



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN
DANCE FELLOWSHIP

MAGAZINE

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ICDF COUNTRIES



The Future of ICDF Countries

AN ICDF EXCLUSIVE

FEATURING
8 ICDF COUNTRIES
PLUS
THE ICDF
FOUNDATION



Joint Coordinators' Note

Our Dance Year 2023 ends with this Fourth Edition of the International Christian Dance Fellowship Magazine! In this issue, we get to read about stories and events that took place from the Southern Hemisphere ICDF countries namely India, Australia, Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia and Aotearoa New Zealand. We also have exciting news from Suriname with a new Country Representative who has put her hand up for the task of Coordinating dance events in that country.

Our ICDF Foundation, formed in 2009 by Mary Jones, plays an integral role in supporting the work of ICDF. Jenny Dennis who is the current Chair has outlined the projects which were run for the past 2 years. Since the Foundation is constantly looking for ideas to support ICDF, should you have any innovative and creative suggestions to offer, please contact Jenny Dennis or Rod West directly.

This Magazine edition is also a reflection of ICDF collectively reaching our goals of Connecting, Learning and Growing as individuals, groups and country fellowships. May we continue in our mission to be God's people impacting the world together with the life of Jesus, experiencing and expressing this in dance and movement, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

With much love and blessings
Liesl and Sue



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FEATURING OUR ICDF COUNTRIES & THE ICDF FOUNDATION

The ICDF is a community with the vision of making new connections and creating spaces for the diversity among the members and friends of the organisation.

Visit our Website for more information on all our countries and activities WWW.ICDF.COM

SURINAME

We promote the cooperation and unity between the various Christian dance/movement arts groups and individual dancers across the denominations, both national and international.

Noel Filemon
noelfilemon@yahoo.com



Noel Filemon

AUSTRALIA

We exist to connect, empower and resource people engaging in movement-based arts to participate in God's love, plans and purposes. Through prayer, conversations, activities and events, we aim to co-journey with participants in a context of respect, appreciation and celebration.

Lucy Jarasius
creactiv8@gmail.com



Lucy Jarasius

INDIA

ICDF India have a vision to meet the needs of the people on practical levels by distributing Bibles as well as supplements. They share Biblical stories and teachings through their dance and are active in Vacation Bible School programmes.

Albert Emmanuel
cdf.india1@gmail.com



Albert Emmanuel

JAPAN

To establish a pillar of hope in Japan and reach out to everybody in the country. The tool for ministry is the classical ballet company, ABC-Tokyo Ballet Company. This professional quality allows us to go to places where others can't easily perform.

Christian Martinu
abc.ballet@gmail.com



Christian Martinu

INDONESIA

ICDF Indonesia strives to bring back arts to the glory of God by building unity among the church dancers and dance ministries and by promoting excellency and creativity in church dance ministry.

Lina Lasup
linalasup@yahoo.com



Lina Lasup

SOUTH AFRICA

Through the art of movement and dance CDFSA seeks to encourage and teach this art expression for the purposes of the Lord by committing itself to evangelism, the expansion of the Christian Church and the teaching of Christ's love for mankind.

Melanie Erasmus
national@cdfsa.co.za

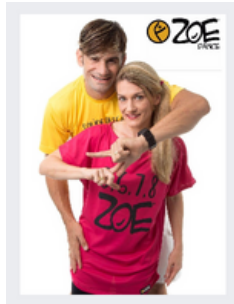


Melanie Erasmus

BRAZIL

We encourage and support both the professional and the amateur artist through resources, training, workshops, conferences, books, tapes, videos, newsletters, fellowship and prayer.

John & Carol Bassi
contato@praiseciadedanca.com.br



John & Carol Bassi

ICDF FOUNDATION

ICDF Foundation supports ICDF in its aim to serve the movement arts in ministry and mission in a visible, available and relevant way by:

- recognising excellence in Christian Dance/Movement ministry;
- raising money for scholarships/special projects;
- promoting Christian dance/movement internationally.

Jenny Dennis
<http://foundation.icdf.com>



Jenny Dennis

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

To have a national fellowship where the Lord's sovereignty is declared over this land through Holy Spirit led dance and movement. It is to be a place of genuine friendship while being equipped, connected and encouraged in the dance arts.

Belinda Andrews
cdfanz@gmail.com



Belinda Andrews



Name:
International Christian Dance Fellowship of Suriname
Representative: Noël Filemon
Start: 1998
Also known as: CDF Suriname

Vision

Our vision is to lift up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and proclaim the Gospel by means of the dance and movement arts. Dance is used as an expression of the Christian faith and to contribute to the building up of the Body of Christ. We promote the cooperation and unity between the various Christian dance/ movement arts groups and individual dancers across the denominations, both national and international, by providing a place where members from all branches of the Christian/Messianic faith may share their experience of dance and movement.

Scripture

"You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands." | **Isaiah 55:12**

SURINAME

Noël Filemon lives in Suriname, South America, and he is an ordained dance minister, a member of the Steering Committee of the International Christian Dance Fellowship and a graduate of the ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry. He is very passionate about the use of different artforms as a means of communication, to establish the kingdom of God within our communities, churches and the marketplace; encouraging people to take their rightful place in dance. Noël shares his story of perfectionism, people's approval and how spontaneous dance set him free!!

Struggling To Be The Best I Can

There was a time in my life as a dance minister when I wrestled with perfectionism. This was a very dark period in my life, and to be quite honest, I never really recognised it as perfectionism, but I would rather interpret it as "striving toward excellence". After all, isn't that what the Lord expects of me as a Christian dance artist? First and foremost He is a perfect God!

Focus on the imperfections

For me as a dancer, it was always important to be well prepared, before I went out to minister. Physically as well as spiritually, I had to be in top condition. Which is a good thing to do, I guess. I took time to put my choreography together, and it had to be pitch-perfect. I wouldn't miss my daily exercises for the world. I needed to be "excellent" in what I was doing, even though my body was giving signals that it was burning out. It was for the Lord, and it had to be flawless. No mistakes could be made. On the day of the solo performance in church when I made just a small mistake, or the dance was not executed, as I wanted, I felt frustrated and lonely. I wanted to hide and felt sad, empty, and even ashamed. Blaming myself and asking why things didn't go as well as I had planned and prepared. People were not aware of the mistakes I had made and even when they told me how blessed they were, I still had an unsatisfying feeling that it was not good enough.

When people tried to compliment me or tell me how blessed they were, I often thought to myself - if you only knew? If just one small thing went wrong according to my perception, everything was wrong. I was very disappointed in myself.

How can things go wrong when I've prepared myself for weeks? As a perfectionist, I was maximizing the negative and minimizing the positive.

The root of the problem

Looking back at my life, I always had the urge to prove myself. That was a way to compensate for my hurts or to camouflage them. I needed people to show me affection, to like me, to love me and look up to me. People's approval played a very important role in my life. The appreciation and the compliments of people around me became very crucial for me. Being bullied and not doing well in school, especially in primary school, were some hurts I needed to overcome. Of course, I was unaware of the fact that I was beating myself up. I came down very hard on myself, which led to a lot of negative self-talk.

Even when I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour, I still had the urge to prove myself to God. I needed to spend a certain amount of time in prayer with God. If one day I could not meet the requirements which I had imposed upon myself, I felt awful and guilty, because I had disappointed God once again. Back then, I was unaware of the yoke of legalism, which became a heavy burden.

I needed to both train and spend a few hours each day in prayer.

The result was frustration and disappointment over and over again. Because all my hard work did not yield the desired fruits.

Almost giving up

The whole situation brought a lot of fear and uncertainty in my life as a dance minister to the point that I gave up spontaneous dance for many years.

Although the Holy Spirit prompted me very often to start dancing spontaneously, I just couldn't. I did a solo performance once in a while in church and outside the church and that was it. However, I wanted to "Break Free" in dance. I believe that spontaneous dance is an excellent way to do that. No boundaries, no worries about technique, no worries about execution and no worries about imperfections. The desire was there, but the boldness and liberty I once had were all gone. I did not know where or how to start, and the thought even crossed my mind - will I be able to do it again? I became so self-conscious that I doubted myself. At the same time, the only thing that went through my mind was - Will I be able to execute the movements well? Will I be able to do the steps correctly? Perfectionism was still haunting me. There was a constant war going on in my spirit-man.

A dance of healing and restoration

In July 2014, I was in the U.S. for a conference and there I met the most lovely dance couple, Dean Slater and his wife Janyee Pleasant. They took me to their home church in Atlanta, Georgia. They minister beautifully as a couple, and it is amazing to see how they flow together in dance. That particular Sunday I sat at the back of the church, and although I wore my dance garment I didn't have the intention to dance. Dean and his wife were ministering with billows in front of the church, while I was sitting worshipping at the back. Someone came to tell me that Dean was calling for me. I thought to myself: Oooh no, no way will I go up front to dance. I felt trapped, and I had no other choice than to go with the flow.

While they were ministering with billows in front of the church, it was as if I stepped into a river. Suddenly after years, I danced spontaneously again. It was a dance of healing and a dance of restoration. Every time they moved with the billows over me, it was as if yokes were being broken. My struggles with perfection that I couldn't express through words, I could move out in dance. It was a life-changing moment.



Psalm 46:10
"Be still, and know that I am God!"

When I came back home, I started dancing spontaneously with that same liberty in my home church. The Lord knows our hearts, and He has His own unique way to meet us where we are.

Lessons learned

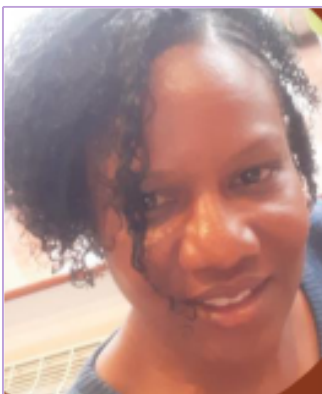
One of the most important things that I've learned is that I have to be focused on Jesus Christ, the finisher and author of our faith. I don't need to prove myself because He has already done it. There is nothing extra I need to do to please Him.

He loves me and accepts me for who I am. I was not even aware that some hurts from my past were an open door to strive toward perfectionism. I've learned to celebrate anything and everything positive that comes my way. We've got to learn to savour, for the glory of God, the good things God does in us and through us. Only God is perfect. The most important thing is to know Him in all our ways. Not by might, not by power, but by His Spirit. I will be honoured by every nation. I will be honoured throughout the world."

Let God be God.

Noël Filemon

Meet Merville Vrede



Merville Vrede, a dedicated artist with 20+ years of dance expertise in Jazz, Ballet as well as West African Dance, has raised her hand to take on the Coordination of Dance in Suriname. She is very excited and already has a vision of how she will implement her dance skills in ICDF Suriname. Her position will be confirmed early in 2024.

Merville is passionate about merging diverse art forms with dance, to encourage and strengthen others with God's Word. She is enthusiastic about acting and singing, and is committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle and societal well-being. Through impactful dance and community programs, she aims to inspire people of all ages to harness their talents for sustainable personal and societal growth.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree and Diploma in Exercise Therapy. She also has Postgraduate qualifications in Medical fitness, Pregnancy Fit, Baby Massage and Swaddling and Fitness for Special Populations with Medical Limitations.

Below is a summary of how Merville plans to use her talents and gifts as the dance Coordinator for ICDF Suriname.

- Assisting in bringing more spiritual depth to the dance ministry, ensuring equal and sufficient attention to praise and worship, evangelism, prophecy, healing, and encouragement.
- Strengthen dancers, dance schools, and all interested individuals in their faith by addressing biblical themes and current topics.
- Assisting in elevating the dance ministry to a more professional level in various dance techniques (ballet, jazz, modern, Surinamese dance styles, West African dance, etc.).
- Providing support in establishing new dance groups/schools where needed (incl. the interior and rural area of Suriname).
- Assisting in expanding the network among dancers both nationally and internationally.
- In order to achieve the above, activities will include: Summits, Conferences, Art Events, Social Projects, Dance Workshops etc.

Ps. 127:1 (NKJV) Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.



Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of India
 Representative: **Albert Emmanuel**
 Start: **1995**
 Re-established: **2015**

Vision / Calling

The International Christian Dance Fellowship of India embraces all denominations of the Christian faith as they conduct group discussions, workshops, and training of group leaders. ICDF India reaches out to people from all classes, all ages and all genders.



Scripture

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." | Jer. 17:7-8

INDIA

Albert Emmanuel led a workshop in Kerala. This was for Sunday school teachers and students. They loved ICDF India's Dance mission Work.



Reconnecting in India



Jaideep, Alison & Sylvia

Greetings to you all, ICDF

My husband, Jaideep and I are local missionaries and founded the New Song Community School in Rejarla, Telangana, India in 2004. Our mission is to serve the poor in the rural villages, through Education from kindergarten to 10th grade.

It was a divine connection that happened a few years back in 2019 when Jenny and Bruce Dennis from the ICDF Foundation visited our school. Through, their support and sponsorship, I came to Kanyakumari, India to attend a seminar of the International Christian Dance Fellowship as a local delegate. I had hoped to meet someone at the gathering to come and teach dance and arts to our students in our school.

It was there that I met Alison Bourke from Ireland. Amazingly, God connected Alison whose heart is for missions, to our ministry. Prayers were answered and desires fulfilled, Alison visited our school for a month in Nov 2019, the same year as the ICDF Seminar at Kanyakumari. She taught our students Dance, Music, and Art. Ms Alison's day would begin from 8.45 am through 4.00 pm without any break, from starting the morning assembly of students with a story and then rigorous classes with activities like dance, music and arts and crafts all the while developing the spoken English Language of the students.

Ms Alison returned this year in Jan 2023 again for a month-long volunteer work in our ministry. I should mention here that she was such a great blessing and gift to us.

Even though our student community has increased this year in terms of strength in each grade, Ms Alison taught all of them, for 8 long hours, 6 days a week for 4 long weeks. We were amazed at her strength and energy managing the entire schedule so well, that every student and teacher had something learnt to take home at the end of the day.



The highlight of Ms Alison’s work was the Jerusalem dance. A combined mass dancing of teachers and 7th, 8th 9th and 10 graders with Ms Alison in Sari, took the whole school by storm. Besides this, she has taught our students and teachers drawing, pipe cleaner crafts, popsicle stick crafts, cute paper sunglasses and kites, crochet, glass painting, portrait drawing, painting techniques, music and songs etc. Ms Alison also conducted a teacher enrichment workshop for our staff.

Ms Alison was so resourceful to our ministry and a great teacher to our students and staff. Giving her time and talents to being a true missionary with a mission and vision for HIS NAME.

ICDF conference was a blessing to our ministry in India when Mrs Jenny from Australia decided to connect me with Ms Alison from Ireland. Truly ICDF is connecting people across the globe.

Thank you ICDF, Alison, Jenny and Bruce as well as their daughter Nicole who came in 2010 as our 1st ICDF Dance trainer for our students.

Sylvia & Jaideep Namburi



New Song Community School, India

“The school is rocking with the Jerusalem dance and others. What a joy to be able to give children an experience of the creative arts that so many others take for granted. Days that are heavy with reading, writing and recitation become brighter and more balanced with Music, Dance and Art bringing joy and light to the school. We are all loving it so much! It’s a privilege to be able to support local missionaries (who are not immune to the growing persecution of Christians in the land) and this has been the outcome of the ICDF Gathering.”



Alison Bourke



Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of Indonesia
Representative: **Lina Lasup**
Start: **2004**



Vision / calling
ICDF Indonesia strives to bring back arts to the glory of God by building unity among the church dancers and dance ministries and by promoting excellency and creativity in church dance ministry.

Scripture
"You shall be like a tree firmly planted and tended by the streams of water, ready to bring forth its fruit in its season; its leaf shall not fade or wither; and everything you do shall prosper and come to maturity."
| Psalm 1:3

INDONESIA

Blessed to be a blessing

As an interdenominational dance community, ICDF Indonesia always promotes unity in its ministry and strives to be involved in non-religious groups when welcomed.

Among the latest of ICDF Indonesia's member's ministries was a dance piece to celebrate the 13th anniversary of a local church, namely Sungai Yordan church, and a dance performance at a wedding ceremony that took place at another local church, The Stream of Life church. Both local churches are in Jakarta.

Outside the church, we also took part in celebrating World Ballet Day with other dance groups and communities in/around Jakarta. The celebration was not tied to any religion but welcomed any dance groups and communities to join.

Lina Lasup





Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of Brazil

Representative: **John and Carol Bassi**

Start: **2014**

Website: www.praiseciadedanca.com.br

Vision / Calling

ICDF Brazil is an interdenominational fellowship that provides support and networking for people involved in Christian/Messianic dance and movement arts.

We encourage and support both the professional and the amateur artist through resources, training, workshops, conferences, books, tapes, videos, newsletters, fellowship and prayer.

ICDF Brazil is an emerging ICDF country.

Scripture

"Tu mudaste o meu choro em dança alegre, afastaste de mim a tristeza e me cercaste de alegria." Salmos 30:11

English translation:

"You have changed my cry to joyful dance, removed my sadness from me, and surrounded me with joy." Psalm 30:11

BRAZIL

A paz, sempre nos sentimos muito honrados em estar em aliança com todos vocês.

O Brasil tem vivido um grande avivamento através da dança Cristã. Temos realizado clipes para youtube e Instagram para evangelismo, Mega Flash Mob anualmente em diversos lugares importantes do Brasil, Workshops e Congressos Nacionais de Dança Cristã, cursos presencial e online par formação de ministros e líderes de dança, nossa Conferência Internacional que contamos com participação de diversos países e o lançamento do nosso novo livro chamado "A CONQUISTA DO MONTE DAS ARTES" que tem alcançado milhares de artistas do Brasil e ao redor do mundo. As redes de Televisão nacional tem mostrado também nossos projetos cristãos.

Eu, Bispo John Bassi, minha esposa Pastora Carol Bassi e nossos 3 filhos tem se dedicado ao ministério de dança a quase 25 anos no Brasil e em mais 10 países. Hoje somos 3.000 dançarinos em nossa igreja e mais igrejas aliançadas.

Outro projeto evangelístico é o ZOE DANCE GOSPEL que resgata a cultura de música, ritmos e dança brasileira. E tem sido uma ferramenta poderosa para novos convertidos.

Estamos em aliança e podem contar sempre com nossas orações.

Vamos mandar alguns links para vocês.

Reaching thousands of Artists in Brazil

(English Translation)

Peace,

We are honoured as always to be in alliance with all of you.

I, Bishop John Bassi, my wife Pastor Carol Bassi and our 3 children have been dedicated to the dance ministry for almost 25 years in Brazil and 10 other countries.

Today we have 3,000 dancers in our churches.

Brazil has experienced a great revival through Christian dance. We have made clips for YouTube and Instagram for evangelism, annual mega flash mobs in several important places in Brazil, workshops with the national congresses of Christian dance, face-to-face and online courses for training ministers and dance leaders. Our international conference had participants from several countries.

"A CONQUISTA DO MONTE DAS ARTES" is our new book and has reached thousands of artists in Brazil and around the world.

The national television networks have also shown our Christian projects. Another evangelistic project is the ZOE DANCE GOSPEL, which rescues the culture of Brazilian music, rhythms and dance. It has been a powerful tool for new converts.

We are in alliance and you can always count on our prayers.

See the links to our activities.

https://youtu.be/HnxwaeA__1Y - FLASH MOB MARCHA PARA JESUS 2023
FLASH MOB MARCH FOR JESUS 2023

<https://youtu.be/6vqdb0opIYE> - CONVITE DA NOSSA CONFERÊNCIA INTERNACIONAL INVITATION TO OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

<https://youtu.be/06xNujl84lw> - HISTÓRICO DE FLASH MOB INVITATION TO OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

<https://youtu.be/aUDFA7s4dVE> - ESPETÁCULO MONÓLOGO COM PASTORA CAROL BASSI MONOLOGUE SHOW WITH SHEPHERD CAROL BASSI

<https://youtu.be/aQ3Fi78jJSM> - ZOE DANCE NA MÍDIA NACIONAL ZOE DANCE IN THE NATIONAL MEDIA

<https://youtu.be/aFXK9TfkrCs> - ENTREVISTA RÁDIOS BRASIL INTERVIEW RADIOS BRASIL

www.praiseciadedanca.com.br
www.zoedance.com.br
@praiseciadedanca
@zoedancegospel @johnbassioficial
@carolbassioficial

WhatsApp: +55 11 9.4039.8336

Bispo John Bassi
Pastora Carol Bassi

CDF BRASIL



Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of Aotearoa New Zealand
 Representative: **Belinda Andrews**
 Start: **1988**
 Re-established: **2016**
 Also known as: CDF Aotearoa New Zealand

Vision / Calling
 To the Glory of God. The vision of ICDF Aotearoa New Zealand is for Christian performing artists in Aotearoa New Zealand to have a national fellowship where the Lord's sovereignty is declared over this land through Holy Spirit led dance and movement. It is to be a place of genuine friendship while being equipped, connected and encouraged in the dance arts. To network with other Christian performing artists and to represent and support Christian performing artists both nationally; and globally and to promote the mission and vision of ICDF in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Founding scripture
 "Then will the lame leap like a deer and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs." | Isaiah 35:6-7a

AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

CaraMayan Aotearoa New Zealand Tour: 2 March – 1 April 2023

The main focus for us nationally this year was a ten city CaraMayan Christian fitness Aotearoa New Zealand tour. As we arrived in each city, we did some worship warfare and took communion at a high place over the town. We then had a CaraMayan workshop the following day. In the morning, we learned all about CaraMayan and participated in learning the movement meditations. Mary Jones (CaraMayan founder and director) taught us with assistance from her daughter Claire Jones. In the afternoon we went outside and did an activation (even in the rain in some locations!) and then learned about how to become certified to teach CaraMayan.



CaraMayan outdoor activation in Balclutha; 11 March 2023.

Some feedback from the workshops:

- *What a joy to spend a day in the presence of the Lord – worshipping, in dance and music with others. So powerful and peaceful – Christchurch participant*
- *Outside in the rain: Tranquil, deeply restful, connected to the earth, the land, the elements and people; felt the stillness of the trees, their cover overhead, with the gentle rhythmic kiss of rain. I felt a meditative rest in a way I hadn't before in dance – a more gentle movement with ease. There was nothing to do but breathe, move, and connect in worship. It was beautiful. Thank you – Auckland participant.*

Link to CaraMayan Aotearoa New Zealand Tour promo: <https://youtu.be/8RPJFgJUBdo>

Link to CaraMayan Aotearoa New Zealand Tour overview: <https://youtu.be/-d2G0L2UWdc>



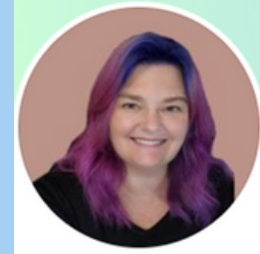
Mary Jones worships on a hill



Claire & Mary Jones warm-up



Prophetic Art by Emily – Neurodivergent worshipper



Staci McLean

Kingdom Keys for Neurodiverse Creatives

It is estimated that around 20% of people are neurodivergent.

ICDF ANZ presented a live webinar with Staci McLean on Neurodiversity on 22 July 2023. Staci is the Founder and Director of The Neurocollective NZ, an organisation focused on creating spaces where we ALL belong through advocacy, education and support regarding neurodiversity and inclusion.

Staci is an Author, Speaker and Christian Life Coach and is passionate about making worship and church accessible and inclusive to all people.

Topics covered in the webinar were:

- Practical and helpful information including clarifying terminology
- Keys to unlocking Kingdom potential in neurodivergent creatives
- How to encourage and support neurodivergent individuals and families
- Fostering neurodivergent inclusion in worship and spiritual pursuits
- How to embrace neurodiversity as a gift, not disability.

Those who took part in the live Zoom event certainly learned a lot and feedback from Staci was that she had a great time chatting with people who were keen to learn about neurodivergence and how to be more inclusive.

ANNOUNCING THE ICDF 2025 CONFERENCE THEME “RIVER OF LIFE”

“WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS EVERYTHING WILL LIVE.”
EZEKIEL 47:9

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa
Haere mai, haere mai, haere mai ki Otautahi Aotearoa
Greetings to people of all languages throughout the world
Welcome, welcome, welcome to Christchurch, New Zealand
Haere mai ki te hui 2025 o te International Christian Dance Fellowship.
Welcome to the 2025 gathering of the International Christian Dance Fellowship

AOTEAROA

(Pronounced Aye-Oh, Tea-Ah, Row-A the indigenous Maori name for New Zealand meaning: Land of the Long White Cloud)

Watch out in the coming months for information about the next ICDF Conference in Aotearoa New Zealand 2025

We thank God for all the wonderful opportunities we have had to worship Him in spirit and in truth this year, both in Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world.

Belinda Andrews



Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of Australia

Representative: Lucy Jarasius

Start: 1978

Purpose

We exist to connect, empower and resource people engaging in movement-based arts to participate in God's love, plans and purposes.

Founding scripture

"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy." Luke 6:23

Season scripture

Isaiah 43:18-19 The Passion Translation (TPT)

"Stop dwelling on the past.

Don't even remember these former things.

I am doing something brand new, something unheard of.

Even now it sprouts and grows and matures.

Don't you perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness

and open up flowing streams in the desert."

A new era of exploration has begun!

We have moved into fresh ways of being visible, available and

relevant in this nation-of-many-nations called Australia!

We are prayerfully seeking people to participate in this New

Thing!

AUSTRALIA

The New Thing

Hindsight is perfect vision, as the saying goes! It's good to look back over the year and give thanks for the Lord's provision and faithfulness through the positive developments and also amidst the challenges. The Lord knows we certainly experience plenty of the latter, but truly ICDF Australia-TNT can report that in our weakness God's strength has been manifest! Through the power of prayer and the "faith of the facilitation few", we have some good news to share with our wider ICDF community of dance-arts enthusiasts.

October 2023 marked the 6th Anniversary of the beginnings of the TNT (The New Thing; activate the arts to create and heal) vision in Western Sydney back in 2017. It's been a long, slow, but significant work over the years (including half that time navigating the global Covid pandemic and its consequences, both positive and negative), until now when we can report that a small team has "found its feet" bearing Good News on the mountain-top Garden City of Toowoomba, Queensland.

September saw the launch of a national Aboriginal ministry called Prophetic Voices of the Land (PVOTL). The Toowoomba co-founder of that ministry is a personal friend of mine, and whose local planning team I supported in prayer and minor admin tasks for the preceding 18 months. Hence the ICDFAus-TNT Toowoomba Team was invited to present an item at the Sunday night finale celebration service of the conference (which attracted over 300 delegates from all around the nation and Oceania, including Fiji, Aotearoa New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and other island nations). I was also asked to coordinate the multicultural items by various delegates for that evening.... it was truly a "herding cats" kind of experience since the visitors did not know me or anything about ICDF!!!

After several weeks of intense spiritual warfare, dancers I had lined up pulling out, battling a virus and recovering from a serious (and rather spectacular) fall damaging my right shoulder/tendon and tendon sheath), four of us miraculously made it on the night (which coincided with Yom Kippur!). Many of you know of David Stanfield and his international ministry with silk banners. He lives in Toowoomba but could not participate in the event. However, he graciously lent me four of his giant banners... New Life/birth, Fire, Water, and Anointing Oil. Along with a few of my own lengths of fabric, we used them in our very simple prophetic worship presentation to the track "Walls' by Creative Fellowship X. As yet, the video footage has not yet been released but here is the YouTube link to the music track: <https://youtu.be/lmqJGaxzobo>

All three were untrained dancers, and two of them only had one rehearsal the afternoon before! It was a total faith and obedience scenario... Glory to God, the feedback we got was astonishingly positive by the PVOTL founders and many attendees who were deeply moved by the simple presentation and palpable presence of God.

Since the event I have heard reports of people hearing the call "to dance", even though they are not trained, and are now looking for ways to do so... a need that I trust ICDFAus-TNT will be able to meet.



Moving into 2024, we are excited to announce the planning of a national gathering mid-year! This low-key but significant event, the first "confluence" since the old CDFA's last one in 2010, will be facilitated using the KISS formula (Keep It Simple, Saints)! We crave your prayers as the small team rises to the challenge! Already we feel encouraged that some people in Queensland and other states of Australia have said that they are likely to attend! Also, serious prayer would be appreciated for a person to hear and respond to the call to co-work with Elisabeth Davis, who can then move into role-sharing as ICDF Country Contact, with a view to Australia working towards resuming voting status as an ICDF country in the ICDF community. This will release me from my work as Interim Country Contact to focus more on team-building and helping to spark groups similar to Toowoomba in other regions of Australia and also to devote more time to my ICDF Steering Committee responsibilities, particularly on Document Review and networking with other ministries.

We feel that the national gathering will be a great step in enthusing Aussies to attend the 2025 ICDF Conference in Christchurch, hosted by ICDFANZ, our nearest ICDF neighbour across "ditch", as we affectionately call the Tasman Sea!

Such activities and collaborative arts (hosted by dancers/movers) can contribute to the Kingdom with transformational purpose in the wider community. I am sensing it's a way to bring mercy and healing to our nation and beyond through the expression of faith and arty-acts! Here in Australia (and in fact, the whole Pacific/Oceania region of ICDF activity), we are in a time of emergence and re-emergence.

Isaiah 43:18-19 is a Scripture passage that has come to several people around the world over recent years... also to people outside the fold of ICDF...A New Thing is indeed continuing to emerge through the ICDF ministry in Australia...

Isaiah 43:18-19

The Passion Translation (TPT)

"Stop dwelling on the past. Don't even remember these former things. I am doing something brand new, something unheard of. Even now, it sprouts and grows and matures. Don't you perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and open up flowing streams in the desert."

We're still perceiving the shape of things to come. We're witnessing the flow of living waters, rivers in the wastelands, and you can take part in that kind of thing wherever you are...We're discovering new ways of doing things.

We're going to continue some dialogue with the ICDF Foundation and the ICDF Diploma with a view to piloting some projects that will serve the wider ICDF community in ways that can be contextualised and applied by any other ICDF country that might be interested in doing so. Another "watch this space" phenomenon! We trust that such sowings will sprout and grow, bearing good fruit in season, for the nourishment and flourishing of all!

Lucy Jarasius



Lisa, Leah, Linda & Lana

From Uluru, the Heartland of Australia

Recently, a team of four dancers, Mary Jones, Kay Quisenberry, Linda Keen and myself, went to Uluru to pray for our nation. It was like a Camino walk, a spiritual walk not for weeks, but for three days, to participate in the National Sorry Day (26 May), Reconciliation Day (27 May) and the International Christian Dance Global Watch (28 May on Pentecost Sunday). This was both demanding and invigorating.

It was an immersive weekend that involved prayer and worship, dance and intercession and research and learning. We prayed for forgiveness for ourselves and our churches, reconciliation with our First Nations People and blessing for the next generation. On Sunday, we prayed for our dance community as part of the Global Prayer Watch.

National Sorry Day, Friday 26 May, acknowledges the injustice inflicted on First Nations People and is also the day the Uluru Statement from the Heart was signed in 2017. National Reconciliation Week, starting on Saturday 27 May, is marked by a time of prayer and fasting for many Christians. On Pentecost Sunday, 28 May, we prayed for our worldwide dance community and danced in the red dust in the shadow of the Rock.

At the base of Uluru is a series of sites used by the First Nations People for ceremonial and communal activities. As we walked, we stopped to pray, meditate, and dance. At the Mutitjulu waterhole, at the women's kitchen for the local Anunyu women, at the men's ceremonial cave for the men and so on, we prayed for forgiveness. Kay taught us a dance of lament, based on steps she had learned from the Yolngu women in Arnhem Land. Mary led us in CaraMayan, dance meditations to Scripture. Linda taught us worship songs and a wonderful dance to The Blessing, and I shared a dance to The Lord is My Shepherd.

Uluru represents the heartland of Australia. We brought our heart-felt prayers, in word and dance, to our Heavenly Father. I came feeling like a foreigner walking in a strange land and left, leaving a bit of my heart in the centre.

Jenny Dennis - ICDF Foundation Chair





Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of Japan

Representative: Christian Martinu
Start: 2009

Our vision:

- is to establish a pillar of hope in Japan and reach out to everybody in this country.
- calls us to travel the world sharing the gospel through the ballet, MESSIAH - A MAN WITH A MISSION.

The tool for ministry is the classical ballet company ABC-Tokyo Ballet Co., which has already more than 8 Christian members, many recently baptised. This professional quality allows us to go to places others can't easily perform.

Please visit www.abc-tokyo.com ([link is external](#)) for the latest update of performances with Christian ballets.



JAPAN

ABC Tokyo Ballet Company

The Japanese branch of our organization was very much blessed as another student from our ballet school, Max Davies, who is a Christian, was given in his first company in Europe, the role of a soloist in Swan Lake. In this way, God continues to spread The Good News to a very difficult to reach audience: the professional ballet world.

Our Christmas production at our church in downtown Tokyo offers another chance to minister, and for spring 2024, we plan to put an Old Testament masterpiece, "Moses - Prince of Egypt" again onto the stage.

We continue to minister to our many students of different ages in class as well as on stage, as we look for dialogue during teaching, and do not just teach "ballet" and technique.

To bring the Good News to Japan through dance is for sure a task that needs dedicated ministry throughout the years to come. That is why we especially focus on training the next generation to balance professional ballet, ministering His word and using the church as a home.

Christian Martinu ABC Tokyo Ballet Co.

For more information on how the ABC Tokyo Ballet Company started click on the link below
<https://youtu.be/2vQv5r1X26o>





Name: International Christian Dance Fellowship of South Africa

Representative: **Melanie Erasmus**

Start: **1990**

Website: cdfsa.co.za
CDF South Africa



Vision / calling

The Christian Dance Fellowship of South Africa seeks to unify Christians of the nation who are expressing and seeking to express their worship of God the Holy Trinity through the art of movement and dance. It seeks to encourage and teach this art expression for the purposes of the Lord by committing itself to evangelism, the expansion of the Christian Church and the teaching of Christ's love for mankind.

Scripture

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." | Luke 4:18-19

"That they may be one as we are one." | John 17:11

SOUTH AFRICA



The Art of Dance Diversity in South Africa

We live in one of the most beautiful countries in the world, South Africa. Our governance has much to be accountable for, but the Glory of God resounds in every part of nature. South Africa has one of the most diverse cultures in the world. Within those diverse cultures, we have a myriad of dance styles. Dances that originated out of our joy and out of our pain. So how do we navigate Christian dance in a kaleidoscope of dance styles?

What Genre is Christian Dance?

I often get asked why we only do certain styles and use certain apparatus in Christian dance. I think there is no correct answer to this. If we just look at the world around us and the creative God that we serve, then I say that Christian dance is all movement that glorifies a living God instead of self and other entities. To mention but a few styles in Africa, Traditional African dance, Pantsula, Kwaito, Kwassa kwassa, Nama Riel, Sokkie. This list can go on and on. As a dancer living in South Africa, it would be detrimental for me not to explore and try to incorporate these styles into my Christian dance.

Africa to the World

African dance more than ever has taken the world by storm, and I see it in famous music videos and international concerts. We have something to offer that the world has yet to see. As a Christian African dancer, God has placed so many genres within us. Some of us, due to generational bloodlines, have the blood of many nations running through us. CDFSA has embraced this. We have workshops that are relatable to many types of dancers. Let's allow ourselves to be relevant in a world that needs the light and love that dance brings through Jesus Christ.

Melanie Erasmus

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1 vs 16-17





ICDF
FOUNDATION

The Foundation was formed in 2009 to support Christian dance internationally. It was instigated by the ICDF Steering Committee at the International conference in Scotland when they invited the delegates to give an offering for a fund named for Founder Mary Jones.

Aims

The Foundation supports ICDF in its aim to serve the movement arts in ministry and mission in a visible, available and relevant way by:

- recognising excellence in Christian Dance/Movement ministry;
- raising money for scholarships/special projects;
- promoting Christian dance/movement internationally.

Discover more on the ICDF Foundation : <https://foundation.icdf.com/>



ICDF FOUNDATION

The ICDF Foundation has had another year of planning and raising financial support for Christian dance internationally. We have focused on how we can assist the International Christian Dance Fellowship of Aotearoa New Zealand with their first National Conference next Easter. This will be the first after a considerable break and is a rehearsal for the International ICDF Conference the following year, in 2025. Our greater connection with our ANZ friends has been an answer to last year's prayer.

As always, our Board has been looking at ways to financially assist young Christian dancers to be trained and supported to use their gifts within and outside the church. In recent years, we have concentrated on offering youth support to attend international conferences. We are considering ways to expand our reach. At our recent fund-raising event, a wonderful young dancer, Olivia Dahdah, a full-time dance student, shared an exciting contemporary dance based on her testimony.

This year has also been a year of further training for me, as a dance teacher for Dance for Parkinson's Australia. This group is part of an international organisation that promotes the integration of dance and health for those who suffer from Parkinson's disease. It has been a wonderful journey of relearning the value of exercise, creativity, and community to promote wellbeing. All these principles apply to Christian dance, and I hope this wider experience in dance teaching will inform my practice within the church.

I intend to stand aside as Chair this year to develop my own teaching practice and to train others coming through the system. I have asked Rod West to stand as Chair for a year, and I am fully confident that Rod West will make a brilliant administrator while I focus more on my dance practice.

My prayer is that the Board will become even more visionary and practical, in ways we can support the next generation of Christian dancers internationally and the teachers and leaders who train and mentor them.

Thank you again to every Board member, for their contribution to the work of the Foundation – to Rod West, Susie Bond, Mary Jones, Rebecca and Mark Jeavons, Sally Torr and, by no means the last, my husband and supporter, as always, Bruce Dennis.

A very big thank you to outgoing member Sally Torr, who has contributed to the work of CDFA and ICDF for decades. We will all miss her sunny face and wise and helpful observations. Thanks, everyone for your support and friendship over the year. I don't take it for granted!

The Board is always looking for new ideas on how the Foundation can do better. As always, we seek God's direction as we endeavour to bring Him glory in all we do. Free Movement Classes are available on our website – please access these resources.

The Foundation has been exploring ways of delivering training online. In February 2022, the ABC of dance by fAITHdANCE was launched in Perth, Western Australia. Lucinda Coleman, a well-trained Australian dancer directed and choreographed this series of movement workshops. The classes follow themes based on the first three letters of the alphabet – A for alignment, B for breath and C for control.

We filmed the workshops in the Australian landscape and they are a great resource for beginner to intermediate level contemporary dancers who have some experience with release technique. These workshops demonstrate how Biblical themes can be explored within a dance workshop. The concept of using the alphabet can also be readily expanded for future online classes.

Later that year, the Foundation commissioned a second series of online movement classes by Melanie Erasmus and her group Emanate. This dance group is associated with the Christian Dance Fellowship in South Africa and offers weekly classes for dance ministry groups. These classes are an excellent teaching tool for the beginner to intermediate dancer, demonstrating the progression of movements from warm-up to more complex steps which can be easily adjusted to the individual's movement style. A dance ministry group will find these classes a very helpful resource.

The workshops are available at

<https://foundation.icdf.com/en/online-movement-workshops>

Encouraging leadership and training

The Foundation also offers scholarships for those who are eligible to undertake the Diploma of Dance Ministry, directed by Debbie Bright in New Zealand. Further information is at <https://icdf.com/en/education/icdf-diploma-or-certificate-dance-ministry>

We also regularly offer the **Peter Jones Youth Award** to train and support young dancers. We have not offered that award this year.

We greatly appreciate your support. To make a donation go to <https://foundation.icdf.com/en/donate-icdf-foundation>

“For In him we live and move and have our being.” Acts 17:28

God bless,

Jenny Dennis

Chair of the International Christian Dance Fellowship Foundation, 2023



ICDFF Online Workshop - Alignment



ICDFF Online Workshops - Breath



ICDFF Online Workshops - Control

ICDF RESOURCES

Visit our ICDF Shop to purchase ICDF Branded items of your choice. We also have e-Book resources, available to purchase on the ICDF e-Book online shop.

ICDF DANCE MERCHANDISE



Premium t-shirts

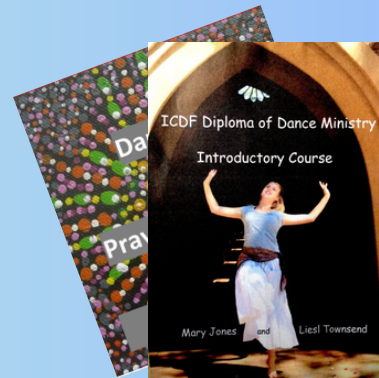
Premium hoodies



Drawstring Bag



Stickers



e-Books

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