



Celebrating ICDF's 30th Year



Photo: Austrian Ballet Company, Japan (from the ICDF archives)

They came bringing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their journey took them to a far land, following a star for direction, for a purpose. What was that purpose? to worship the Christ Child: "... the star that they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts ..." Matthew 2: 9b-11 (NIV).

They were overjoyed, they worshipped and then they presented their gifts. Their gifts were of significance and many explanations are given of what their significance might be. Commonly accepted are Gold - a fitting tribute to a king, and of practical help, too, for Mary and Joseph for the expenses of the days and years ahead; Frankincense - as God, for in those days they honoured God with the smoke of burning incense; and Myrrh - myrrh for the embalming of bodies upon death. But note, before they presented their gifts they first presented themselves.

So too for ourselves this Christmas. Amidst the busyness and preparations for celebrating on this most special of days, where are we in this? Is the news of Jesus' birth as exciting for us it was to the Wise Men or has the getting ready for celebrating the day of His birth overshadowed the reason for His birth. What are we following? The star was the light for the Wise Men leading them to the true Light - the Light of Christ. Are our preparations in these days of Advent leading us on our journey, drawing us ever closer to the Lord and Saviour we worship and adore? Like the Wise Men are we so overjoyed to see the Christ that we cannot but fall down in worship?

What gifts are we bringing into our worship of Jesus this Christmastide. For some of us, it will be our gift of dance. For others, that opportunity may not present in public worship but this will be a gift in our heart that can be offered in our personal worship. For still others, gifts of music, singing, poetry, art, hospitality, serving others, preparing meals, crafting delights ... the list is as long and varied as is the list of our giftings. Before these gifts, though, let us not forget to give the one gift that God truly wants for us to bring to Him in worship this Christmas ... that is the gift of ourselves.

May God bless you as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, this Christmas.

From the Joint-Coordinators' office

2018 has been a very exciting year in the ICDF Office and beyond. Celebrating ICDF's 30th Anniversary together with you has given us much for praise and thanksgiving; also time for reflection as we look forward to the next 30 years! Through the pages of this newsletter, we invite you to continue to celebrate with us all that the Lord has been doing through the International Christian Dance Fellowship in 2018.

Out and About

Our jobs as Joint-Coordinators and members of the Steering Committee mean that we mostly work from in front of our computers in a typically office setting. We do however have times when we get to go places ...

Meeting with teachers and leaders from our own and other countries	Attending conferences in Ireland and Sweden (Jan)	Representing ICDF at conference in Aotearoa New Zealand (Lucy)	Mingling at CDF Regional and National Conferences in our own countries
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Connecting

In the office this year has connected us with our Country and Network leaders as well as our Supporters, Friends and others who contact ICDF. We have received over 1,400 emails and sent more than 1,575 in the last year.

We have produced ICDF monthly News and supported ICDF Networks with their Newsletters - these have been sent to you and are also available on the ICDF website.

With the Steering Committee and interested Country Leaders, we have been continuing our work on updating ICDF operational procedures for this season. This is still a work in progress.

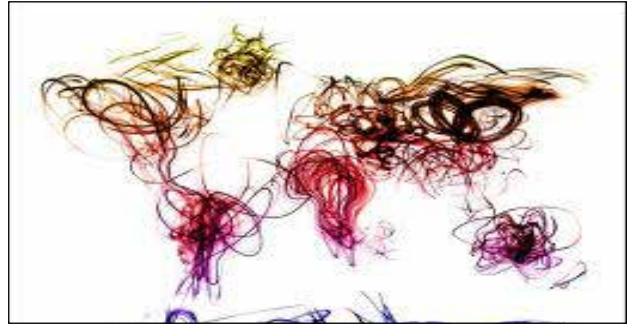


There were also many instances of telephone and Skype calls, messaging and emails as each Steering Committee member networked in their own areas. At this time we want to thank them for their help and contributions. They are Barbara Wood (finances; special projects), Celeste Olliviere-James, (graphics; social media; Carribean liaison), Di Unger (committee secretary) and Lucy Jarasius (legal documents; Asia Pacific liaison).

Photo: Taken at the Puerto Rico conference. From left to right Di, Barbara, Saartjie, Jan and Celeste. Insert: Lucy

We Can Report

- One new country has connected with ICDF: Venezuela
- Change of country leadership in Fiji, Ireland and Sweden ... we welcome Pita Specs and Keni Baro (Fiji); Julie-Anna Richmond (Ireland), and Gunnel-Maria Palmqvist (Sweden) as National Coordinators
- The two countries whose status last year moved to 'resting' have seen some development during this last year: 'The New Thing' and 'Free to Dance' are new ventures in Australia; and the United States of America is exploring 'where next?' for them.
- The seed of an idea for a new ICDF Network for 'Ability not Disability'



As last year we see God's hand in this and await His 'What Next'.

Picture a field: Seeds are sown, plants grow, the harvest is reaped and seeds are once again sown. A cycle. All of our CDF countries and Networks are somewhere in this cycle.



A big excitement for us this year is seeing the Dance and Culture Study Tour take shape. This is ongoing as we see more and more details in place and added to the website. If you haven't visited the website for a while, we invite you to do so ... information can be found at <http://www.conference.icdf.com>. Looking forward to seeing you in India.

Social Media

We bring to your attention once again our social media presence. Please make use of our sites as listed below.

- Network Blogs: <https://icdfnetworks.wordpress.com/>
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UC8qmQVDheUHRIPsAFLxT-Pw
- Instagram: icdfsosial (#ChristianDance #ICDFworld #ICDFfamily)
- Facebook: International Christian Dance Fellowship (page and group)
- Pinterest: icdfsosial (boards: Instruments; Health; Garments; Teaching; The Word; Quotes)
- Twitter: @ICDF (announcements only)

ICDF Networks

There are currently 17 ICDF Networks and a list of these Networks can be found on our website at ...
<http://icdf.com/en/networks>

As in the previous year ICDF showcased a different Network in a newsletter every month and this was mailed to all the Country Leaders and supporters. We have also made these newsletters available to the public by uploading them to our website at <http://icdf.com/en/networks/network-newsletters>.

The Networks strive to provide a platform for conversation among members by making use of cyberforums through emails or in a Facebook group. In addition our hope is to make the Network blogs a place where open discussions can take place.

For us it has been a privilege to work with the Network leaders and we thank them for the invaluable role that they fulfil in the bigger picture of the mandate and work of ICDF.

Scripture For This Season

We remind you of the Scripture we were given for our term of office from Isaiah 52:2. Once again, we praise God for the outworking of this Scripture during this last year. We pray this Scripture over your countries also as we keep looking to the new ways that the Lord will open up for us and of how the Lord would have us grow both internationally and within our countries.

“Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide, do
not hold back; lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.”

Isaiah 52:2 (New International
Version)

Website - ‘Mobile device friendly’ upgrade

This has been a major project, last year and during this, for fundraising and for prayer. News of this Website Development launch was sent out in March 2017 with an update given in October last year. We are pleased to say that most of the work has been completed and that we are expecting it to go live at the beginning of 2019.

In Conclusion

What is written above was presented to the ICDF AGM last month and is but a glimpse of our life and work as ICDF Joint-Coordinators. More detail can be found in our monthly news.

Much goes on behind the scenes, not just by ourselves and the ICDF Steering Committee but by our ‘Behind the Scenes’ Team and our Prayer Team. We extend our thanks to each one for their faithfulness and dedication.

We extend our thanks also to you.
Together, we are ICDF. Thank you for playing your part.

Jan & Saartjie



Photo: ICDF conference in Scotland

Financial Support

When ICDF first began, all member countries faithfully paid their tithes as set out in their constitutions and all supporters faithfully sent annual gifts. We are grateful to these countries and supporters for their giving over the years and, to the countries and supporters that continue to support ICDF financially by sending gifts regularly today, a **HUGE THANK YOU** to you. Know that your gifts however small you may think they are make a significant difference - in fact they are the means by which ICDF can continue to function financially. Although the time of our International Coordinators and Steering Committee is given freely, ICDF does have expenses. The website being the one that you will be most aware of.

ICDF relies on the tithes of its countries and the gifts of its supporters for funding. Over the years fewer of our countries and supporters have been in a position to give so this affects greatly all that ICDF can do ... especially when it comes to International Gatherings, like the ICDF Dance and Culture Study Tour in India next year. It also affects how much the International Coordinators and their representatives can travel as ICDF does not have the financial resources to support this. Those travelling for ICDF can only do so if their personal finances permit. This includes attending International Gatherings although through a gift from CDFB, we are able to travel to help set up such events with the idea that we can repay to that fund after the Gathering.

Looking to the Future

What shape will our income take in the future? Countries who can will continue giving faithfully and other countries will join them. Supporters will give as they do now. What else? Here are some ideas that have come to us. You may have others:

Regular giving

Regular giving can be monthly, annually or somewhere in between. This can be done through our website at ... <http://www.icdf.com/en/support/support-form>. There you will find choices of how you can donate

Regular giving is needed for ...

i. the day to day running of ICDF

ii. Projects

From time to time these we announce. Our latest project was the Mobile Device Friendly Website as already reported on Page 4 of this newsletter.

iii. the Bursary fund

We have a vision for a bursary fund receiving donations regularly so that by the time the fund is needed the donations are already there. At the moment, we do not have a fund working in this way - fundraising has to begin when the applications have been received.

Please pray and if the Lord prompts you to help financially, please complete the form on the website at ... <https://conference.icdf.com/funding/support-form> or email us at icdfworld@gmail.com. Thank you.



ICDF Foundation



Mary lighting the candles

Celebrating CDFA and ICDF

The main focus of the ICDF Foundation in 2018 was on how we would celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Christian Dance Fellowship of Australia and the 30th anniversary of ICDF. On the exact formation date, August 17 which happened to be a Friday this year, people gathered at Mary Jones' house for an informal dinner and conversation.

- The program on Saturday afternoon included circle dance, a time of worship, memories from CDFA Coordinators and performances. The evening program, which also celebrated the 30th anniversary of ICDF, was a dinner followed by the Annual Awards and fundraising activities.

- On the Sunday a number of the participants travelled to western Sydney to take part in a church service and an afternoon experience of 'The New Thing' which is facilitated by Lucy Jarasius and Sharon Ereaux.

AGM

Our first AGM according to the constitution was held on November 7. After 8 years as Chair I feel it is the right time to hand over the leadership. Consequently, I stepped down as Chair but at the Board's suggestion will stay on as Deputy Chair. I expressed my thanks, with gratitude and appreciation, to those who have served on the Board. Jenny Dennis was appointed as Chair.

I wish the next Chair and Board all the best and thank God for what has been achieved.

Mary Jones

To find out more ... <https://foundation.icdf.com>

For the ICDF Foundation September 2018 newsletter ...

<https://foundation.icdf.com/sites/foundation.icdf.com/files/Documents/ICDF%20Foundation%20Newsletter%202018.pdf>



Steven Turner receiving his award from Jan Dyer

Annual Awards

The Peter Jones Youth Leadership Award (in memory of Mary Jones' late husband), was given for the first time and there were two other Flame Awards ... for one CDFA and one ICDF person who had been involved from the beginning years of the organisations and had continued to serve up to the present. Jennifer Dennis was the recipient of the Award for her service to dance in Australia and Liesl Townsend for her service to dance in CDF South Africa.

Steven Turner, who received the Youth Leadership Award which includes finance to help the recipient attend the next ICDF gathering, advised he was not able to attend the 2019 meeting in India and requested that the money be used to help Indian youth attend.



Bangarra Dance Company

Theatre Party

The Board again organised a theatre party in July to attend a program by Australia's major indigenous dance company - Bangarra Dance Theatre. This is always enjoyed by those who go and has become an annual event.

Not For Profit

The ICDF Foundation is now recognised by the Australian government as a not-for-profit organisation.

ICDF Diploma in Dance Ministry

2018 has seen our first Diploma graduate. It takes considerable amounts of self-discipline and persistence to finish a demanding course online and Tonia Nifong was one of two students who enlisted for the first trimester of the course in 2010. She is a dance teacher and leader of a dance ministry in Colorado USA and is hoping to come to the ICDF gathering in India next year to make contact with ICDF in person, to receive her Diploma certificate and present some of her work. Since 2010 we have had students from Argentina, Australia, China, England, Ireland, Malaysia, Suriname and USA.

Students

Out of the four students awarded scholarships, two are continuing. Next year the ICDF Foundation will be raising money and receiving applications for another two scholarship students to start in 2020. If you know of any who might be interested and need financial help please let them know. They will find information on the ICDF website soon.

Teachers

There are five teachers delivering the 13 + courses. I am stepping down as Director this year and passing this on to Dr Debbie Bright. As with the Foundation I have directed the course for 8 years and feel it is time to hand over.

Mary Jones



To find out more ... <https://icdf.com/en/education/icdf-diploma-or-certificate-dance-ministry>

ICDF- 30 Years

Cake was the order of the day during the course of 2018 when many countries joined in to celebrate ICDF's 30th birthday. We show you a few highlights as we share some of the photos that were sent to us.





Canada



Sweden



South Africa



Ireland



Brazil



Australia



Britain



Aotearoa New Zealand



Nigeria



Country News

CDF Aotearoa New Zealand

Greetings from CDFANZ,

In April we hosted Rhoze Rivera and her Dance Explosion ministry from Manilla in the Philippines for a weekend of impacting dance workshops, choreography and worship warfare in Christchurch.

In July we held a 4 day Dance Conference at Oxford YWAM base, Oxford, North Canterbury with dance leaders from Australia and Fiji in attendance. Post conference we felt to go on a prayer road trip to Nelson and Picton at the top of the South Island to intercede for our nations Christian dancers to ignite and connect once again. We did this at the top of a hill deemed the geographic Centre of Aotearoa New Zealand in Nelson, and also on the Picton foreshore where our "Interislander" ferries dock.

Belinda Andrews

ICDF Australia

Lucy Jarasius, ICDF Steering Committee member with responsibility for ICDF in Asia and the Pacific, is 'standing in the gap' for Australia. Lucy writes ...

"For a while, things seemed to be happening very slowly in the wind-down period of the old CDF Australia... It was a painful season... Things were suggested, things were tried, people felt a variety of different feelings, and some people cried... There is a grief in leaving old things behind, but that is part of the process of growth and change, and after a time, we can always be blessed by the Scripture that mentions mourning being transformed into dancing."

How true this is as already we see stirring of new growth in Australia. We are looking forward to see where God will be taking them in 2019.



Photo: Provided by Lucy Jarasius

CDF Britain

After a couple of very busy years and with the completion of our rebrand, we decided to keep this a quieter year for CDFB. We just let the fellowship do what it does. The Regional Coordinators have worked hard to produce some great workshops and the website and magazine keep us together as a fellowship. One big highlight was this year's National Conference. As well as workshops by the likes of Springs Dance Company and Movement in Worship, we celebrated ICDF's 30th birthday with an evening celebration. We are working towards our big 30th in 2020 and have some grand ideas for the celebration.

I on the other hand have been busy behind the scenes. I have buddied up with some other ICDF leaders and we are praying for each other. There are various projects in the pipeline. I can't say what they are at the moment but they are exciting. God Bless and keep dancing,

Peter Hothersall

CDFB YouTube channel ...

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxWOu5GmP7a7vq-_czXzyyg/videos

ICDF India

Much is happening in India as Albert Emmanuel and his team prepare to host us for the upcoming Dance and Culture Study Tour. New connections are being made and resources are being pooled for this special event as the year 2019 holds much promise for growth on various levels

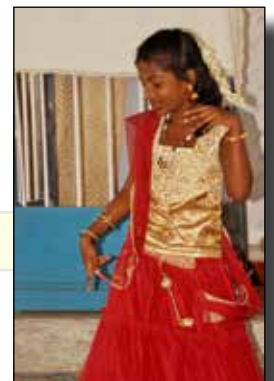


Photo: ICDF archives

ICDF Brazil

The peace of Jesus to all. We are very happy to be part of this alliance among the Nations, to be part of this blessed ministry, and also ICDF. We in Brazil pray and cry for each one of your leaders and every ministry that has the art consecrated to the Lord. We are with you, though far we are close in the spirit and feeling.

In the love of Christ
John Bassi

*Photo: International Conference in
September hosted by ICDF Brazil*



ICDF France

Greetings and blessings from France, dear you all.

We are travelling these days and will have a very special time all around the region of Paris as we commemorate the 100th year of the end of World War I and dance with the Lord over the wounds of our History, claiming a new awareness, wisdom and restoration in His Spirit of Life.

We bless you deeply though and we are grateful for the work you are all doing around ICDF. This network is so precious and we pray this morning here that in the future we will see together amazing growth and revival, capacity of unity among the dancers of the Lord.

Come on, Army of Worship and Love!

A special prayer and thank you also for and to our coordinators, Jan Dyer & Saartjie de Wet.

Shalom, shalom

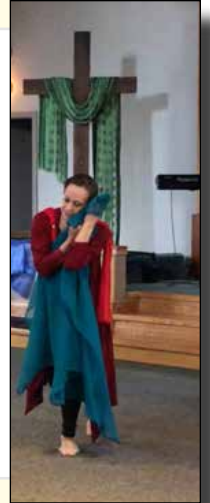
Christine and Sodapop Jeanville

ICDF Canada

Allow us to share with you a few highlights of our CDF Calgary monthly dance events. ICDF's 30th Anniversary inspired us to host a mini Alberta conference weekend and we invited Belma Vardy and Darlene West, both ICDF representatives, to bless us this May weekend with joyful dance and deep heartfelt healing as Belma and the Holy Spirit prayerfully led us through the "River of Healing." Throughout the year we enjoyed dances such as Messianic, Interpretive, Contemplative to Taizé singing, and the Aaronic Blessing expressed with art and movement. Our participants come to us from various ecumenical backgrounds enriching all of what we do. Laurel Bridges will once again guide us as we dance into the New Year with her workshop entitled "Created in God's Design" and this will be followed by our annual luncheon where old and new friendships are formed and nurtured.

Amay Dufault and Iona Broughton

*Photo: Provided by
the Calgary Chapter*



ICDF Costa Rica

Greetings from Costa Rica

We are excited by what the Lord is doing around the nations. Although our nation is going through changes we put our trust in God. Many projects for 2019!! We are still moving forward to establish His Kingdom.

Patricia Brearley

ICDF Kenya

The team has started with monthly meetings in Nairobi and they continue to connect with other dancers in the city and elsewhere. We are continuing to pray for growth and the establishment of the network here and for God's guidance on exactly how to do it. I am willing to start small and build something that outlasts me to the glory of God.

Carol Mwazi

CDF Ireland

CDF Ireland is in a transitional period with the setting up of a new team. We believe there will be exciting times ahead. CDFI presently has a workshop once a month in Belfast. The workshops aim to provide training and support for individuals to run their own local church worship dance workshops. These workshops also provide a space to learn worship dance pieces that will be used for Evangelism. These training days give the opportunity for time to pray and study the scriptures together. CDFI aims to set up the same workshops in Dublin in 2019.



Photo: Workshop at the CDFI conference

In October past we celebrated the ICDF 30th anniversary at our CDFI conference. We were also greatly blessed with workshops on tambourine technique, Davidic dance worship, dance to the scriptures, drama, and much more. Since October's conference, CDFI has been invited to a Church to give a talk on what CDFI is all about and to do a few presentational dance pieces. Also an invitation was given to run a day's workshop with teenagers. We do hope and pray that this invitation will open many more doors for CDFI to evangelise ... reaching out to the lost and hurt.

Julie-Anna Richmond

CDF Malaysia

Under the leadership of Karen Liew, CDF Malaysia has hosted a number of conferences and workshops during 2018 including receiving teachers from overseas, notably from the USA and South Africa.

ICDF Nigeria

This country had a busy year with several performances and outreaches, also celebrating International Christian Dance Week and ICDF's 30th birthday. The last ministry for the year called "Gospel of Dance 2018" took place on 16th December.

Abiodun Babalola



Photo: Provided by ICDF Nigeria

CDF South Africa

Liesl Townsend writes ...

The highlight of our year was each Province hosting their mini conferences with each Province having a unique focus to meet the needs of their dancers:

- Kwa Zulul Natal under Lecia Hale hosted "Praise Him in Dance" with a strong focus on technique and developing excellence in the dance
- Western Cape under Lisa Wilson had a "Dance Boot Camp" where dancers had fun doing various dance styles non-stop from 9:00 – 15:00
- Eastern Cape under Heléne Prince hosted "Carriers of His Glory" which attracted mainly youth dancers and training was aimed at equipping them to be effective ministers in dance
- Mpumulanga under Loriné Venter hosted "Under the Shadow of His Wings" where dance in worship and soaking in the presence of the Lord was the focus
- Gauteng under Serena Reddy Melo hosted "Dance with your Heart and your Feet will Follow" which had a strong community outreach focus



Photo: Liesl Townsend at the Gauteng conference

Click on the link to view photos of the above events as well as other events CDFSA dancers were involved in during the year - <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Hy kz Jj Krb Jpa Ky NE8>

CDF Suriname

Greetings from CDF Suriname,

In the last few months, the Christian Dance Fellowship Suriname has experienced a great demand for training and teaching concerning Christian Dance and movement. We even get invitations from denominations that aren't familiar with Christian Dance. The Christian Dance Fellowship Suriname has become more than just an organization which provides training, workshops, etc. We are also asked by other dance organizations to advise and to be part of their boards. And we are very grateful for what the Lord is doing. There are times, though, when that we can't meet the demands. A great challenge is still the membership but nevertheless we are still moving forth in the name of Jesus. In the year 2019 we would like to welcome some new board members. We also want to start our own dance classes to meet the needs of so many dancers. We are still motivated. Our last workshop for this year will be in a local church on December 7 and 8.

God Bless You all. I hope to see some of you next year in India

Noël Filemon

CDF Sweden

2018 was a special birthday year for CDF Sweden. They invited teachers Christine and Sodapop Jeanville to celebrate with them at their National Conference and AGM in October attended by 70 members and friends from Sweden and Denmark. To mark the occasion, cakes bearing the flag of Sweden were served. 2018 was also a Voting Year for Psalto.



Photo: Christine and Sodapop Jeanville

Representing ICDF Jan Dyer, together with Steven Turner (ICDF Youth Network Coordinator), also joined Psalto's Birthday celebrations. During the AGM, Steven was awarded the ICDF Foundation Peter Jones Youth Award. Celebrations continued in the Church Service on Sunday with dance by delegates and presentation dances by Christine and Sodapop.

A blessed weekend and a taste of Psalto's year!

ICDF Uganda

This year has been a time of connecting and networking, making people aware of ICDF, its work and its vision for utilizing dance as ministry. During the month of July the Country Leader, Jacqlynn Tumusiime, had the opportunity to visit South Africa connecting with the CDFSA leaders and spending valuable time with them. Please pray for Jacqlynn as she continues with her calling in Uganda.



Photo: Lilly Rodrigues; CDF Puerto Rico

*Father God,
As we read the pages of this Newsletter we have much for praise and thanksgiving for ICDF - not only as we draw to the end of our Year of 30th Anniversary celebrations but for the years gone by that make up these 30 years. We thank you Lord for your leading of ICDF over the years and your call on our lives to serve you through the dance. We come with hearts full of praise and thanksgiving to the One who is worthy of our praise.*

O Come, let us bow down and worship; O come let us adore Him; O come let us dance in His presence.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the King.