



ICDF Newsflash

Special Edition

RANDALL BANE (1941 – 2021)

By Mary Jones OAM, ICDF Founder, with memories from David Haddy (NZ/Australia), Valerie Henry (USA) and Andy Raine (Britain)



Randall Bane, aged 80, died unexpectedly on July 16, 2021, in Medina, upper New York State where he lived.

David Haddy who helped found CDF New Zealand and now lives in Perth, Western Australia, was mentored by Randall and served alongside him over several years. He writes: “Randall celebrated his 80th birthday in June. Some of his friends and I celebrated with him on site at his home in Medina, upstate NY and via zoom for about two hours. Seeing him happy, conversant and sharing the vision, including plans for a Fall Feast, and celebrating outside with dance, flags and timbrel, was both encouraging and highly reflective. Randall was touched deeply by the many notes/ cards received.”

After about a decade as a professional actor in New York, Bane became a Christian at age 33 and started to use his acting skills as a Christian ministry. For 40 years he travelled USA and many other countries performing and teaching in churches, conferences, festivals and TV. At first he developed the character Obie the love clown and then he started interpreting Christian songs, particularly those by Ken Medema which told stories from the Bible.

Andy Raine, a long-time dance leader from Britain who was at the 1991 conference, writes: “I have seen Randall’s signature interpretations of Ken Medema’s wonderful story-songs as character pieces, and his part in lots of celebration and pageantry, but what most impressed me was the solo he danced to the instrumental ‘Belsen’, alone onstage, constricted in a tiny space and tearing against a thick rope fast around him. It was one of the most powerfully intense things I’ve ever seen, and I realised we rarely saw the depths he was capable of pulling out from inside him as a dancer. When I think of our need to find the language of lament it is that visceral experience that often returns to me.”



Randall as Obie the clown



Ken Medema’s Moses arguing with God

Bane joined up with dancer Valerie Henry and they would often minister together. In 1984 he was invited to form a team of dancers to dance at the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. Valerie Henry came as the choreographer and Randall was director. They worked together at the Feast for 12 years and also coordinated the Feast Dance Company tours to different countries for the ICEJ. That was the springboard for producing independent, choreographed productions of Handel's Messiah and other worship events.

Valerie writes:

"Randall Bane recently celebrated his 80th birthday in June and my husband Bob, and I sent him heartfelt greetings! I am so saddened and shocked to hear of his passing! We thought he would live into his 90's because he was so physically fit from dancing, and always looked younger than his years!



Randall Bane and Valerie Henry

Randall Bane and I met at a CBN Summer Music Seminar, in Va. Beach, Va. USA, where he was leading the movement class. He was still performing as Obie Good the clown character he had developed. Randall was very welcoming, and in his class we learned his prayer warm-up, practiced 'break out' movement exercises, and moved in worship improvisation. During the improvisation time, he stopped the class to compliment me and said, "I wish I could dance like that". Neither he nor anyone in the class knew just how much I needed that encouragement. I had been experiencing closed doors as a rededicated Christian with professional dance training. I knew I was called to a dance ministry but because of non-dance church traditions, I had not found how to serve in my gifting.

The next day, Randall asked me to try partnering with him. I declined, but he encouraged me to "just try" some moves with him. When I agreed, what a joy it was getting to know him, work on choreography, and practice our first duet together. From the beginning, we tried to reflect what dancing as brother and sister in Christ would look like.

At the end of the seminar week, we shared our duet and our audience response was positive. We worked together the following year at CBN and he later met my husband Bob, who is classical guitarist and wonderful artist. The three of us eventually toured throughout the Eastern United States, Philippines, and Toronto, Canada.

In 1984 Randall invited me to be his choreographer for the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel and for the next 12 years we coordinated the international dance company and produced eight nights of performance ministry for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

In our ministry together I witnessed Randall's amazing creativity, how he affirmed others in their gifts and talents, and how he could consistently draw out the very best in others. He was a master at blending various levels of movement proficiency, and often converged dance with gesture and dramatic expression. I found that Randall's approach to movement ministry was a help to me personally, as I was a more introverted performer. I assisted him as he designed beautiful pieces for groups with stationary movements and gestures. His choreographic work reminded me of Rudolph Laban's work with Movement Choirs. Randall's Ken Medema solos still minister to me, and cut straight to the heart. His dramatic excellence with his calling in worship, help bring the characters he portrays alive! Whenever I see a flag being used in praise and worship, I think of him.

I cannot express how valuable Randall's mentoring and his "hit the dust running" training for me was. When I told him once that I felt like giving up he said, "Just take one more step"... So I did, and here I am, still dancing, teaching, and choreographing. God used him in my life to make a way for my dance ministry, when there seemed to be no way and to broaden my vision of what dance ministry could be. I am looking forward to dancing with him again in the new heaven and the new earth. I don't know if he will need a choreographer then, but if he does I'll be glad to sign up!

Dear Heavenly Father,

I thank you for your work through Randall's life, and all he gave to me and so many! Help us all to keep going in the work you are calling us to, and when we want to give up, give us your strength, as Randall said to take "one more step" in you, and keep us walking and dancing by the power of your Holy Spirit!

Soli Deo Gloria!

In Jesus name."



Leading the ICEJ Feast participants in the Jerusalem Suktot March with Valerie Henry



With Judith and Geoffrey Stevenson at a CDF Britain conference

I first met Randall in Australia when he came to minister in 1985. He asked me to dance in the Tabernacle dance team at the Feast of Tabernacles which I was able to do the following year and in 1988.

He was invited to be one of the teachers at the CDFA International Conference held at Bathurst in 1988 and took a leadership role in the meeting we called to see if the international participants and teachers would be interested in starting an international Christian Dance Fellowship. He was later instrumental in helping to instigate and advise the Christian Dance Fellowships in Britain and the USA.

I can remember his patient listening while we were driving to one of his ministry engagements in the United States and I was reading out the proposed constitution of ICDF for his comments and advice.

Randall was also a helpful advisor in the process of organising our first ICDF conference held in Jerusalem in 1991.

*You can find videos of the Feast of Tabernacles and other events on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UU8aYiR-96G0sk-FCA3D4Nnw>*

In 1996 he opened David's House in Kansas City Missouri where he celebrated the Biblical Feasts and made the house his base for ministry. After he moved to Medina in upper state New York in his later years he again used his home and a chapel he built as a base for David's House Ministry.

David and Juliette Haddy were founding members of the Leadership Team at David's House, working with Randall, and Dean and Helena Thomas for about three years. David writes: "Randall means many things to us; he was able to both draw people together and at times polarise us. Yet, his passion for sharing the GOD-Story while utilizing the multiple gifts GOD had richly knitted into him, drew us to such heights in worship and ministry! Randall was my mentor and friend. I still recall the anxiety felt when Rosalyn Smail (founding Coordinator of CDFNZ), said with a grin on her face, that I'd be rooming with Randall at the YMCA in Jerusalem, during the inaugural ICDF (International Christian Dance Fellowship) Conference in 1991...to me, he was a giant in the world of Christian Arts! Yet, we found a kinship in ministry style and focus and physical drive-we almost had to fight for the shower in the morning because we both rose early and retired very late! Haha. Our passion for delivering the wealth and benefit of fully expressed worship acted as a hinge, connecting us and thereby into the fabric of GOD'S plans that would later unfold.... This bond was shared with many people around the globe. I will indeed miss him."



Randall was instrumental in shaping individual lives, ministries and churches. This mightily impacted the development of The Expressive Arts in The Kingdom on a global scale. The talents he brought to GOD'S people were rich and diverse. He gave sacrificially for this purpose, for the huge contingent of developing artists and those who enjoyed expressing themselves fully before GOD.

We give thanks indeed for all that he gave to us. We remember him as a leading pioneer amongst pioneers, who forged the way for many of us when there was seemingly no way. We can honour his legacy and serve GOD by, taking 'just one more step'. He will be missed dearly.

"Father in Heaven, thank you for gifting our brother, Randall Bane also known as John David, to us. Thank you for the years of service he gave to You and we who remember him. We know he is in Your eternal presence, worshipping You with a heart filled with love for You and fully as You always intended him to! Hallelujah!"



*Psalm 29:2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness*

Gallery

The first ICDF Conference in Jerusalem in 1991

The pictures below show the service held in Christ Church with many of their congregation present.



More photos taken at the YMCA where the conference was held.

