

ICDF NEWSLETTER — AUGUST 2016: CONFERENCE

FLASH MOB

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*During the ICDF Conference in Ghana in July 2016, delegates had the opportunity to get involved in community outreach using dance. One of these opportunities was a 'flash mob' performance.*

Flash mob — well, I wouldn't have called us that! We weren't "flash" people by any stretch of the imagination, but I reckon we certainly did "shine the light", *Proclaiming the Goodness of God*, through the joy we shared dancing together in His Name!

A *Flash Mob* is a surprise dance performed in a public space not usually considered to be a dance space, for example, a train station or a shopping mall. However I wasn't expecting the way this particular one came together to be such a surprise to me, or that the venues would pose surprises of their own!

Hopefully, we were more of a lightning strike or a thunderbolt splitting any darkness in the spiritual realm... As in heaven, so on earth... I hope so. The song we danced to was *Sky Full of Stars* by Coldplay. For months even before I was asked to choreograph for the Ghana conference group, I'd been listening to the track, my imagination going wild, thinking how fun it would be to dance in concert with friends, carrying the message of God's great loving plan written in the heavens for all to see and respond to!

For months after Jan and Saartjie's invitation to get it happening, despite several attempts to get cracking on it, NOTHING happened. However, I knew that I knew that I knew it was somehow right to hold it in my heart, praying, praying, praying that it would turn out all right on the day. Even in my despair about its ever happening, I couldn't give up the vision. One evening when praying about it, I found out that the official video was filmed in a very familiar place to me... KING Street, NEWTOWN, in Sydney... I took this as a confirmation, since Jesus is ultimate King, and all can be made new through love of and dedication to him. At the exact time on the day I paid for my plane ticket to Ghana (my birthday, 29<sup>th</sup> April which is UNESCO International Dance Day), the song playing through the travel agent store's hifi was... you guessed it... *Sky Full of Stars*! So I took it as another confirmation.

Thanks to the help of Peter Hothersall who had offered to assist with its creation, should I need it, and was willing to submit to not knowing beforehand anything to do with the music or the theme, and to Mary Jones and Andy Raine for responding positively at our first main rehearsal half hour during the conference two days before the scheduled event, to lead respective groups into the spiral part of the choreography, and to the ever-willing David Stanfield and his Banner-wielding crew for stepping up and into the exciting finale, AND to the amazingly warm-hearted cooperation of the whole conference crew of delegates who, each and every one, added their special moves, ...a dream came true!

No wonder I couldn't do the "usual" - get the moves filmed and distributed via Youtube so everybody could learn it before we arrived and hoping others around the world could join us in their time zones. Things didn't work out that way, sorry. The venues were nothing I could have imagined... there were two paved areas at the bus station separated by a road. This required 2 x groups instead of 1 and they had to relate to each other's movements, somehow! I also didn't know we had a second venue planned for us... a much smaller space in a shopping mall portico and that it would need to be done in 1 x group with considerably less dancers due to the fact that the conference attendees were split into several groups visiting several other venues for outreach visits in the afternoon, after the first Flash Mob at the bus station in the morning! No matter, we were willing and available... the best ingredients for a Godeographic adventure!

I trust we were dancing God's dream that every created human being would be so "star-struck" by the divine story displayed in the constellations, a glorious message in the heavens, that we would gladly give our hearts to his purposes... partner with God in bringing about the New Heavens and the New Earth through the Way of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit! Ghana is known as the Gateway to Africa... it was a privilege to proclaim such a prophetic message alongside our Ghanaian brothers and sisters in their homeland at such a time as this... AND have such a flash-fun time doing flash-in-the-pan choreography that finally worked!

After the Flash Mob, various conference delegates presented dances they had learnt during the week in a short programme including African Dance (teacher Seth Asare-Newman/Ghana), Evangelism (teacher Andy Raine/Stations of the Cross/UK), Modern Dance (teacher Lisa Wilson/South Africa), Children's group dance (teacher Tove Liljedahl/Sweden) and some very impressive move sequences by seasoned local Ghanaian street dance poppers, crunchers and breakers!

May the unspoken words of our dance moves continue to echo the message of the goodness of God in the hearts and minds of all who were touched by our group dance offering... may they in time, find themselves prepared to dedicate their hearts to God's purposes, dying to selfish motives, and find themselves caught up in the joy of such a heavenly view"!

***Psalm 19:1-4 AMP Bible***

*The heavens are telling of the glory of God;  
And the expanse [of heaven] is declaring the work of His hands.  
Day after day pours forth speech,  
And night after night reveals knowledge.  
There is no speech, nor are there [spoken] words [from the stars];  
Their voice is not heard.  
Yet their voice [in quiet evidence] has gone out through all the earth,  
Their words to the end of the world.*

**SKY FULL OF STARS**

'Cause you're a sky, cause you're a sky full of stars  
I'm gonna give you my heart  
'Cause you're a sky, cause you're a sky full of stars  
'Cause you light up the path  
I don't care, go on and tear me apart  
I don't care if you do  
'Cause in a sky, cause in a sky full of stars  
I think I saw you  
'Cause you're a sky, cause you're a sky full of stars  
I want to die in your arms, arms  
'Cause you get lighter the more it gets dark  
I'm going to give you my heart  
And I don't care, go on and tear me apart  
And I don't care if you do  
'Cause in a sky, cause in a sky full of stars  
I think I see you  
I think I see you  
Because you're a sky, you're a sky full of stars  
Such a heavenly view  
You're such a heavenly view

**Coldplay** Songwriters

BERGLING, TIM / BERRYMAN, GUY / MARTIN, CHRIS / BUCKLAND, JONATHAN / CHAMPION,  
WILLIAM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPRjCeoBqrl>