



ICDF Networks

July 2018

Creative Arts and Social Concern



Photo: Spirit of Fire - choreography by Lisa Wilson and directed by Dr Lynnette Overby. See page 4

The ICDF Network for Creative Arts & Social Concern aims to connect Christian creative artists reflecting on and engaging with the concept of being and doing church in new ways:

... individuals and groups involved with diverse urban or ex-urban creative mission, being discipled by Jesus, discipling others, and demonstrating God's love that overflows every human barrier;

... being friends of Jesus, being his loving works and workers of art, being and seeing the Good News proclaimed imaginatively to ALL, including the marginalised, disenfranchised, and otherwise privilege-denied!

We look forward to hearing your stories and experiences of "being and doing" church in new ways. Please send these to

To find out more about the Network <http://www.icdf.com/en/networks/creative-arts-social-concern>

To visit the Blogs <https://icdfnetworks.wordpress.com/category/creative-arts-social-concern/>

To connect ... LucyJ@bigpond.com

One of the things that many Supporters appreciate about ICDF is that it is a ministry that has longevity! Another is that friendships made amongst us often last a long time, too. People connect. They might not see each other in person very often (perhaps they may only have met once or twice), but the bond is strong and deep in the Lord's love and creative service. It is always a joy to hear news about how people's ministries develop over time. Below is one such example. For security reasons, full names and exact locations are withheld in the following story.

Transforming Communities

Clair, a dance therapist from the USA, connected in with ICDF in South-East Asia in the early 2000s when she was doing her internship with a ministry in Bali, Indonesia. In December 2004, she travelled to Fiji to join the ICDF team at CDF Fiji's Charter conference and ran some classes in classical ballet for which the locals were very enthusiastic. Not long after, she married an Australian who is passionate about surfing (Christian Surfers ministry). They ended up moving to South-East Asia, living and working as missionaries amongst communities, bringing Good News along with practical skills for hope and health to those who need it most. Who would have thought that a Surfer and a Dancer could make such an effective team for ministry and mission?! They now have two young children following in their footsteps.

Clair and her husband continue in their passion for empowering leaders to transform communities among unreached people groups, bringing surfers together for a time of learning God's Word as well as developing skills for surfing. Early on, Clair used her Dance Therapy skills to develop programs for disabled children in communities where, due to cultural practices, they were largely shunned and marginalised. She took a break from doing that when they moved to another island location. She writes in one of their supporter newsletters last year (2017):

"God has reminded me of my calling to use the arts to share the Gospel. He has also been faithful in continuing to put women in my life I can mentor and pour into. I continued to mentor a few of the women who work with us ... I am trying to finish the vision-casting group I am doing with [believers] here ... I have also started a new women's prayer group that meets once a month to intercede for unreached people groups ... I continue to home-school the kids and also teach ballet at [a school]. Lately, I have been reminded how much I miss Dance Therapy. I am hoping I can work with kids with disabilities again."

This year, their 2018 newsletter testifies to the faithfulness and passion with which they serve:

"Living in a small city with very few Westerners, it seems like everyone knows who we are, yet the sad reality for us is that very few know who Jesus is. This is what drives us to enter into their lives to be salt and light, whether it's judging at a Pro Surf Competition, serving at a clinic for special needs children, or having meals in our neighbour's homes. [Someone] once said... that when working in Islamic contexts, 'before you can even plant seeds of faith, you have to remove the rocks' and often that's how it feels for us when we share with our local friends."

Let's keep Clair, her husband and young family and their missionary work in our prayers! If you would like to know more about it and how you may support them, contact Lucy Jarasius ... LucyJ@bigpond.com She will put you in touch with Rod and Sharon West (well-known Christian Dance Fellowship leaders and ministers in Australia) who, for many years, have been on the Board that supports Clair and her husband's mission life in South-East Asia.

Lucy Jarasius

Somebody's daughter

Steven Turner, a dancer from Britain, was recently involved in a collaboration piece on human trafficking. He writes

The Facts

Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity.

- Worldwide more than 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked over borders (or moved within their own country) every year
- 87% of trafficked victims are sexually exploited
- Human trafficking is a worldwide criminal activity with annual profits estimated to be \$36 Billion

In the UK.

- Over 1200 women are trafficked from Lithuania annually, mostly to the UK
- More than 5000 children are being forced to work as sex slaves in the UK
- Girls trafficked to the UK for prostitution are, in some cases, forced to see up to 30 to 40 clients a day

In January we toured in the east of England and saw God's favour as some of the dancers were invited to an event at the House of Lords for the releasing by the UK Government of their "2018 Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Report". The responses from those who saw the show were amazing. It was not an easy watch and many found the experience provoking, moving and even shocking. However, God also brought emotional healing as dancers were able to pray with members of the audience after the show. This even included a rape victim who experienced the restoring love of God.

One of the audience, Joan Tully, responded in poetry...

OPEN OUR EYES...

We're all totally protected,
From the world we're disconnected
'Cause its evil we've rejected
So its problems we've neglected;

But we need to now engage,
To have a righteous rant and rage
And help to open up the cage
That keeps its victims from their wage.

So, Lord, open up our eyes
And turn us into holy spies
Because we totally despise
All the deceit and barefaced lies;

And give us Your pure passion
For the lost and their poor ration
As they wrestle greed and fashion
Serving those with no compassion.

And, Lord, help us use our brains
'Till every single victim gains
As we go out and break the chains
So that Your Kingdom on earth reigns.

Steven Turner



Photos: *Somebody's Daughter* (Provided by Steven Turner, photographer Duncan Grisby)

Same Story, Different Countries

Building bridges for dance through arts-based research by Lisa Wilson & Ann-Thomas Moffett

This academic paper brings to us research by one of our ICDF academics, Lisa Wilson, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Dance at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, in collaboration with Ann-Thomas Moffett, a Dance Program Director in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Washington College In Chestertown, Maryland, USA. In academic language, this paper is described as: "A peer-reviewed article which presents arts-based research (ABR) as a useful resource for creating fluid and dialogic spaces between multiple domains of dance knowledge and practices." We thank the researchers for their permission to publish their paper on our website and to read more about the project, please go to the following page and follow the link to **Academic Publications** ...

<http://www.icdf.com/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/>

Here you will find, too, their conclusion for the implications of this research for the learning and development of students in postsecondary dance education. Should this be focussed on nurturing the artistic and aesthetic alone or can the artistic focus be shared with a focus also on social justice? Can dance be the vehicle for the building of bridges in communities where for now there are walls?



Photo: *Spirit of Fire* - choreography by Lisa Wilson

Extract from the Paper: Building Bridges

This study was a collaboration between professional choreographers, researchers, educators, visual artists, musicians, poets, and postsecondary dance students in the United States and South Africa over a period of eighteen months. It was a research initiative by an African American dance professor and her South African musician colleague, from the same American university. The overall goal of the project was to interrogate, illuminate and challenge the social presence of racial oppression, resistance and liberation in South Africa and the United States through an artistic lens, and to disseminate the research in a multi-disciplinary performance that could reach audiences beyond the elite academy.

The project emerged during a racially charged period in both USA and South Africa that saw mass campaigns under the banners of #Blacklivesmatter, #Rhodesmustfall and #Feesmustfall that highlighted the violence of racism on Black lives in both countries respectively. In some instances, universities were at the center of these protest actions as student activists staged mass demonstrations on campus collectively demanding a more equitable society and tertiary learning environment void of Eurocentric hegemony and racist symbols (Fairbanks 2015; Hartocollis and Bidgood 2015; Sosibo 2015; Longari 2016). These events underscore the significance of the project as well as the broader questions and discussions around social justice and dance teaching and learning in postsecondary dance.

ICDF AND SOCIAL CONCERN IN INDIA 2019

SHOUT - Social Concern: speaking for the voiceless

The ICDF Network for Creative Arts and Social Concern will be featured as an Elective at the ICDF Dance & Culture Study Tour in India next year, May 2019.

SHOUT is the theme:

- Surely dancers can
- Help the church
- On its mission
- Uniquely equipped bearers of “Jesus’ gifts”
- To a world needing hope and transformation!



Photo: Lucy Jarasius

This Elective will be presented by Lucy Jarasius whose husband Andrew Park coordinates the Creative Arts & Social Concern Network. Lucy says ... “We are purposed to prevail, to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, and to herald the year of the Lord’s favour!”

Through the Ascension giftings, we have the ability to step out in faith, turn injustice around, and bring light into dark places. The voiceless are given a voice... and with shouts of joy, participate in the reign of God, free to flourish in life as originally designed! (Isaiah 58:6-9 and Isaiah 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19 & Ephesians 4:9-15).”

Lucy combines her years of work alongside the Australian Aboriginal community and fresh insights from trips to the Middle East to create performance pieces (often using original poetry). Through this she champions peace-building and the empowerment of women and the role of the arts in equipping “the Church” through the Ascension gifting for modelling and mediating Christ’s love and reign for personal and community transformation.

SHOUT is her call to dancers to be that “Voice for the Voiceless” ... a theme picked up in this Newsletter through the testimonies of dancers doing just that. A place where the Creative Arts & Social Concern meet to make a difference for the Kingdom of God, to challenge people’s perceptions and to bring change into people’s lives.



Photo: Carissa Caricato

Time for a Joyful Movement!

We are excited to be welcoming the Hoola for Happiness Team to our ICDF Dance & Culture Study Tour in India next year. Their Founder and Director, Carissa Caricato, will be teaching a Morning Stream Elective entitled: Time for Joyful Movement!

Hoola for Happiness is an international non-profit organisation that uses hoola hoops to spread joy. Read about their job creation programme of making hoops on the following page.

More details about the Morning Electives can be found on the Dance & Culture Study Tour website at ... <http://www.conference.icdf.com/teachers/morning-electives/>

Hoola for Happiness: bringing joy one hoop at a time

How do they do this?

They make hoops to send all over the world to communities most in need of joy and freedom. Their love for hoola hooping and their love for bringing the immense love of God into the lives of hurting people inspire their ministry to reach out and to spread joy.

"The hoop may seem like just a silly child's toy, but it is an incredibly powerful "joy magnet" for transcending language barriers, introducing joy where hope has been lost, creating pockets of light in darkness, and releasing freedom for bodies and souls". Carissa Caricato.

From the Scriptures ... The young women will dance for joy, and the men—old and young—will join in the celebration. "I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing." (Jeremiah 31:13 NLT)

Who makes the hoops?

Hoops are made by Hoop Making Teams in the USA and beyond and since 2010 have made their way to 78 countries around the world. As of February 2018, 7,400 hoops have been donated by Hoola for Happiness 'Joy Spreaders'.

On their website page you will read that Hoola for Happiness hoops have been used :

- in therapeutic dance programs for girls rescued from sex trafficking in India
- by clown ministries in cancer hospitals, drug zones, mental illness facilities and retirement centers in Brazil
- as movement meditation for kids and adults struggling with life challenges in Czech Republic
- as a graceful, joyful and childlike tool for releasing worship dance
- to bring refugees and allies together in unity and peace
- for exercise, fitness and fun in orphanages, schools, parks, businesses and inner city youth programs
- to share stories of overcoming addiction with teens in America
- taken by mission trip teams all over the world to simply spread joy and God's love through play and laughter

Social Concern as part of our ICDF Dance & Culture Study Tour

What's really good is that one of the Hoola for Happiness Hoop Making teams is based in India. Already this team is making hoops for us so not only will we be joining in the fun of hooping for ourselves and as we reach out to others through Hoop Jams, but by receiving these hoops we are part of a bigger vision to 'make a difference' in the lives and communities of those who are a part of these hoop making projects.

What is a Hoop Jam?



Carissa provides the answer ... "A Hoop Jam is a giant dance party for the purpose of drawing all people into the Joy and Freedom of God through hoop dance and flow arts" and for the Dance & Culture Study Tour adds, " We can expect fun with upbeat music while dancing, exercising, flowing, learning new tricks with Hoops and other props, and making new connections- all while inviting any new people passing by into the joy madness."

Those of you who were with us in Ghana will remember taking Flash Mobs into the city. Hoop Jams are a similar idea! Both with the same intention - to reach out and to make a difference for the Kingdom. The Hoop Jams will be inclusive, safe, JOY-full spaces where everyone is invited to be childlike and free to explore new movement!"

To find out more about the ministry of Hoola for Happiness, please go to the Hoola for Happiness website at <https://www.hoolaforhappiness.org>.