



# NEWSFLASH

AUGUST 2023

## 1 Greetings

Message from Joint Coordinators

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Near to where Sue lives in the United Kingdom is a field, full of beautiful, majestic sunflowers. It has been the subject of much discussion among locals as they have grown and finally opened out into large sunflowers. Many people have visited to see and marvel at them.

To stare at a field of sunflowers in full bloom is a sight to behold, as each head opens and faces the same direction in a show of unity. Each one is looking at the sun, the source of their light, without which they would not open and ripe into seeds that the farmer harvests. This reminded us of the chorus of an old hymn, which first appeared in 1918, and we are sure many of you will know.

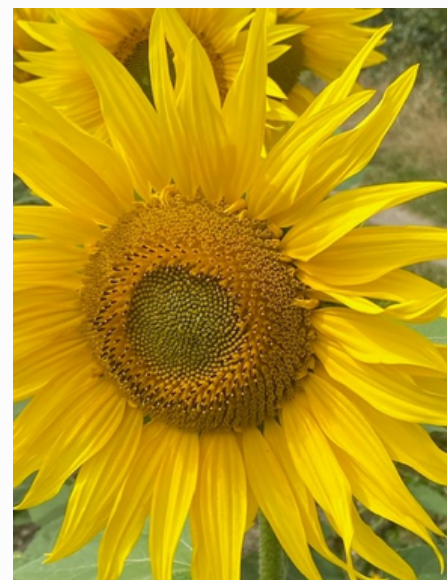
"Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face;  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace."  
Helen Howarth Lemmel

Like the sunflowers we look upwards towards our God, changing our perspective from our own problems and on to his grace and mercy. So, whatever you may face right now, and any difficulties you are under, like the sunflower, lift your face from the dirt and stare into the face of the Son.



"I lift my eyes to you, O God, enthroned in heaven. We keep looking to the Lord our God for his mercy. " Psalm 123: 1-2. (NLT).

*Liesel & Sue*





## 2 Announcements

Highlights from our 2nd ICDF Country Leader's Meeting



We had our second ICDF Leadership & Mentoring Forum on 5 August with representation from Ireland, Britain, USA, Nigeria, Norway, Costa Rica, Sweden, Finland, and Ghana. Also in attendance was Barbara, Lucy and Heather from the Steering committee and Moira who is Liesl's ICDF Pastoral Advisor, joined us to share a word of encouragement. Our session was enlightening and meaningful as each country representative shared their successes as well as challenges in their roles in their respective countries.



### CONNECT

- The Forum gave an opportunity for the Country Representatives to meet and Connect for the very first time.
- Norway and Finland who are our newest Countries to join the ICDF family have been connecting with their dancers successfully through running workshops. They, along with other countries recognise the need to set up Regional networks and reach out by connecting and building relationships one dancer at a time.
- Norway's fellowship is made up of predominantly young dancers and their aim is to keep it young with youth leaders running workshops and events. They gather together in person 4 times per year and also run 3 online gatherings per year to stay connected with each other.
- Ireland valued the opportunity to share that their Fellowship's membership has reduced over the past years due to an ageing membership. The challenge like other countries is to target the youth to rebuild a new generation of members. Listening to how other countries are connecting was encouraging and motivating.
- Almost all shared that they have moved from virtual to in person workshops.
- Costa Rica shared how they have connected with Arrows International as well as Prophets in Movement. Patricia also extended an invitation to all country leaders to visit their country.



### LEARN

- From the SWOT analysis, country leaders shared that they are focusing on evangelism. Patricia also shared that she has the privilege to teach 150 students at a school.
- Sharing ideas of running Summer camps, Dance Days and Conferences sparked enthusiasm for the Fellowships who are struggling to keep members engaged and involved.
- Norway is running a Conference from 6 - 8 October.



### GROW

- The leaders agreed regular gatherings is a way to grow the Fellowship.
- There was also an agreement that we need to be building a Youth component in every Fellowship and the Youth leaders should be connecting with Steven Turner our Youth Refresh Coordinator.

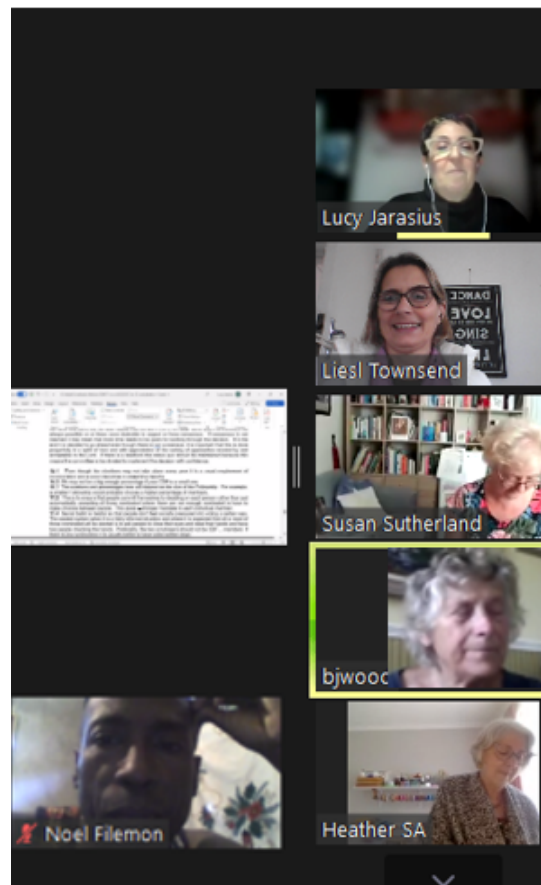


## 3

## Calendar

Annual Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENTS / ACTIVITIES
September	3rd Magazine for 2023 - News and articles from ICDF Networks
30 September	ICDF Full Day Workshop - This workshop has been postponed.
4 - 18 November	ICDF AGM Save the Date for 18 November to round up our AGM in a 1 hour online meeting
16 December	4th Magazine for 2023 - News and articles from ICDF Countries



The Steering Committee have been hard at work to finalise the Model Constitution which countries will be able to adapt to their specific needs. Thanks to Barbara and Lucy who are driving this process. We are almost done!!

