



# ICDF Networks

## *August 2018*

## 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](mailto:icdf.movementinprayer@gmail.com)



One way of praying is to make use of prayer flags. The flags are made of a cheap fabric and a symbol is drawn on them. These flags can then be used in any combination to make up the prayer for a specific place and time.

## Stillness in Prayer

Even though I write this as rain showers revive thirsty gardens and farms in England, the sun was caring yet committed as we met on Saturday 4th August at 10am for the annual **Prayer Walk for Women**. I was already filled with much excitement after a friend sent me a message in the morning: "On 4 August 1918 King George V called a National Day of Prayer. One hundred days later the war ended."



This was a huge encouragement to me knowing that 100 years ago on Saturday 4th August a National Day of Prayer was held and now here we were 100 years later on the same day praying for women!

I shared some of the challenges women were still facing today including high rates of domestic abuse; the gender pay gap and teenage girls not being able to afford sanitary products (check out *Always* sanitary products campaign to #endperiodpoverty). I also shared victories and successes of women which I decided to bring close to home: my sister who is the only female leader in her workplace; my mum and mother-in-law who are great women of faith committed to their walk with God and looked up to by other women. Sharing victories is key and important when going into prayer as it helps to remind us that we already have success in Christ Jesus. Praying from a place of past and present victories brings much joy and a heart of belief to our prayers.

We had a lovely morning of walking and praying however we also had moments where we stopped to pray. There is a serene and lovely pace of ever moving forward when praying, yet the times we were still were equally special. For me, the stillness was part of the walking too. When we stopped walking to pray together there was an echo and presence of Psalm 46:10, 'Be still and know that I am God' - a good reminder that God is sovereign over all and we don't have to strive to see prayers answered. In one sense our pause to pray enabled us to reflect and gave us momentum for the walk ahead.

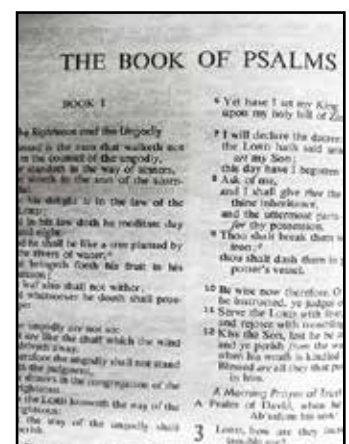
*The walk is open to all – men, women and children. The aim is to walk & pray God's perfect will for women in the UK and worldwide. Look out for the next walk in August 2019!*

*Anna O Harrison*

## Moving the Psalms

Many years ago now, I was invited to be part of a mission team going to Spring Harvest Festival in Skegness, England, as the dancer/story teller. I had no idea what I was getting into - as the descriptions for my role were quite hazy and lacking in specifics. The challenge was upped when I came down with a terrible cold and laryngitis the day I arrived in England! We set off for Skegness though, well fortified by vitamin C tablets. In my Canadian naivety I imagined that we were going to a lovely resort with sunny beaches and warm weather - hadn't heard about the spring winds at Skegness that blow the rain virtually horizontally! But the resort was quite lovely, and we were well cared for with a great team.

What emerged through the week was the need for embodiment of psalms every day for the worship in the evening, leading into the message, and an occasional dance, which another friend on the team and I choreographed with a small group to one of the worship songs. But the greatest joy came to me in memorizing and moving the psalms. I found that in doing it, I experienced more deeply the heart of each of the psalms, whether they were in joyful worship, lament, or discouragement and determined hope in the Lord. It led me to begin doing more of that work back in my own church, where I was often asked to read a scripture. I began memorizing the reading, and presenting it with movement. We found that the children, in particular, were riveted by this kind of presentation of scripture as it spoke beyond words to the heart of the meaning of the words.



*Diane Abelaid*

## Reconciliation Trail - Friends of Myall Creek 2017

*This is an excerpt from a 50+ page paper by Mary Jones on Dancers and Prayer Touring in three parts. These cover intercessions in Israel and other countries led by Mary for ICDF from the early 1990s to the present, reflections on how to lead prayer tours and descriptions of ones led by other groups.*

“I joined the Sydney Friends of Myall Creek with the desire I have had for many years of helping to start a pilgrimage. Having unsuccessfully explored the possibility of one from Canberra to Goulburn, I came across the Sydney Friends of Myall Creek and realised after some exploring that this would be a very worthwhile place for a pilgrimage as a reconciliation trail.

This seemed very timely with the efforts that are being made to bring about a more formal reconciliation between the first Australians and subsequent immigrants who took over the land without asking or payment or treaty in the 17th and 18th centuries with resulting massacres of the indigenous population. The one at Myall Creek was not one of the largest but it was the only one where the white perpetrators were brought to trial, found guilty and punished (7 were hung).

In 2016 I attended meetings and shared the vision, seeking approval for the venture from Aboriginal elders and other committee members. I explored a possible walk and researched places to visit in the locality stretching from Moree to the Memorial site where there is a commemoration each year in June. One of the elders, Auntie Noellie, showed me sites in Moree – the art gallery, cemetery, and a previous mission which is now an indigenous health centre and pre-school. I went down with some of the Aboriginal Land Council to Terry Hie Hie where there is a Coroboree ground with grinding grooves in the creek bed and a cemetery.

In 2017 I took a small team up for the June week-end to try out the trail and pray over it. We started in Moree and brought artesian water from deep down in the earth, wine and bread. We visited a number of sites which had been part of Aboriginal history from before the European colonisation to the present day. On one site we went on a nature walk and prayerfully collecting things around us on the way. We then let them suggest meaning for prophetic prayer. We used the water as a symbol of cleansing and of the Holy Spirit bringing new life. We placed bread and wine in declaration of the cleansing, healing and deliverance that Jesus’ blood brings.

One particularly significant place was a huge crack across the road that couldn’t be crossed by the car as we were driving up Gravesend mountain where there had been a massacre. We got out to continue the journey by foot. On our way down I poured wine into the crack praying for cleansing and healing of relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous. When we came to the Massacre site memorial where they had stations along the walk with parts of the story at each station, I knelt and asking forgiveness poured water and wine at each one. As we came on site there was a smoking ceremony where you pass through the smoke of a fire with eucalyptus leaves for cleansing and putting ochre on our faces for ceremony. After the ceremony I joined in the Aboriginal Brolga dance.”



*Mary Jones*



## Prayer Journey ... Israel 2017

October/November 2017, Centenary celebrations of a number of significant events took place in Israel: The Battle for Beersheba which brought an end to Turkish rule in the region and The Balfour Declaration which expressed the support of the British Government for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the region called Palestine. Following a vision of Mary Jones to call for a Prayer Watch in Israel at that time, four of us from Christian Dance Fellowships were led to join her. Starting in Jerusalem we spent our first week at JHOPFAN (Jerusalem House of Prayer for All Nations) on the Mount of Olives then continued south on the Anzac Trail linking in with a Sons of Abraham Australian Tour. There is something very special about praying on location, at significant events, through embodied prayer, being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and alert to His prompting.

Preparation: Sometime in the months preceding we meditated on the book of Zechariah over the course of a week and shared insights.

Strategy 1: Taking the images from Zechariah Ch.6 of the four spirits from heaven being sent out throughout the earth, we divided our team into North, South, East and West and wore the colours of the horses in Zechariah's vision- red, black, white and green (dappled). Armbands were made with these colours and worn on our prayer assignments. We sensed God's leading to go to a number of different locations in Jerusalem to pray, applying this organisational strategy as we interceded walking, dancing, using flags, breaking bread dipped in wine and "feeling the wind". One morning we had the opportunity to join with Christine Jeanville and another dancer at one of the downtown prayer towers for their Prayer Watch and found ourselves dancing out a call to the dancers in Israel to arise and flow in the river of God.

After two attempts to go on the Temple Mount we successfully made it early on the third morning and spent a beautiful, peaceful time there in prayer movement.

Strategy 2: We left our armbands in the prayer tower on the Mount of Olives, laid out N S E W radiating from the model Ark of the Covenant and the fifth member of the team, who was feeling unwell, remained there to pray. Our assignment was to pray for the Muslim nations surrounding Israel and beyond, each person taking the countries within his directional sector. Standing in our positions on the plaza with the Dome of the Rock in the centre, we circumnavigated the dome seven times in "canon", praying silently as each walked, releasing the wine dipped bread, then everyone moving on the seventh round. It was a very powerful and meaningful time. The walls of the Dome did not fall down but in the heavenly some walls came crashing!

Sunday morning, Jerusalem.

A delay in setting out for the Negev meant we had unexpected free time in the hotel in Jerusalem. Being near the top floor with a wonderful view of the city from the balcony we took the opportunity to pray over the Me'a Shearim (the Ultra -orthodox Jewish neighbourhood) West Jerusalem, the French Hill and Nevi Samuel lifting our flags to the sky. It was a powerful time of prayer for many concerns and a sense of completion for now of the Jerusalem assignment.

*Alison Bourke*



Photos: *Provided by Alison Bourke*

## ICDF Prayer Watch 2018

*For this year's Prayer Watch we had participants from Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Britain, Canada and USA that created a continual flow around the world. Here are some of the reports ...*

*Photos: Provided by participants*



Jan Dyer

For Prayer Watch 2018, we met on the field on the estate where our church is based. I explained why we were there, that is to join with the ICDF Prayer Watch ... praying for the Nations of the World, praying for our own nations, praying for our own communities and to prayer walk in part of the area under our church's care. We were connecting, too, with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Global 'Call to Prayer'

There was no pressure to use flags or to dance but at some point we all did, each drawn to a colour representing for them the moment. It was the day before Pentecost, the following day was to be a big gathering of churches across the area to pray and the theme for that, too, was 'Thy Kingdom Come.' This was a focus of our prayer as we gathered on the field. As we lifted our flags, we also found that by being outside in the breeze we didn't need to 'do' anything to make the flags fly except hold them up. This we likened to the 'Wind of the Spirit' moving through us, around us, reaching out for the Kingdom ... a message too for us about not only 'being available' but of 'letting God'. Our ICDF Prayer Watch on the field was followed by a Prayer Walk for our community.

Kaye Strauss

The day started in the morning at St Julian's Church with the reading of Psalm 19, "I Will Pray Your Word". This led into a free worship time with Karin Davis' album "The Lord Roars From Zion" which led into an amazing Holy Spirit led intercessory prayer time over the world map that was placed on the floor in the middle of the Church. The Holy Spirit's presence was almost tangible and amazing creative intercession was spoken out. This was followed with a quiet time at the different prayer stations, i.e. creative, scriptural, meditative and reflective.

At 4pm we went on a prayer walk around Shrewsbury Town Centre and then back for the united prayer ring around the world. For the walk we took my 2 golden wing flags with us, using the flags as we went with lots of smiles and conversations with people along the way, blessing everyone as we walked. We even had a young man asking to use the flags which I obliged and it was quite powerful when he used them! He thought we were joking when he asked what we were doing and after asking us a few times as to whether we were serious he became really respectful and reverent in his demeanor. We really felt that the Holy Spirit had touched him that day even though his friends called him away too quickly for us to ask him if he wanted to give his life to Jesus, however, we know that the Lord is so much bigger than we are and we are just His maidservants about His business. Hallelujah!!!



We walked back to St Julian's in time for 6pm and what an amazing time we had with the Lord in prayer and worship with thanksgiving for all that He has done for us. We used material over the world map, we put on worship dance dresses to honour Him as the Bride of Christ and ended the evening at 10pm (the time with the Lord was so amazing that we didn't realise the time!) with a beautiful prayer from the CD 'Prayers from the Desert' by Wesley Campbell and Psalm 128 "A Benediction of Blessing". How wonderful it is to be in His Presence that time just seems to stand still!!

We are so very privileged to be called sons and daughters of the Living God.

## ICDF Prayer Watch 2018 ... continued



### ICDF Canada

This year the dancers from ICDF Canada joined in prayer for Prayer Watch individually. However some time was spent in prayer as a group during a day of workshops with guests teachers Belma Vardy and Darlene West.

### Mary Jones

In church on the Sunday morning of the Prayer Watch/ Shavuot weekend, Mary Jones, two friends from the Israel Prayer Meeting and the Jewish husband of one of them, waved flags of fire, wind and anointing at the front and two sides of the church.

### Belinda Andrews

We did a drama enactment of the dry bones being called to life and prayer danced a music worship item pattern (If My People Called by My Name; choreography Mary Jones 2014 prayer watch). We also dance interceded to Spirit of the Living God in the church auditorium at St. Albans Baptist in Christchurch.



### Saartjie de Wet

During a gathering of dancers at Pentecost / Shavuot, I recalled a time when I was in Jerusalem in the Upper Room on Shavuot and the amazing experience of worshipping with other cultures and languages. I then introduced the theme of the Palestinian Christians who are lost in the strife between the Palestinians and the Jews through my dance. As a symbol of their presence I had a Middle Eastern headscarf that I bought in East Jerusalem that I took on the stage with me as I danced to El Shaddai. After the dance my prayer continued until I felt that God's purposes has been achieved, even though I myself did not quite know what they were.

## Heaven's Heartbeat



*Photo: Anna at the Ghana conference*

'Heaven's Heartbeat' are meetings held in London, UK at various times during the year. The meetings are led by Anna, the Movement in Prayer Network Coordinator, and are a safe place to grow in friendship with God through movement, prayer and worship; and to grow in the knowledge of self and identity in Christ. Each meeting aims to include Movement in Prayer.

Anna says, "A meeting was held in July where we explored Matthew 6:10, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We discussed what this Bible verse means to us and, specifically, what's happening in heaven that needs to be happening on earth too?"

I taught some simple movement to the words, 'Your Kingdom come...Your will be done'. We did these moves in unison when the words were sung on a track [Kingdom Come (Lift up Your Heads) [Live] feat. Rich Di Cas & Lydia Di Cas - David's Tent], a song recommended for personal times of worship, prayer and workshops. During the verse we moved spontaneously. We used a couple of lines from this Bible verse to move with our hearts in prayer asking God for His Kingdom to come in areas that Holy Spirit was bringing to our mind. I particularly enjoyed moving the scripture in unison; I believe unity carries a sweet aroma. I liken it to saying our prayers together or singing together during praise and worship."

# ICDF AND MOVEMENT IN PRAYER IN INDIA 2019

## Seminar Day

Mary Jones will be speaking on “Dancers and Prayer Journeys”, a paper that she has recently completed and from where the excerpt on page 3 of this newsletter was taken. This paper gives useful insights in to how she has planned various Prayer Journeys and also includes contributions from other individuals and groups.

## Workshops

**CaraMayan: Mary Jones**

CaraMayan is a way of moving out the scriptures which exercises and encourages body, soul and spirit. It is based on dance technique and worship movement. The meditations are done standing, except for the floor exercise DVD, and are designed to be helpful as a regular practice that can be done at home or in class. We will be learning a meditation on the theme of “Joy”, which takes scriptures on joy from both old and new testaments.

**Prayer Watch: Saartjie de Wet**

For delegates considering whether to join the Prayer Watch for India programme described below, this workshop will provide a taster of what to expect.

<http://www.conference.icdf.com/>

## Prayer Watch for India

A Community Programme is planned for the last two days of the Dance and Culture Study Tour. One of the options will be to participate in a Prayer Watch that will involve praying on location in Kanyakumari and surrounding areas. Here are some of the possibilities that we are considering to include.



The Ghandi Memorial has an interesting architecture and embraces three religions, namely a Christian Church, a Hindu Temple and a Muslim Mosque



A church situated on the harbour



A Prayer Garden at one of the churches in Kanyakumari



The Tsunami Memorial that commemorates the devastating tsunami that caused major damage and loss of lives in December 2004