



ICDF
International Christian
Dance Fellowship

ICDF: *a worldwide movement* April 2017

Next year ICDF will be celebrating 30 years so in preparation for our celebrations we would like to ask the question in this Newsletter ...

How well do you know ICDF?

Some of you may feel that you know ICDF very well as you have been connected with us for many years ... in fact, you may have been a part of ICDF from the beginning. For others, this Newsletter may be the first connection that you have with us. For us all, let's remind ourselves of:

- our History - Who, What, Where, How
- our Mandate - still relevant today as this is rooted in Scripture
- the workings of ICDF - the day to day running of ICDF (Behind the Scenes), Specialist Interest Groups (our ICDF Networks), Reaching out to Others (ICDF Foundation), Education (ICDF Diploma), Meeting together Internationally (ICDF Conferences)

Through reminding ourselves or reading about ICDF for the first time, we will each see that ICDF not only spans the years but spans the globe. We have a presence on every continent. Many people, in many countries, covering many dance styles, embracing many cultures, connecting together through dance, in Christ, for the extension of His Kingdom, giving glory to His name.

From the start of ICDF prayer has been key. It is through prayer that ICDF was born. It is through prayer that ICDF continues for it is being rooted in Christ that is our calling so, in this Newsletter, you will also read about how you too can partner with us in prayer.

We give thanks to the Lord for His call for the formation of the International Christian Dance Fellowship and we give thanks, too, for those who over the years have heard His call to connect with us. We also thank you ... our fellow leaders, supporters and friends ... for the part you play in the International Christian Dance Fellowship of today.

Enjoy reading!

Jan Dyer & Saartjie de Wet
International Christian Dance Fellowship
Joint-Coordinators



Photo: Taken at the first ICDF conference in Jerusalem, 1991

We seek 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.



SINCE 1988

In 1988, at an international conference organised by the Christian Dance Fellowship of Australia, the ICDF Formation Meeting was held with 10 nations represented. Mary Jones was elected as the International Coordinator of the new fellowship whose purpose was to network among its international members and to help establish new Christian Dance Fellowships around the world.

Who

The ICDF is made up of Christians passionate in expressing and deepening their faith in and through dance. This community is international, non-denominational and multicultural, it embraces all ages, is open to all styles of dance and cuts across all training and abilities.

What

We desire to honour and represent God who has expressed his nature in this world through creating beauty, colour, movement, variety and community. God has communicated with us both through the written, verbal and the non-verbal word of his creation, through body action and symbol. Supremely he gave this in his son Jesus Messiah who both spoke and was the Word of God.

We seek to engage and serve our global world where dance in all people groups is an important means of cultural expression, creativity and non-verbal language. We want to bring beauty, meaning, healing and fitness to those who are challenged and those who need a challenge.

We aim to be a bridge from the church into the world where dance is enjoyed both as entertainment, therapy, exercise and spiritual exploration.

How

Our vision is to be visible, available and relevant in God's Kingdom, the church and in the community. As Christian dancers we are committed to making a difference according to our gifts and callings. Together we are a picture of the body of Christ in all its different facets.

The tools we use are:

- Conferences and workshops
- Outreaches
- ICDF Networks
- ICDF Diploma
- ICDF Foundation
- Website and social media
- Discussion Forums

Where

Africa Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda - **Americas** Brazil, Canada, Suriname, USA - **Asia**

India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore - **Caribbean** Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto

Rico, Trinidad & Tobago - **Europe** Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden - **Pacific** Aotearoa

New Zealand, Australia, Fiji

We are a visual and relating generation wanting to release the good news to those around us who have turned away from the church and need to encounter the message in a way that is relevant to them.

We can be found on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube and LinkedIn

www.icdf.com

#ChristianDance, #ICDFworld, #GodsMoversAndShakers

MANDATE for the Formation of ICDF

TOGETHER in the spirit of love and unity (John 17:23)
from every tribe and nation (Rev.5:9)
from every part of the church (Eph.4:3-6)
redeeming our cultures
exploring and using our creativity given to us who (Gen.1:26)
are made in the image of our creator God
refining and celebrating our different styles of dance,
movement and the arts
expressing the diverse giftings and ministries of the body of Christ (Eph.4:7-16 , Rom.12:3-8)

WE ARE CALLED to help through prayer, art and action
TO PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD and (Is.40:3-5)
THE WAY FOR THE PEOPLE (Is.62:10)
bringing the gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world as a
testimony to all nations (Matt 24:14)
through repentance
restoration
reconciliation &
release into freedom

PREPARED THE BRIDE OF CHRIST FOR HER BRIDEGROOM (Rev.19:7-8)
in purity
beauty
love and intimacy
glory and partnership
joy and freedom

RISE UP, SHINE, THIS IS THE TIME (Is.60:1)
to move in humble authority
and the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Is 61:1-4)
to call and disciple
the nations
the cultures
the poor and the rich
with word and deed
with creativity and art
for the King is coming
the bridegroom is near when he will reign on earth
Every knee will bow and every tongue confess (Phil.1:9-11)
that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father

IT'S A BIG VISION AND A BIG TASK BUT OUR GOD IS A BIG GOD
who put the universe in place and holds everything together; (Col.1:17)
who is all love, all power, all knowledge, all wisdom;
who also created your inmost being, knitting you together
in your mother's womb, (Ps 139:13)
who knows how many hairs you have on your head
and has a good purpose for you to fulfil; (Matt.10:29-30 Ps 138:8)
who made every snowflake a different design,
who clothes the lilies of the field
and cares when every sparrow falls. (Matt.6:28)

DON'T DESPISE THE DAY OF SMALL BEGINNINGS (Zech.4:10)
Start now to find and walk in the part God is calling
you to do
so that together
we will fulfil the mandate God has given us,
as His works of art,
to action the good works prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph.2:10)

Mary Jones

ICDF HISTORY

In 1978 the Christian Dance fellowship of Australia (CDFA) was established by Mary Jones, and flourished over the next few years providing support and fellowship to many people- not just within Australia, but also internationally. In 1987, Mary received the vision to work towards an international organisation.

In 1988 the ICDF Formation Meeting was held and over the next 29 years the ICDF has grown to have a Christian Dance Fellowship in 14 countries and representatives in 15 countries. There are 16 dedicated Networks and an International Conference is held in a different country every 3 years.

In 2009 the Foundation Board was established to raise money for specific projects.

As part of ICDF's vision to see Christian dancers equipped and supported in their calling or vocation, ICDF launched the Diploma in Dance Ministry in 2010, an online course provided alongside Unity College in Australia.



Mary Jones is still involved in ICDF and is currently the Chair of the Foundation Board. Her training is in education and she now directs the ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry as well as travelling internationally teaching dance ministry and supporting ICDF work. For many years she was Dean of Dance Studies at Wesley Institute and has received ministry credentials. In honour of her service to the performing arts through dance, Mary was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, 2014.

BEHIND THE SCENES

There are many people working 'Behind the Scenes' of ICDF and much goes on in our various offices. We would like to introduce you to some of our roles:

Steering Committee

Contrary to what some people think, we do not have an ICDF office in one physical location. Our 'office' stretches from the United Kingdom and Ireland to South Africa and from Trinidad & Tobago to Australia. We make use of the technology available to stay connected with each other and our ICDF countries, networks and supporters.

The International Joint-Coordinators, together with the Steering Committee, have responsibility for the 'day to day' running of ICDF. The Joint-Coordinators share an online office meaning emails addressed to icdfworld@gmail.com are picked up by them both. An easy way for you to connect with them and for them to connect with you.

The Steering Committee meet via Skype four times a year and through email as required. The committee is made up of the two Joint-Coordinators and four members where each member has their own committee responsibilities.

Website Coordinator

Our ICDF websites are central to our vision to be 'Visible, Available and Relevant'. They offer a first point of contact for those browsing the web; and are a resource for ICDF countries and their members providing a hub for networking, resources, events, and information about Christian dance. To delight further there are Photo Galleries on all our websites.

The Website Coordinator is a central part of our 'Behind the Scenes' work. She not only web edits our websites but also coordinates all microsites coming under the ICDF website parent site. To date we have four websites namely the main ICDF website (English and Spanish), the Conference website, the website for the ICDF Foundation and the newly developed website for the Christian Dance Fellowship of Sweden (Psalto). In addition the Website Coordinator has responsibility for the Blogsite of the ICDF Networks.

Prayer Consociate

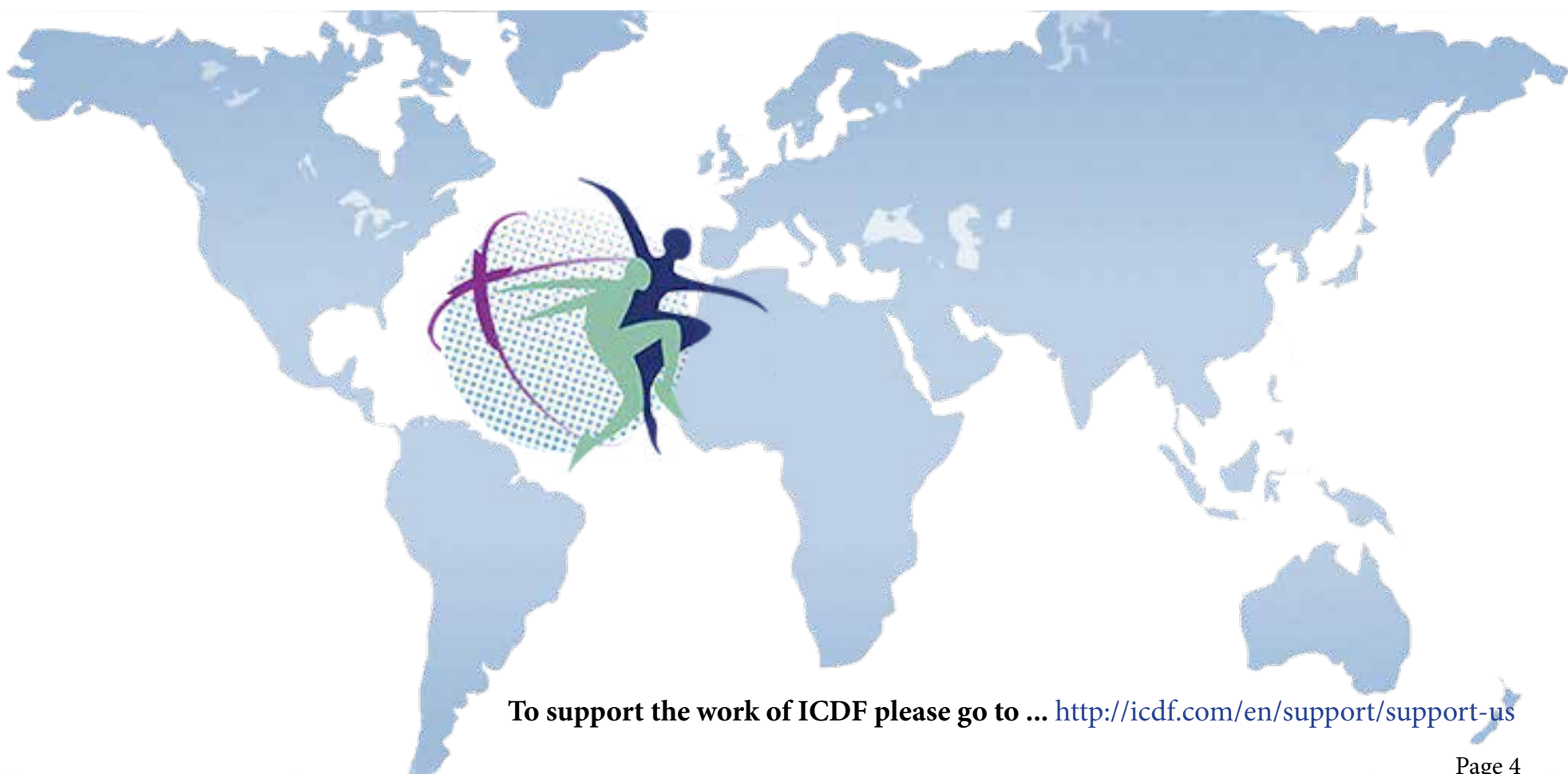
Prayer is the foundation of our work and the Prayer Consociate is the person tasked with sharing the prayer requests from the different leaders in ICDF with the Prayer Circle, people who have volunteered to fulfil that role. Those prompted to pray for ICDF can connect with ICDF by filling in the Support Form on the ICDF website at ... <http://icdf.com/en/support/support-us> and be joined to the Prayer Circle - a circle spanning the globe.

Prayer Supporters joining in this way will receive:

- prayer requests from our Prayer Consociate for ICDF, our Countries, Networks and leaders
- an invitation to join the Outer Prayer Shield for our conferences

The Prayer Circle is open to all ... dancers and non dancers alike.

To read more about these people working behind the scenes go to ... <http://icdf.com/en/about/leadership>



To support the work of ICDF please go to ... <http://icdf.com/en/support/support-us>

ICDF NETWORKS



ICDF's networks give opportunities for global networking and communicating between people who specialise in specific areas of dance/movement related ministries. This connection takes place at "grass roots" level through Facebook group pages, newsletters, cyberforums, and email. For 2017 we aim to feature a different Network. This our supporters will receive together with our monthly ICDF mailing.

Networks that are currently active are:

- Academics, Writers & Researchers
- Ballroom Dance
- Creative Arts & Social Concern
- Dance Artists
- Dance for Children
- Dance Movement Therapy & Healing
- Dance Teachers
- Deaf Signing
- Fitness, Well-being & Movement Meditation
- Flags & Banners
- Men in Dance
- Messianic Dance & Tambourines
- Missions
- Prayer
- South Asian Dance
- Youth Dance (newly established Network)

From the Blogs:

DANCE, REVEALING WHO ONE IS!

Dance is a language, a vocabulary of the body, a means of expression and communication, a physical manifestation of intangible realities (good or bad), a conduit of spiritual forces

"Ministry" is a brokerage of another kingdom – the kingdom of heaven invading the kingdoms of this earth to bring life where there was death, hope where there was despair, healing where there was sickness. It is brokering the Spirit of life to a needy, confused and broken world. It is feeding people and nourishing them as one breaks bread and feeds another. I can't help but go back to Luke 4:18 time and time again for this.

I personally think Dance can be used to do all of the above. As Martha Graham once said "Movement never lies". Body language experts recognise that much can be gleaned by the way the body reveals the inner workings of a person, so all in all, dance is a demonstrative revealing of who one is! For good or evil

Sandy

Network Blogs

One of the ways that the networks communicate and share ideas is through their blogs. Some of the themes that have been covered are "The Choreography of my Life" and "The meaning of 'community fellowship': Network Coordinators' perspective". Interesting aspects of Christian dance have also been touched on such as:

- AWARe – 'A theology of duality?'
- Ballroom Dance – 'Trained vs. untrained dance in worship'
- Creative Arts & Social Concern (1) – 'The dancer's responsibility'
- Creative Arts & Social Concern (2) – 'Freeing dance'
- Fitness, Wellbeing & Movement Meditation – 'New season'
- Missions – 'Trained vs. untrained dance in mission'

To visit the blogs go to ... <https://icdfnetworks.wordpress.com/>

Networks in the Discussion Forum

Two of the Networks recently launched topics for discussion on the ICDF Discussion Forum. These were:

- Yoga? Christian yoga? Or not yoga at all?
- Dance & gender: equal opportunities for male dancers?

Interesting observations have already been posted and there is still opportunity to join in.

To visit the Discussion Forum go to ...

<http://icdf.com/en/connect/discussion-forum>

To join a Network please contact the Network Coordinator.

For information on each Network and for the contact details of the Coordinators go to ... <http://icdf.com/en/networks>

Membership is open to anybody who agrees with the vision of ICDF and is available at no cost.

ICDF FOUNDATION

The ICDF Foundation was formed in 2009 to support Christian dance internationally by:

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

Flame Awards

"Fan into flame the gift of God..for God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, of love and of self discipline. " 2 Tim 1:6-7

Each year, two people are given a Flame Trophy Award for their outstanding contribution to dance ministry and to ICDF. The name Flame Awards describes the shape of the trophy, emphasises the Pentecost timing of when the Awards are given, and acknowledges the partnership and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our creative endeavours.

These awards are given to those who :

- Are in mid career or retirement phase of their lives
- Show Christian character and leadership
- Provide an inspiring role model
- Have made a significant contribution in the area of dance ministry
- Have given service within ICDF/CDF



Project Awards

Project Awards are given to dance ministry projects that are contributing to communities and particularly ones where the needs are greater. Money that is raised through events or from annual interest of the Foundation fund, goes towards specific projects with the following criteria:

- Financial need
- Dance or dance related projects
- Provide an inspiring model for others
- Where a one-off contribution will help to sustain dance ministry that is already established
- Preference given to work in needy communities

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

ICDF DIPLOMA

The ICDF Diploma provides an opportunity to consider various aspects of dance ministry through academic reflection and practical application. The theory is undertaken online and the practical application in your church and community.

There are 3 trimesters a year starting in February, June and September and students can start at any one of them with one or more subjects. Trimesters are 12 weeks long.

- Biblical foundation and history of dance in the Christian church and community
- Arts in Christian Ministry
- Dance in the worship service
- Working effectively with others
- Outreach and Christian Community
- Leading Workshops and Intercession
- Dance class and conditioning
- Spontaneous dance and composition
- Project
- Christian life elective
- Conference elective
- ICDF Network elective

Be rooted, equipped and released

<http://icdf.com/en/education/icdf-diploma-or-certificate-dance-ministry>



For more information on the ICDF Foundation and ICDF Diploma contact Mary Jones at email ... maryjones11@aol.com

ICDF CONFERENCES

Since the very beginning of ICDF, conferences have played an important part in inspiring and upskilling delegates through workshops, classes, presentations, discussions and creative worship. These conferences also provide an opportunity for leaders to meet together, share their challenges, and make decisions. They create the ideal environment for the meeting of like-minded people, for making new friends and continuing friendships. The conferences are held every three to four years on different continents and in different countries to reach as many different people and cultures as possible.

The recent ICDF conference in Ghana broke the mould of previous conferences and has set us on a new path by making some fundamental changes. For the Ghana conference there were many firsts:

1. For the first time we had partners (The Wangu Kanja Foundation, Wheelfever Projects and the University of Ghana)
2. For the first time we had a dedicated programme for Academic Papers
3. For the first time we had a Flashmob where all the delegates took part
4. For the first time the workshops were a space of preparation for community outreach
5. For the first time there was a post-conference Prayer Watch

For the next ICDF conference in 2019 we are planning to continue on this road of testing new ways of doing. We are hoping to be able to make an announcement regarding the next conference in July 2017.

To make sure you receive all the "Next Conference" updates sign up as a supporter at ... <http://icdf.com/en/support/support-us> or follow us on Twitter or Facebook

Conference History

1991: Israel - Preparing the Way
1994: England - Touching the Kingdom
1997: South Africa - Building the Temple
2000: Australia - The Spirit Moves
2003: USA - Every Tribe and Tongue
2006: Malaysia - Into All The World
2009: Scotland - Ancient Paths - New Horizons
2013: Puerto Rico - Proezas en la Dimension del Espiritu
2016: Ghana - Proclaiming the Goodness of God

What Delegates Say

Following our last International Conference held at the University of Ghana, we collected feedback from delegates and teachers. Some of their experiences are given below.

Carol (Kenya)

The conference was brilliant on many levels. How to explain the joy of sharing and fellowshiping with dancers from all abilities from different corners of the globe? Or the unity and kindred understanding of our place in God's Kingdom as worshippers first and also as ministers – evangelists, teachers, preachers and leaders.

I experienced many firsts at the conference – my first dance conference, my first time doing close partner work, my first flash mob, my first time using flags in dance, my first Hawkins Technique class, my first dance drama class among others.

Mika (Fiji)

One aspect the team from Fiji greatly enjoyed was seeing the older generation dancing freely, joyfully and passionately for GOD in all that they did. This was in stark contrast to Fiji. Despite our great love for dance in the Church, dancers stop dancing around 35-40 years of age (except for me!!!). They were simply awed by the great examples of the older dancers from Ireland, Australia, GB, Canada, and Seth from Ghana. The peer learning experience and bonding was an awesome experience also, as well as just meeting people from different countries and having a grand cross cultural experience through CHRIST!!!

For more testimonies go to ... <http://conference.icdf.com/testimonies>



Photo taken during the Flashmob at the Ghana Conference

To read all about the Ghana conference go to ... <http://conference.icdf.com/>

Visit the Conference History Gallery to see a selection of photos from all the previous conferences at ... <http://conference.icdf.com/conference-history-gallery>