



ICDF Newsletter

December 2022



ALL AROUND THE WORLD THIS FESTIVE SEASON LET THE PRAISE BEGIN

FROM THE ICDF STEERING COMMITTEE



As we come to the end of a very eventful year, we are thankful for the many blessings, new friendships, new steps and lessons learnt, challenges, surprises, heartwarming and treasured moments that will last forever and will shape how we step into 2023.

The ICDF Steering Committee wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

May your hearts be filled with thanksgiving and love as you celebrate the life of our Lord Jesus Christ who was born and gave up His life so that we might live forevermore.

May you take time to share this gift of eternal life with someone who needs to hear this gospel message over this festive season.

We pray for refreshment from God for your body, mind and soul and as you make time to rest, may you be restored and renewed, so that you may be like a fountain pouring out the hope that we have, to a lost and hurting world.

"A generous person will prosper. Whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Proverbs 11:25)

May the Lord bless and keep you in His care

With all our love..... Liesl, Sue, Lucy, Barbara, Noel & Heather.

A CHRISTMAS ARTICLE

Dancers can be disruptive!

So was the Christmas Child. His mum testified to that before he was even born... in fact he disrupted her life good and proper. He disrupted her formerly good and proper life, one could say. But sometimes, to bring goodness and to bring the world back to its proper context in which ALL can flourish as originally designed, disruption to that which has disrupted the peace needs to occur! It takes something powerful to turn things upside down. It also takes something powerful to turn it the right side up!

From the Book of Luke Chapter 1 verses 46 through 55 in The Message translation, we hear the Christmas Child's mum proclaiming something disruptive and powerful.

I invite you to perceive with your senses, both natural and spiritual, as you read here the text:

Verse 46-55 And Mary said, I'm bursting with God-news;

I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened—

I'm the most fortunate woman on earth!

What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts.

He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold.

He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high.

It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and **right up to now."**

(emphasised words are by the author of this article)

We, as people alive over 2000 years after the coming of the God-with-us One, are constantly media and social-media barraged with stories of repression, suppression and oppression perpetuating the story of humankind's departure from humane-ness. We are daily confronted with news that's not good. We ache for a time when everyone and everything can function in a just, harmonious and healthy way!

Here, in the Scripture text, this part of Mary's story seems rather amazing. That such words should be spoken by a very young woman who would have been facing condemnation by family and community for what was considered to be so very wrong, doesn't seem fitting. It's a bit "over the top", a bit extravagant, a bit "disruptive". Becoming pregnant before marriage, was just not right. It was shameful and sure social suicide in the culture of Mary's times. And yet in this circumstance, having left home to stay with her miraculously pregnant elder cousin (Elisabeth), we find Mary, who had conceived in an even more baffling way, uttering an astounding description of a world of human wrongs righted. Waves of life-giving mercy turning the upside down, the right side up! Maybe she needed to hear such words as much as anybody else?

The Message translation of Luke 1:46 is of great encouragement to our world-community of dance-art enthusiasts.

"I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God"

As we move towards the annual celebration of the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to earth as one of us, birthed by a woman, at a time when her people's homeland had been overrun by powerful, dominating oppressors, may we think of young Mary's exuberant, prophetic declaration. Is the world, heading toward Christmas 2022, less needy of such a powerfully transformative message?

May it inspire us with the knowledge that the same Spirit who caused Mary's miraculous conception, invites and equips us to dance God's Good News. We've been through challenging times in recent years. Tough times, something like a dark tunnel for many of us. However, for creatives, it's a birthing tunnel. NOW is our time to create afresh. Our embodied worship, our incarnate prayers, our art-hearted efforts, co-creating with our merciful God, release waves of justice, mercy and healing, in which we are refreshed, and through which a wounded world is bathed in God's transforming Love... exactly what was promised... right up to now!

Article written by Lucy Jarasius



SUE'S SWEDISH CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

A CHRISTMAS POEM

THE ULTIMATE CONCEPTION

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Echoes of the Good-God news story

The Voice speaking from the mount

serve up a dishful, distasteful to the disgraces of the status quo
disruptive and grace-full to the crushed ones

the lives fear-fractured and fragmented through the avarice of those
exclusively, extractively
"in the know"

Who actually know little of how things hold together

whose hearts beat blood-rung stone

against which hope-laden tears of the oppressed splash, dashed

Living Word stories manufactured into a mere ineffective fable of
optimistic sentiment

watered down

diverted away from river-rolling justice to not even a drip
diluting through humiliation the dignity of the thirsty ones

Upstream utopias of the upwardly mobile

downstream drought and desiccation

constricting flow

parching the heart-scape of nations within nations

Can we dive backwards into the future?

re-examine the sad saga of sullied acquisition
of failed creation-caring tests
running out of time

Can we dip into ancient wisdom,
soak in the salvific wells of old?

Can we dance upon injustice?

Reels of the real Abundanced life

reigning streams, drowning out the desert of
thievery deluging deathly destruction with
songs of freedom

Can we sing the restoration anthems?

Rally songs, pushing back the tides rising that
sink civilizations now barely afloat on a sea of despair?

Can we sculpt a new humanity, an earthed image infused with faith
when hope is gone and breath shallow, ebbing away?

Can we tell moving picture stories throbbing with pain?

yet banging, clashing symbols, resounding,
rerouting our sensibilities into a sense of equity and fair-go

Can we be sent-ness into our world

The Voice crying in the wilderness

Messianic-messaged ones

steeped in love of neighbourhood

in love with nature

in the Name of Love of all, for all that is good?

The road winds wide, looms large and portentous

poor-tenting us into abject poverty-heartedness

destruction's eve upon us

Can winds of change blow?

hard enough to strike blows opening up the narrow way,

etching a corridor, herding humans-no-longer-kind into refuges of safety,

re-housed, sheltering in the Rock of Ages,

storm-strong blows demolishing sand-built-castles of the greedy

unroofing the prisons, opening the graves

amplifying soul and Spirit wailings

stealing the thunder of the corporate express

formerly formally railroading steal-tracks through treaty-begging country,

inhabitants swept aside, exiled in their own lands, as if they don't even
exist!

It feels like something **might be** happening...

...mmm

maybe not

But it feels like something **could be** gestating

... mmm

more than just a gut-pain that seems to be growing

Is that a "growing pain"?

Does a "growing pain" feel different to any other hurt?

Does it have a threshold?

Does receipt of transformation require times of giving up?

Does something have to be borne before becoming born anew?

Is it a matter of hoping against hope, believing past belief, facing
immanent defeat

a cliff of hanging in there

nudged over the edge of humanity's shortcomings

into a free-fall

failing

... then eerily tearily realising that this

downward-reeling feeling might herald dealings for healing?

an upward falling?

finding faith, free-for-all for all to be free?

It feels like something is **happening...**

needling into the leather-tough skin of the politically prideful,

injecting Life right now!

Love hurts, they say

but

Love BIRTHS!



ANNOUNCEMENTS & DATES TO DIARISE FOR 2023

This is a request to all the Sweden Conference Delegates

As we move towards the end of the Sweden Virtual Conference, we would now like to get feedback from everyone who attended the "In Person" as well as the "Virtual" Sweden Conference 2022.

Please click on the Survey link and provide your feedback which we will use as we start planning for the next ICDF conference. **SURVEY LINK :** <https://forms.gle/5Z5GZURD2gg6MT7e6>

The next ICDF Conference destination has been set and we will be announcing this in our January 2023 Newsflash. So look out for it and make your plans to get there!!

Calendar of Events for 2023

Below is the ICDF schedule of events for 2023. Please diarise these dates and we will give you more details as the year unfolds.

DATE	EVENT/ ACTIVITIES
28 Jan	Newsflash: Events & News
25 Mar	1 st ICDF Magazine for 2023 – Including various ICDF Networks
29 April	ICDF Full Day Workshop: International Dance Day
22 – 28 May	ICDF Dance Week
30 June	2nd Magazine for 2023 – Including news from ICDF Countries
22 July	1 st Country Leaders Meeting
5 Aug	2 nd Country Leaders Meeting
25 Sept	3 rd Magazine for 2023 - Including various ICDF Networks
30 Sept	ICDF Full Day Workshop
4 – 18 Nov	ICDF AGM via email Sign in and voting on Telegram
16 Dec	4 th Magazine for 2023 - Including news from ICDF Countries

Liest & Tue
ICDF Joint International Coordinators

