



ICDF FOUNDATION

*Supporting the work of the
International Christian Dance Fellowship*

OUR CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December 2012

**WELCOME TO THE MAY 2012 INTERNATIONAL
CHRISTIAN DANCE FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSLETTER.**

THE CORE PURPOSES OF THE FOUNDATION ARE TO:

- 1) Award on a regular basis a scholarship for the ICDF Associate Diploma
- 2) Institute the Mary Jones Dance Ministry Awards which would be presented to people whose names had been brought forward for significant work in dance ministry and for their service to Christian Dance Fellowship
- 3) Provide grants for promising dance ministry projects, and to raise funds for projects that would encourage, recognise, reward and further the effectiveness of expressing the Christian faith through movement.

UPDATE ON LAST YEARS EVENTS

Last July we held a Special Dance Awards Evening that recognised the significant contribution of people in the work of dance ministry in various parts of the world.

Awards were given for:

- 1) Outstanding work in dance ministry and for their service to the Christian Dance Fellowship; (Mary Jones Dance Ministry Awards).
- 2) Dance projects deserving support, and
- 3) A scholarship for participants in the ICDF Associate Diploma.

NEWS FROM 2012 AWARD WINNERS

At the second Awards night in November, Noelene and Neil Wait were awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for their pioneering work in Australia and overseas; Claudia Toh received the Project Award for G d'Atiz. The Mid-Career Award was awarded to Sue Hodson in So9uth Africa and Project Award to Mary Rendon, Director of Lifenet Children's Foundation in the Philippines.

[See story and pictures on the following pages]



The BOARD of ICDFFF wishes our readers a joyful and blessed Christmas and May the promise of the First Christmas shine through to reassure us that LOVE will prevail and PEACE will reign on earth.



THE SECOND AWARD DINNER

Ballet, street dance and mime featured at this year's dinner which was held at Lane Cove Anglican. It was a bit of a mystery tour for some people finding it with the name LCM (standing for Lane Cove Mowbray church) posted in a not too obvious place on the building. There were drinks and delicious appetisers in the lobby before entering the hall for dinner. The tables had a garden atmosphere with green chairs and yellow flowered pot plants and candles. Everyone remarked on how delicious the food was. There was, however, one complaint - the Moroccan Lamb wasn't marked as "hot" when its descriptive tag got lost in the kitchen! It was also noticed that at least one other person went back several times to that dish having discovered that it was hot.



Board member Geoff Chubb and friends - drinks



The dinner

Programme – Australian and international

This year two of the recipients of the Awards were at the dinner. Noelene and Neil Wait from Queensland had flown down to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for the many years of pioneering work they have done both in Australia and overseas in the area of dance and the creative arts in ministry. Claudia Loh received one of the Project Awards for Go d'Artiz, a street dance ministry that works with young people in both Malaysia where it started and now Sydney. The performing group, headed by Mervin Yong, did a spectacular street dance, having taken time out from an international Hip Hop conference being held in outer Sydney for the dinner.



Board member Jennifer Dennis congratulates Claudia



Neil and Noelene Wait with Murray & Sharon Allibone

The evening was certainly an international one. As well as our Asian street performers the evening opened with a beautiful worship dance by Brittany Nixon and Alea Canning, both Americans. Brittany has married an Australian and it was good to see her parents-in-law and husband at the dinner. Her friend Alea has recently come to help with the teaching in Brittany's dance school *Imagination dance* which is now established in several suburbs of Sydney. After their dance, Frank Tully, another recent American import working for Navigators' International, gave an inspiring five minute talk on dance and joy. Mary Jones announced the Awards with two being given overseas – Mid Career dance

ministry Flame Award went to Sue Hodson in South Africa and a Project Award to Mary Rendon director of Lifenet Children's Foundation in Mindanao, Philippines, for their Seed Project which uses the arts to help children in danger.



Worship dance



Silent auction discussions



Mary Jones presents Awards

Money raised and thank-yous

One of our own Board members, Jenny Dennis, performed the mime which was very well received. A big thank you to all the Board members, helped by several others, who worked very hard to make the evening such a success. With the door takings, silent auction and donations we raised \$2609 after expenses were taken out which will go both to building up the Foundation deposit and directly to the two projects. Thank you to all those who contributed.

AWARD DINNER IN 2013 – May 11

Next year we will revert to our original intention of having the dinner during International Christian Dance Week which coincides with Pentecost week. The Flame Awards seem even more appropriate at Pentecost and speak to our prayers that the Holy Spirit will inspire and use our gifts of dance for meaningful worship and evangelism.

Every fourth year there is an International dance and movement arts conference somewhere in the world run by the Christian Dance Fellowship. The Board has decided that during a conference year it will raise money for scholarships to help promising dancers and teachers get to the conference. In 2013 the conference will be in Puerto Rico July 23-27th.

INTRODUCING AWARD WINNERS

Flame Trophies – Mary Jones Dance Ministry Awards



Life time achievement was awarded to **Noelene Wait** together with husband Neil Wait for pioneering Living Word Dance Ministry that for many years represented CDFA around Australia; and for her services as Coordinator of CDFA – Queensland which included organising a national CDFA conference. Neil and Noelene have also led several mission trips overseas. (see their photo in Dinner report)

Mid- Career Award was awarded to **Sue Hodson**, nominated by Rosemary Raw, founder of CDF South Africa. Sue was a member of Rosemary's dance company *Christlight*. She went on to dance in the Feast of Tabernacles team in Israel and the Messiah Project in the USA. Her work in schools has been important over many years first in an outreach team



and more recently in Rustenberg school where she teaches dance and drama. The majority of students there come from disadvantaged backgrounds and are either living with grandparents or are orphans. She writes "It has been such a blessing to see the Lord Jesus set them free creatively."

Sue Hodson

In Rosemary's team at 1988 CDFA conference



Sue's first dance students at Rustenberg



Project Awards

Mary Rendon - Lifenet Children's Foundation <http://lifenetkids.moonfruit.com/>



Mary worked as a professional dancer in England before an injury intervened and sent her on a new path of full-time Christian ministry with Youth with a Mission. During time in the Philippines she met and married her husband and now has 4 children and a stepson. They have set up the Lifenet Children's Foundation where they live in northern Mindanao, Philippines, to help rescue children at risk.

Lifenet has a feeding and flood relief programs, the House of Joshua for orphaned, abandoned

or neglected or a boys, a jail program and street ministry.

We raised money for the Seed Project which is helping some of the children living in tents after the floods that devastated the region this year. It offers classes in dance and creative arts as well as other practical help to the children.





Mary Rendon teaching the children



A recent staff training day for volunteers who have agreed to help.



Go D'Artiz – Claudia Loh and Mervin Yong (see photo in Dinner report)

Claudia started Go D'Artiz in Malaysia and set up classes in Street Dance in several places working with both church and unchurched youths. She found it difficult to get support from the church. Having done professional training in accountancy in Sydney she decided to return to Australia and while classes would still continue in Malaysia set up a ministry here to youth. Again, it wasn't easy to get support and she herself sustained a back injury that has prevented her dancing, but she persisted and brought Mervin over from Malaysia to help with the teaching. She and her husband have personally been paying for Mervin's expenses and on hearing about our Foundation decided to apply for some help.

In the next edition of ICDF FOUNDATION newsletter we will bring you a news flash on coming events in 2013. It promises to be another great year for the Foundation, and we would love our friends and supporters to come and join us, **ESPECIALLY for the Mary Jones Dance Ministry Awards Evening. It will be the best ever!**

For meditation:



“You turned my wailing into dancing;

You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

That my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.

Lord my God, I will praise you forever” Psalm 30: 11-12

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