings at Arthurs Pass Chapel at a high place in the Southern Alps of the South Island and also made declarations and blew the shofar at the main divide in the alpine pass.

Then in response to the Christchurch Mosque shootings on March 15th (our biggest national shooting tragedy to date) we organised a worship intercession event in central city Christchurch Square next to our still earthquake damaged cathedral. Our scriptural reference being the first and second greatest commandments: Matthew 22:37-40.

Our most recent prayer session was in July 2019. In preparation for a National Christian Dance Workshop tour to Auckland, Tauranga, Christchurch, Oxford, Greymouth & Oamaru we interceded with banners at ‘Sugar Loaf’, a high point on the Port Hills of Christchurch which often gets a dusting of snow (hence the name). During our dance workshops we took time to pray and intercede for our nation of Aotearoa New Zealand using our nation’s flag, with movement, with praise and worship tools. We would like to thank Rhoze & Pauline Rivera from Manilla, Philippines with their Dance Explosion ministry for facilitating these workshops, worship nights and intercession.

The mandate from heaven for our New Zealand Christian dancers is centred around Joy – the joy of the Lord is our strength. ICDFANZ founding scripture is from a passage in Isaiah about the joy of the redeemed: Isaiah 35:6 - 7 (also the whole chapter). It is a vision of healing and hope for us and our nation.

Belinda Andrews



Praying at the centre of the islands



Intercession after the mosque shootings



Interceding at ‘Sugar Loaf’



Praying for the country



Intercession in the mountains

Creative Prayer

In the month of June, Noel Filemon from CDF Suriname visited the Netherlands and while there he taught several workshops on different topics, one of them being creative prayer. Here he shares some of the points that were included in his teachings.

Who is an intercessor ?

A intercessor is a man or woman who, or a child, who battles for another.

Ezekiel 22:30 - I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for [the sake of] the land, that I would not destroy it, but I found no one [not even one].

1. Coming before God with a specific, divinely inspired request.
2. Destroying the spiritual strategies devised by the enemy.

An intercessor is a mediator.

Our God is a creative God, and He placed some of that creativity in us. Very often we are not aware of this wonderful beauty He has placed within us. Because of the wonderful creativity He has placed within us, we are able to express our love, adoration and prayers in a creative way towards Him. Expressing our creativity towards Him through intercession and prayer brings variety in the way we intercede and profundity in our prayer lives. Very often we are so attached to certain traditions and customs that we don't allow the Lord (who is the God of new things) to express himself through us in a creative way, through His Holy Spirit.



Noel teaching on creative prayer

There a lot examples in the Bible concerning the use of symbols:

The Tabernacle (Hebrews 9), Jeremiah who learned from the potter (Jeremiah 18:1-6), Agabus who used a belt to tie up the hands and feet of Paul to warn him (Acts 21:11), Bread and wine (Matthew 26: 28-28)

An example is the symbol of the bronze snake (Numbers 21:4-9) which Moses made on command of the Lord. The Lord instructed Him to put the bronze snake on a pole so that anyone who was bitten by a snake could look upon the bronze snake and would live. It was made to draw the people's attention to the Lord and prophetically it means Jesus Christ who was exalted on the cross so that we could receive healing and forgiveness of son (John 3:14)

Through the years the bronze snake became an object of worship and King Hezekiah destroyed it (2 Kings 18:1-6)

A lot of symbols can be used when we move in prayer, worship and prophecy. We can read about it in Scripture:
Oil – The Holy Spirit, anointing, dignity, anointing for ministry. Light (Matthew 5:14, Psalm 133, Mark 6:13, Luke 10:35, Isaiah 61:1)

Candle- Jesus Christ the light of the World, We are the light of the world (John 8:12, Matthew 25:3)

Cross – The Victory and the power of the risen Lord, a reminder/commemoration that our sins have been forgiven, by His streams we are healed and that He conquered dead through the cross (Matthew 10:38, Colossians 1:20, 2:13-15)

Nails/spear or lance- The wounds of Jesus on the cross (John 19:34, John 20:25)

Crown- kingship, glory, authority, anointing, crown of thorn (Matthew 27: 29, revelations 14:14, Revelation 2:10)

Water- Holy Spirit, cleansing, refreshment, revival, renewal/ restoration

Incense- Prayer and worship (Psalm 141:2, Revelations 8: 3-4)

Bread- The Body of Christ, an expression of the unity of the Body of Christ, God's provision in our daily needs, strength for the body the heart (John 6:35, Lucas 22:19, 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17)

Creative Prayer continued

Wine- The blood of Jesus (Luke 22:20)

Stones- Hardness of the heart, sin, heavy heart (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

Flowers- Beauty, love, fragrance (Song of Songs 2:1-2, 12-13, Matthew 6:28-29)

Rope- bondage through sin, love/covenant/to express victory over sin (Isaiah 5:18, Acts 21:10-11, Luke 13:15-16, Matthew 12:29, Ezekiel 34:27, Jeremiah, 2:20, Colossians 3:13-14)

Hammer- The Word of God is like a fire and a hammer that crushes a rock into pieces (Jeremiah 23:29)

Fire- The Holy Spirit, cleansing, judgment (Jeremiah 23:29, 2 Chronicles 7:1, 1 Corinthians 3:13)

Chains- Bondage of sin and Satan (Psalm 149:6-8, Acts 28:20, Revelations 20:1-2)

Sword – The Sword of the Spirit, The sword as part of the armor of God (Ephesians 6:17)

Shield –The shield of faith to cease all the flaming arrows of the enemy (Ephesians 6:17)

Staff/Rod- The authority of God and the believers, protection, attack, comfort and strength (Exodus 4:2-5, 14-16, Numbers 17)

Fabrics/cloth- clothing, garment, costume – (Exodus 28,29, Isaiah 61:10, Matthew 22:11, Mark 11:18)

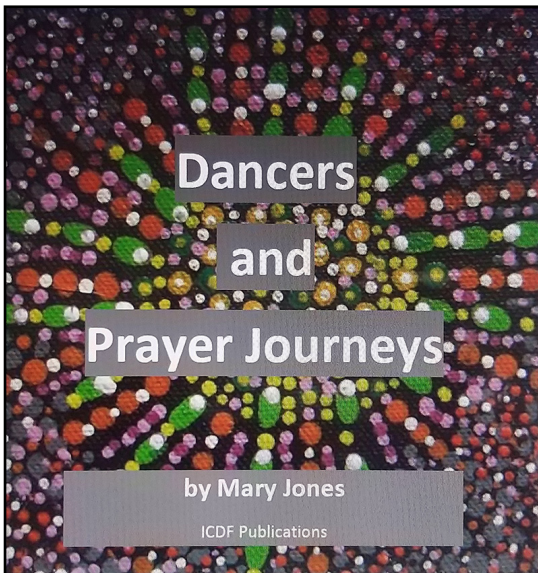
Ribbons- colors in combination with movement express what the specific colors mean for for example the joy of the Lord

Noel Fileman

Dancers and Prayer Journeys

Mary Jones, founder of the International Christian Dance Fellowship, has recently completed an e-book on the subject of prayer journeys. We have asked her to tell us what her motivation was for writing this book.

Why is it helpful to pray on location? What is the biblical basis for repenting for sins a country has committed?



Why include dance? What prayer journeys have been taken and what strategies have people used? These were some of the questions I set about to answer in “Dancers and Prayer Journeys”. I started to write the book after our marathon tour to Israel in 2015 and completed it in time for the 2019 Gathering in India. After the gathering I updated it with a description of what our intercession workshop and tour did in India. The convenient thing about an e-book is that you can keep adding to it! The book starts off with the story of how I first became involved in prayer touring when a group of us started praying for the 1991 conference. After the prayer journey around Jerusalem during that first conference I took teams of dancers to Israel in 1993 and 1994 and then after a break of 18 years in 2012, 2015 and 2017. Journeys I have taken in Australia and at ICDF conferences are recounted as well as journeys by other people around the world.

As well as the stories there are chapters on strategies, biblical understanding and the practicalities of organising a tour.

The book can be downloaded at the CaraMayan shop for AUD\$5 www.caramayan.com

Mary Jones

Prayer Journey and Pilgrimage in India

A small group of dancers made use of the opportunity to take part in a Prayer Journey and Pilgrimage during the last ICDF Gathering in India in May 2019. Many themes were covered, including social, economic, religious and political. The group prayed for India and from there into the world. Here we share with you some photos of what they experienced ...



Praying for the economics of the area



Church planted by the apostle Thomas visited by the pilgrims



Prayer for the politics of India at the Gandhi Memorial



The Tsunami Memorial and prayer for the families in India



Prayer for the religions of India



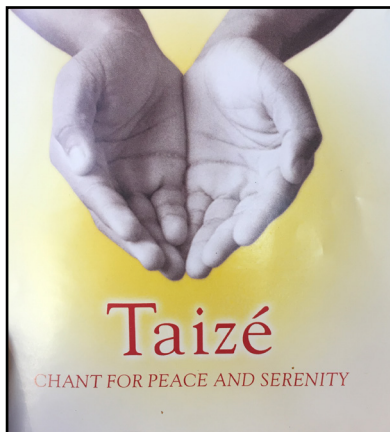
Prayer for our brothers and sisters in India

On Peace, Prayer and Strength

Anna O Harrison is our Network Leader for the ICDF Movement in Prayer Network. She has sent us the following news to tell us more about what she is doing in ministry as well as shared with us about her life and what inspires her in her walk of faith. Anna is the founder of Heaven's Heartbeat - a safe meeting place for exploring movement, dance and creativity in prayer and workshop. Her husband makes artwork that has prayer and intercession woven into the materials and construction.

We have experienced some of the hottest days of the year and possibly decade in London during the month of August, with temperatures reaching up to 38.5 degrees. Even though the extreme weather is not enjoyed by everyone, for many Londoners it is a day that is warmly welcomed. Days to indulge in cool coconut with swirls of chocolate ice cream several times in one day; walk by the river taking in the city as it absorbs thick engulfing radiant rays from the sun; or simply aiming to stay cool and promising to not complain that it is too hot but give thanks in all circumstances as we are encouraged to do in 1 Thessalonians 5:18. What do you give thanks to God for today?

The simple yet deep movement of lifting up our hands is a beautiful expression of thanking God for who He is and what he has done for us (Psalm 134:2).



Peace

There is peace available especially for you.

It has been a privilege seeing the outworking of blessing others with peace through movement. I was at a Christian Dance Fellowship of Britain (CDFB) workshop earlier this year and the workshop ended with us giving each other peace through movement by placing our hands on each other. It was a very special way to end our time of worship and dance. Similarly Heaven's Heartbeat dance meetings have ended with giving each other peace through movement.

I found it interesting when looking at definitions that one of the synonyms for peace was friendship. This gave me a fresh perspective that when we move and pray in friendship with God, the essence residing in us and blessing others is peace. How can we bless someone with the gift of peace today through our actions?

The image above is the front cover for a music album. The gentle meditative worship is beautifully composed. One of the songs is called My Peace My prayer for you today is the lyrics of this song based on the Bible scripture John 14:27:

*My peace I leave you / my peace I give you / trouble not your heart /
My peace I leave you / my peace I give you / be not afraid*

Prayer Walk 4 Women

This year's Prayer Walk 4 Women was a little different to previous years, mainly because we did not walk through London's well-known Hyde Park but walked through an area in Surrey - a full forest with touches and tones of different browns, yellows and ever-growing greens.

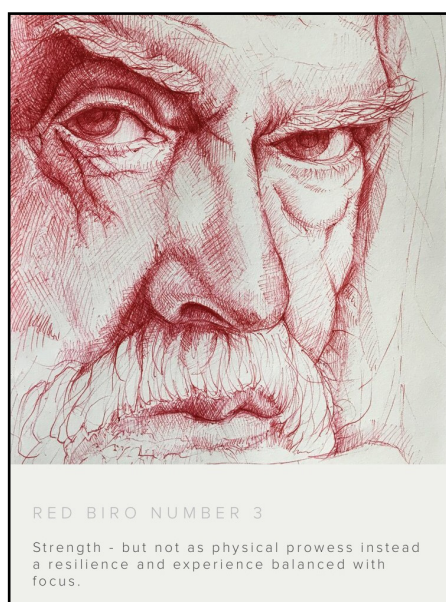
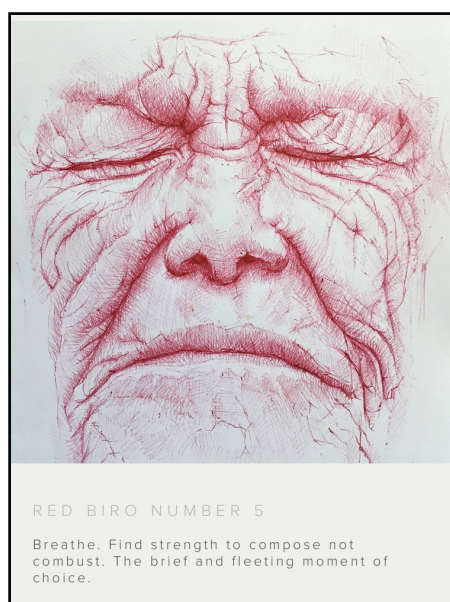
Our movement for this event involves primarily walking however, on this occasion, included purposefully stopping to move out prayers.



On Peace, Prayer and Strength ... continued

After walking for a short time, I stopped to move as I prayed in my heart for women. This year I particularly had three Black British women in mind who have been raising awareness on racism and discrimination in the UK. It takes a lot of courage to speak out. As I began to move I also prayed for women far and wide who speak out for women's rights, justice and truth, that they would feel an ease and a release of any tension, stress or strain that can come from speaking the truth.

There were a few, what I would like to call, sparkle moments when I looked around and sensed the solidarity of the trees and prayed that there would be unity amongst women and, after some moments of moving, holding some branches from a tree as I thought and prayed about God's covering and protection over women. May we all know God's very present covering and protection in the coming months and years.



Strength

I love to explore what it actually means to move and pray. Our first thoughts can naturally go toward dancing, which does play a key part although when we consider movement including walking (prayer walking) and lifting up our hands as an act of thanks and communicating with God, the idea of movement and prayer begins to shine in new ways where we can explore the wonderful facets of our creator God. My husband Justin has been working on a series of red biro drawings - I have included two. His heart behind the drawings was to show strength

in more mature people, people who have seen many days, years and experiences, yet demonstrate a particular kind of enriched strength through their presence and being. There has been and continues to be much for me to learn through these drawings:

1. The art of moving through drawing; the meditative process of prayer and connection with God as we express a creative idea.
2. The strength that comes through experience and endurance.
3. True strength = relying on God. True strength = listening to God.

It has been a particularly challenging year for me with work and at times I did not feel like praying and at other times I did not know exactly what to pray. Nevertheless I found that strength came many times through listening to God. When we move, whether that be through walking, drawing or in a moment of stillness part of the foundations of prayer is listening to the healing and encouraging words of our Father.

Anna O Harrison