

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over rocks. In the foreground, three women are captured in a dance pose, their arms raised and bodies slightly blurred as if in motion. The woman on the left wears a red long-sleeved top and pants. The woman in the center wears a blue long-sleeved top and pants. The woman on the right wears a white long-sleeved top with gold trim and a white skirt. The background is a lush, green waterfall surrounded by rocks and vegetation.

# *Dance Ministry Manual*

Written for New Hope Dance Restoration Ministry

New Hope Adventist Church

*By Vilma Simon Bond*

Heavenly Father,  
I thank you for the  
completion of this  
Manual.

Revised December 2009

## Acknowledgement Page

Heavenly Father, I thank you for giving me the vision to write this Dance Ministry Manual. I am also grateful for the guidance and direction of your Holy Spirit. This Dance Ministry Manual was birthed out of my passion to see order and structure during worship in the house of God. My desire has always been to Worship and Praise God through a Spirit of Excellence. Special thanks to my natural parents for giving birth to me. Thank you, Mom and Dad. To my spiritual parents, thank you for raising me on the Word of God. To my Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton, Pastors Dwayne and Kitt Brewington, Pastor David and Phyllis Newman, Pastor Dennis and Lady Karen Smith. To my mentor Dr. Amanda Standard for her advice and words of wisdom, I am forever grateful. To Timothy and Lidia Atolagbe for their words of encouragement and support. Thank you. Special thanks to Andre and Sharon Alsop for creating the Manual cover, and for their professionalism and expertise with Photography. Special thanks to a confidant and mentor of 35years, Mr. Calvin Phipps. Thank you for believing in me and for providing a shoulder to cry on, for constant support and for being the most consistent person I have ever known. I thank God for you. To my husband for putting up with me. Thank you honey for your love and support. Thank you all and may God continue to bless you and shine His light upon you and give you peace, in Jesus name. Amen.

To our Beloved Pastors, Servants of the Most High God

Pastor David Newman

Pastor Ann Roda

Pastor Kumar Dixit

It is with great joy, humility and thanks that this note is written. We, the New Hope Dance Restoration Ministry, truly appreciate and are grateful for pastors who sincerely seek to know, love and serve God on His terms. We appreciate that our pastors put the Word of God as the final authority for every decision. We believe that you have prayed and sought the scriptures concerning the Lord's purpose and His enjoyment of dancing unto Him in the Church. Thank you for allowing Him to restore the ministry of dance. He delights to see His people joyful because they recognize He is trustworthy and outrageously good! (Psalm 5:11)

In Spirit and In Truth,

Lidia Atolagbe - Ministry Leader

Tarsha Washington - Assistant Leader

# New Hope Dance Restoration Ministry Manual

My passion has always been to see order and structure during worship in the house of God.

By Vilma Simon Bond

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## Chapter 1

### THE BIRTH OF NEW HOPE DANCE RESTORATION MINISTRY (NHDRM)

God birthed the New Hope Dance Restoration Ministry through several people. In the summer of 2004, Richard and Vilma Bond met Timothy and Lidia Atolagbe at New Hope Adventist Church and soon became the best of friends. Soon after they met, Vilma began to share dance ministry information with Lidia, together they spent a lot of time talking about the ministry of dance, one day Vilma decided to share her vision for New Hope with Lidia. Vilma shared with Lidia, that she believed one day New Hope would have a praise and worship dance ministry that will enhance the praise and worship experience, and that it was going to be a great experience for the church. Thereafter Lidia began to show hunger and desire to worship God through movement.

Lidia expressed to Vilma, that she always wanted to dance before God and that it was something that she did at home regularly in her private time. Lidia then later told Vilma that she knew somehow God had sent Vilma to her. Vilma began to mentor Lidia on the dynamics relating to dance in church, she began to share various media materials as well as she provided available information on dance conferences, workshops, Christian dance schools or Academies that Lidia can attend. As time went by Vilma began to increase her freedom to worship at New Hope Church during worship services, and the church members began to notice and ask questions.

For the first time Vilma was asked to minister in dance at New Hope Church on December 24, 2005, because of circumstances beyond her control it fell through. But Vilma continued to remain focused in her pursuit in order to give worship unto God and to give glory to His name. The following year Vilma was asked to minister in dance and again it fell through. Yet again Vilma kept firm in her pursuit in order to give worship and glory unto God. Then for the third time Vilma was asked to minister in dance on July 7, 2007. Vilma began to prepare herself for this event (7/7/07).



Finally, July 7, 2007, came and Vilma was ever ready along with two warrior dancers, they were Candice Villafana of Victory Christian Church International of Gaithersburg, Maryland; Pastors are Dwayne and Kitt Brewington, and Ayesha Brock of Spirit of Faith Christian Church. Clinton. Maryland, Pastors are Mike and DeeDee Freeman, as they ministered on that day, they knew somehow that God had begun to open the doors wide at New Hope Church, and that from that day on, they would begin to see an increase in the worship experience through movement ministry at New Hope Adventist Church.

Again, Vilma was asked to minister for the fourth time on October 13, 2007. Only this time the breakthrough came, Vilma then rallied her troops and called for rehearsals in order to prepare for October 13, 2007. Her army of dancers that ministered with her was Richard Bond, Lidia Atolagbe, Collette Zongo, Angel Nerona, Donna Lightsey and Minister Marla King. That day there was a tremendous outpouring of God's Spirit as the fire of God destroyed and crushed strongholds, the church experienced worship in a whole new way. *As we exited the sanctuary, no one moved, no one spoke, the presence of God's Holy Spirit inspired, silence and reverence.* **Hallelujah!** During the ministry on October 13, 2007, Vilma and her troops were not aware that God was also paving the way for two young ladies who sat in the congregation every Sabbath, with a burning desire to worship God in the dance, but they somehow felt that if they pursued their dream they may be put out of the church.

On October 20, 2007, the two young ladies Joy Jordan and Tasha Washington, decided that they would come to Sabbath service in their garments and that they would take a chance anyway to worship God, they picked up their positions at the back of the sanctuary, even if they felt they would be put out of the church, but they proceeded to do what they had set out to do anyway, (worship their God). While they were worshipping at the back of the sanctuary, Pastor Kumar approached them; at that point they thought they were in trouble! Instead, Pastor Kumar told them "We do not want you in the back of the church, we want you in the front" Hallelujah!!! That was their ticket to freedom of worship at New Hope Church.

*October 20, 2007 was the first official day that the ministry of praise and worship dance began at New Hope Adventist Church, as Joy Jordan and Tasha Washington picked up their positions at the front of the sanctuary.* **GLORY TO GOD FOR THE VICTORY! HALLELUJAH!** Today the ministry of Praise and Worship at New Hope Church, has taken on a whole new experience,



an experience in its own right to be free to worship our God with all the gifts and talents that He has given us. The dancers at New Hope believe that they have been given a mandate by God to carry out what scripture commands them to do, restore the dance. (Jeremiah 31:4)

## Chapter 2

### THE PURPOSE OF DANCE MINISTRY

Revelation 1:6 tells us that Jesus has made us kings and priests unto God the Father.

1Peter 2:9 also tells us that we are a chosen generation, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a peculiar people; that we should show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Our primary purpose should be:

- To recognize that we have the choice to worship our King forever and ever, and this is our privilege.
- To train up a strong, disciplined, generation of worshippers equipped to lead in the Liturgical Ministry of Praise and Worship.
- to identify the calling on our lives as it applies to movement ministry.

- to provide movement ministers with a solid biblical foundation as it applies to movement ministry.
- To bring appreciation and heightened awareness of the unifying power of movement ministry to cross-cultural and cross-denominational segments of the church.

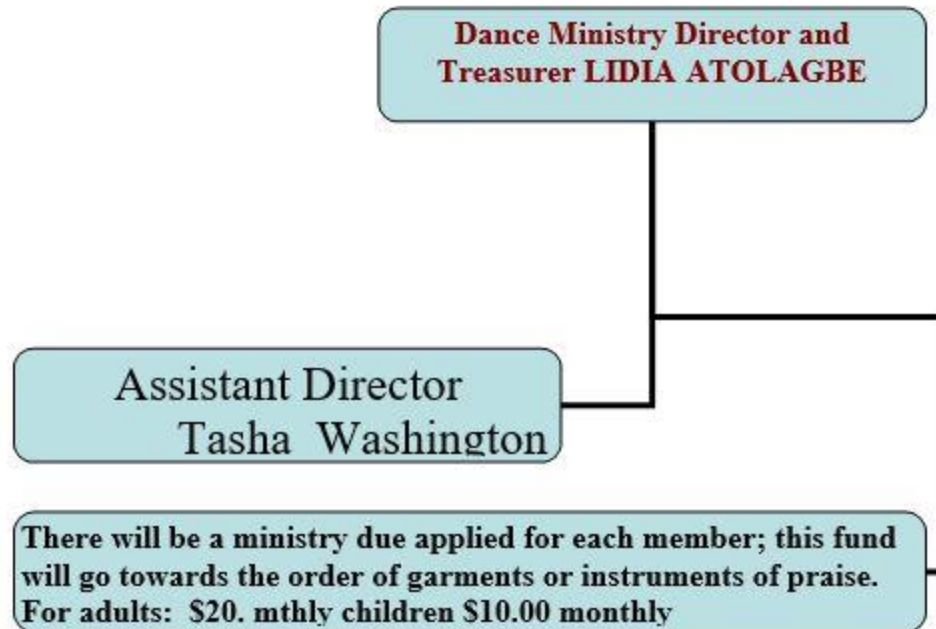
## Chapter 3

### DANCE MINISTRY GOALS

The Dance Ministry goals are to:

- To train and establish dancers to first become ministers of the dance, and to understand why we dance.
- To establish a solid word foundation for all movement ministers to operate in excellence. (Daniel 6:3)
- To establish worshippers who against all odds will exhibit the love of Christ through a submitted spirit of obedience to leadership, and by doing so, become an irresistible influence in our community and the world.

## Organizational Tree



## Chapter 4

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR DANCE MINISTRY

The following are mandatory qualifications for members of the Dance Ministry.

1. Must have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and be a member of New Hope Church;
2. Read and complete textbook, "Restoring the Dance by Ann Stevenson;
3. Be a financial supporter of New Hope Church;
4. Demonstrate a willingness to submit to leadership with a spirit of humility;
5. Embrace a lifestyle that includes Studying God's word, along with personal time in praise and worship;
6. Be committed to the call.
7. Have a teachable spirit.
8. Have a heart to worship God,  
regardless of how you may feel or what it  
may look like.
9. Have a quiet spirit, humble; well  
mannered and well behaved.
10. Be willing to fast once a week, depending on your medical history.

## Chapter 5

# AUDITIONS

(For dance ministry only)

Audition as it applies to dance ministry, is a secular word and therefore is unscriptural and does not apply to the church. An audition in its own secular right gives the dancer the opportunity to show what they know before a panel of judges. It also gives the judges the opportunity to judge that person based on some type of merit, thereby in some cases belittling or turning down someone because of their lack of or limited abilities, possibly resulting in bringing hurt or shame to that person. Auditions also give the judges the opportunity to praise a dancer based on their experience or highly skilled ability to the art form, possibly resulting in high mindedness or pride.

We do not believe that a person should be auditioned in order to minister unto God. Nowhere in scripture does it tell us that someone had to audition in order to bring their gifts and talents to God in worship. We believe that each person who joins the ministry should be given three months of training in the biblical foundations of dance, and as well be given training in movement in all forms of dance that applies to the church. Once that person has shown a level of commitment to the purpose and call of the ministry and has exhibited good character and a willingness to submit to authority.

At the end of the three-month period, a final decision would then be made to conduct a general praise and worship movement interview, where all the dancers will come together for a corporate praise and worship movement session. At that point, the leader will determine who is ready to minister before the church or who may need additional time in training. We aspire to worship God in true excellence. According to Daniel 6:3, He has given us an excellent spirit. We would also suggest Christian dance schools or Academy's that one can attend in order to obtain additional training to become better trained and equipped for the ministry of excellence. (Daniel 6:3)

## Chapter 6

### DANCE MINISTRY CORPORATE CREED

In Christ we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)

We dance because God has set me free (John 8:36)

We dance unto God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23)

We dance to clearly express the message of God's will.

We dance to give perfected praise unto God (Mathew 21:16)

We dance to lead others into praise, worship and victory (Exodus 15:20)

We dance not for entertainment or show but for Gods glory only. Amen.

## *Prayer and Praise*

*Psalms 150*

*Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in His sanctuary: Praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts: Praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

*Praise Him with the timbrel and Dance:*

*Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.*

*Praise Him upon the loud cymbals:*

*Praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals.*

*Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord.*

*Praise ye the Lord.*



## Chapter 7

### DRESS CODE

(As it is in heaven not in the world)

The proper attire for dancers in dance ministry must not be influenced by the world.

In Exodus 28:2, the garment was given to communicate two things: glory and beauty.

Exodus 28:3 says, “And thou shall speak unto all those who are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron’s garment to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office.” As scripture shows, God is very particular about who would minister unto Him, where they would minister and what kind of attire, they would minister in.

## Garments

1. Dancers will wear proper garments that have been approved by the dance ministry leader.
2. All garments for worship will be designed with modesty in mind, representing holiness glory and beauty.
3. There will be no tightly fitting garments, see through garments, or no clothes with glitter or sequins.
4. All garments must be ironed before ministering in the sanctuary.

## Care of garments

- 1) Worship garments are to be used for the sole purpose of ministry involving worship and or praise, not for leisure or an evening out or any activity that is not ministry related.
- 2) Garments should only be hand-washed unless fabric type requires dry cleaning, or line drying.
- 3) Garments, when not in use, are to be cleaned, pressed and stored in a garment bag.
- 4) Garments after use should never be thrown in the dirty linen basket along with regular clothing.

## Chapter 8

### REHEARSALS AND GROOMING

All things are to be done in decency and in order.

*A two-hour rehearsal will be held every Tuesday evening from 6:45 pm. To 8:45 pm, at New Hope Church. You will be notified as to which room will be used for the rehearsal, please arrive 10 minutes before rehearsal begins, to sign in, rehearsal will then start rehearsal with prayer and devotional time, please call if you are running late.*

Good grooming is a must. Each member should have clean nails, hair and body. This should be our daily lifestyle.

#### GROOMING - FEMALES

Attire for all rehearsals are black leotard or unitard long sleeve, black tights, black palazzo pants and white t-shirt or black dance top.

#### Hair

For all ministry-related events, including rehearsals, please have hair neatly pulled away from the face and placed in bun. Head wraps can also be worn. For girls with bangs, bangs can be gelled or clipped in place or braided.

#### Nails

Nails are to be kept short and neatly manicured, if polish is worn; only natural colors are acceptable.

#### Jewelry

Jewelry or body type piercing stubs of any kind will not be allowed. Wedding or covenant bands are allowed. Acceptable jewelry for special occasions for females only, should be pea size, non-hanging earrings of natural colors only.

### Makeup

Females - Soft make-up only, no bright colors.

### GROOMING - MALES

#### Attire

Please wear black sweatpants and white T-shirt.

#### Hair

Please keep hair short and well-trimmed, if hair is long please secure in a ponytail.

#### Jewelry

Jewelry or body type piercing stubs of any kind will not be allowed. Wedding or covenant bands are allowed. *No earrings are allowed for males.*

Rehearsal schedule is as follows:

- Prayer and devotions - 30 minutes
- Warm – up and stretching - 30 minutes
- Presentation of new technique - 30 minutes

Parents please do not bring your children to rehearsal. We plan to provide childcare in the future.

*Please do not wear or bring any cologne to rehearsals, as strong smells may be offensive or toxic to some. Powders and deodorants are acceptable.*

## PERSONAL HYGIENE

(To the pure all things are pure)

Please pay special attention to foot care.

Teachers and dancers will be closely relating to each other. Therefore, it is very important that we do not subject each other to poor hygiene.

- After each rehearsal dance clothing need to be quickly hand-washed and hung out to dry for next rehearsal.
- Do not wear same sweaty clothing to next rehearsal, you will be asked to sit on the side and not be able to participate; there will be no exception to this rule

As you feel good and clean about yourself, you will notice that your self -confidence will increase and you will have more of an apt to  
enjoy rehearsals.

## Chapter 10

### Disciplinary Procedures

“Come out from among them and be ye separated unto me saith the Lord.” (2 Corinthians. 6:7)

Do not act like the world. God has separated you unto himself to bring him perfected praise.

#### **Rules for Children**

- No unruly behavior will be tolerated.
- Emotional outburst will not be tolerated.
- No hitting, shoving or calling of names will be tolerated, if this occurs the child will be asked to sit down.
- Foul language will not be allowed; if this occurs the child will be dismissed and referred to be mentored.
- Talking, gum chewing, excessive talking and unruly behavior during rehearsal or service will not be tolerated. If this occurs the child will proceed to time out.
- Rehearsals will be attended regularly as this is a sign of commitment to your call.
- Although rebellion starts of in the heart of an individual it often spreads quickly, Rebellion is infectious and will not be tolerated

- Every member of the ministry is expected to be courteous, polite and well-mannered at all times.
- 
- Train up a child in the way that they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it. (Proverbs. 22:6)

### The Role of Parents

- **Note:** Parents will be responsible to see that their children comply with all rules.
- Any issues or concerns that parents may have concerning their children should be immediately directed to the ministry director or assistant director.
- We are asking of all parents that they offer their services to the ministry by interceding for the ministry.
- Any future ministry assistance by parents would come in the form of an official request from the ministry director. Additions to parent's role in the ministry will be added in the future.



## RULES OF BEHAVIOR FORM

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, in accordance with the word of God (Psalms 101:2), I make a conscious decision to pay close attention to my conduct, by adhering and abiding by all the standards outline in our Dance Ministry Manual.**

**I also understand that should I violate the standards written in the dance ministry manual; I would be held accountable through the standards of correction outlined in the Dance Ministry Manual.**

**I also understand that if I fail to receive correction both in the church and out of the church, that I would be held subject to correction as outlined in the standards of correction, and will also be held solely responsible to immediately make any and every change necessary in order to set the right Godly example both in conduct and character. Failure to comply with the ministry standards will result in temporary dismissal from the Ministry.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## EXALTATION

*O' God how Great Thou art!*

*Let every Nation, every Kindred, every Tongue and every Kind worship the King in the beauty of holiness.*

*We call forth the Singers, the Musicians and the Dancers. Come let us move into His presence.*

*O' King we worship You. We destroy the works of iniquity through our dance, prayer and intercession.*

*O' King, we do warfare in Your mighty name. You train our hands for battle. You have strengthened our arms that we can bend a bow.*

*Lord, we cast our crowns at Your feet in total honor and reverence of who You are.*

*We declare throughout the whole Earth that You are our King.*

*We worship you O' King in the dance, forever and ever. Amen.*

*By Vilma Simon Bond*

## CHAPTER 11

### SABBATH SERVICE

All dancers that are scheduled to minister on any given Sabbath must govern themselves accordingly.

Dancers should arrive 20-30 minutes prior to the start of service.

Dancers will use this time for getting dressed while staying prayerful. Leaders will also use this time to be gate keepers of all dancers making sure all manual guidelines are in place before anyone ministers before the Church.

Once everyone is dressed, they must be in the sanctuary at least 10 minutes prior to the start of service. During this time everyone will stay in a prayerful mode and wait for prayer with the praise team. While in the sanctuary, there is to be no unnecessary talking or socializing. After the first service everyone will retire to a room upstairs for refreshments and as well to pray and prepare ourselves for the next service. Anyone that is running late, please be responsible and call one of your leaders to let them know.

If a dancer arrives in the sanctuary after everyone has prayed with the praise team and is getting ready to minister. That dancer would not be allowed to minister right away. At that point the dancer will proceed to leave the sanctuary with one of the leaders, the leader will then pray with the dancer and prayerfully help get the dancer ready for ministry. There will be no exception to this rule. Every dancer must spend time in corporate prayer with the entire praise team before ministering before the church. After prayer the dancer can join the rest of the team.

We ask that every dancer be his brother or sister's keeper, if you are in the sanctuary and noticed that someone

forgot to remove their jewelry, kindly bring it to that person's attention. We should all operate in a spirit of submission even towards each other. There is no wrong or right time in dance ministry to hold each other accountable.

## Chapter 12

### RULES FOR CORRECTION TO TARDINESS AND BEHAVIOR

It is mandatory that any dancer ministering for Sabbath service be present for corporate prayer before ministering. If a dancer shows up late and after the entire praise team along with the dancers have had corporate prayer, that dancer will not be allowed to minister for that service.

Dancers that arrive at church after corporate prayer is finished will proceed to meet with the ministry Chaplin along with one of the leaders for prayer. After prayer the dancer can then join the rest of the team.

If a dancer displays in or out of the sanctuary conduct that is unbecoming, that dancer will have their first counseling session with the ministry leader. If after a dancer has been spoken to for the second and third time about the same matter, that dancer will be asked to sit down from ministering for a period of one month in order to continue further training. A dancer who has been sat down from ministering, will continue to attend every rehearsal, and will be allowed to accompany the ministry on any outside ministry event. If after a dancer has been

sat down for a period of one month and there has been no visible signs of change in conduct or behavior, that dancer will be placed on a temporary leave of absence from all ministry activities for a period of two months.

During this time, a ministry leader will be assigned to the along with the Ministry Director, in order to uncover the root cause of the matter and also to determine what type of spiritual assistance can be given to the dancer.

If after two months of temporary leave from ministry and if after counseling, the dancer has not conformed to the standards outlined in the dance ministry manual. That dancer will then be asked to resign from the ministry, in order to seek the face of God and to also determine if they have been called to the dance ministry.

## Biographies



### **Lidia Atolagbe**

The Praise Dance Director of the NHDRM has always been captivated with music and dance. Recently, she became more fascinated and involved in praise and worship unto the Lord at her home and at New Hope, during summer of 2004, she was blessed to meet Mrs. Vilma Bond, who became her mentor, and shared much of what she knew regarding dance as it relates to exalting God in the church. Lidia accepted the Holy Spirit's call to give God glory, honor and power (Rev. 4:11), and to become a conduit for the Holy Spirit to remove burdens and destroy yokes through dance. Lidia is currently attending a one-year program at the International Liturgical Dance Fellowship Academy (ILDF). Upon the completion of this program, Lidia will be a certified Minister of Dance under ILDF. Lidia was born in the Hispanic island of Dominican Republic: she is married to Timothy Atolagbe. God has blessed them with two children, Ayomide and Ayodeji. Lidia believes that she exists and was created for God's pleasure. (Rev 4:11)



**Tarsha Washington, Assistant Director of the NHDRM**

Tarsha has danced before the Lord for years in private. The tender mercies, loving kindness, and miraculous things He has done in her life stirs her to bless Him in worship movements. As it is the gift and talent the Father gives, she still delights to in studying further God's order and purpose for the ministry of dance in the church.

Much of her training took place while participating with the praise dance ministry of Jericho City of Praise. It was there that she was ordained as a minister of dance. Attending dance workshops, conferences, and in-depth study of dance protocol are an ongoing pursuit for her in her efforts towards serving the Lord in excellence.

Tarsha is married to Michael Washington, and they have four wonderful sons, and they reside in the city of Laurel. She knows that their main assignment from the Lord is that they present to Him the next generation who will honor, love and worship Him all the days of their lives.



## Vilma Simon Bond

Vilma Angela Simon Bond was born in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She lived there until she migrated to the United States in 1989. As a child, Vilma was always a strong believer in the Lord and attended Church on a regular basis. At the age of 12, through water baptism, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. After Vilma was water baptized, she also discovered her passion for dance. At age 16, Vilma enrolled in the Astor Johnson Repertory Dance Company and Workshop. There she studied Modern Dance for two-years under the Martha Graham Style. When she migrated to the United States in 1989, Vilma continued to pursue her burning desire to dance. While living in Gaithersburg, MD, she worshiped and danced at Victory Christian Church International (VCCI), under the leadership of Pastors Dwayne and Kitt Brewington. At VCCI, Vilma completed a two-year course in Ministerial Training and Development.

On completion of her two-year Ministerial Training, Vilma sat under the teaching of the word for an additional two-years. She received many invitations to minister and attended many workshops and dance conferences both locally and nationally. She danced with ministries such as: Dancing under the Anointing Ministries headed by Missionary Dancer, Miss A. Renee Cooper, Washington, DC; Allen Liturgical Dance Ministry, Jamaica Queens, NY; Divine Dance Institute headed by Dr. Amanda Standard, Capitol Heights, Maryland; Set Free Evangelistic Ministries, headed by Dr. Pamela Hardy, Plano, Texas; and National Liturgical Dance Ministry Network, Maryland Chapter. She also had a one-year unlimited membership to the Maryland Youth Ballet (MYB). On May 6, 2000, Vilma conducted her first Dance Workshop for St. Marks United Methodist Church in Laurel, Maryland. Those who are close to Vilma refer to her as a pioneer, multi-talented and a visionary. In 2002, Vilma was united in holy matrimony to Richard Bond a native of Washington, DC. After hearing from God, Richard and Vilma were led to Victory Christian Ministries International (VCMI) where Vilma worshipped and danced under the Leadership of Pastors Tony and Cynthia Brazelton. In 2003, Vilma attended the first International Christian Dance Fellowship Conference, Texas in 2003, where 29 countries were represented. Today Vilma ministers under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The vision that God has given her is to always minister before our most Holy God in true excellence, for God has given us a spirit of excellence. (Daniel 6:3)

## **Richard Gary Bond**

Richard Gary Bond was born in Washington DC. As a child he was always a strong believer in the Lord and attended Church on a regular basis. At an early age, Richard began his foundation in the word by studying the word with both his mother and father. Richard and his family attended church at Jones United Methodist Church, Washington, DC. In 1977, Richard attended Lincoln University and during his vocation there he took classes in religion, Richard was also instrumental in starting a born-again Christian Club.

Richard received a visitation from the Lord in 1979. In 1995, Richard was led to Victory Christian Church International by two of his co-workers, there he worshipped there and ministered through fine arts.

In 2000, Richard enrolled and began a two-year ministerial training and development at Victory Christian Church International Gaithersburg, MD, under the leadership of Pastors Dwayne and Kitt Brewington. In 2001, at the age of 41, and through water baptism, Richard again began to experience the supernatural Power of God in His life. After water baptism Richard began to realize that his **love for** Christ and his passion for Fine Arts ministry began to unfold. On completion of a two-year Ministerial Training and Development course, at Victory Christian Church International, Richard then continued to minister through Fine Arts, he ministered through numerous skits and plays, that ministered in a powerful way to the hearts and minds of God's people. In 2002, Richard was united in holy matrimony to Vilma Simon a native of the Island of Trinidad and Tobago. After hearing from God Richard and Vilma were led to their sister church Victory Christian Ministries International in Clinton Maryland, where Richard Joined the Drama ministry and continued on his vision of ministering unto God's people through Theatre, Drama and Film.

In 2004, God spoke to Richard and his wife about the Sabbath. Today Richard and his wife worship every Sabbath at New Hope Adventist Church in Fulton Maryland, A Church that has made a great deal of difference in Richard's life and has caused him to take a more careful look at his personal walk with God. In 2007 Richard was one of the actors in the live action and video play "When a House Ain't a Home," a culmination of three years' work, in which many lives were saved. Richard believes that he has a vision from God to take the world for Jesus Christ through film by bringing the word of God to life and to present the arts in excellence. (Daniel 6:3)

The vision of New Hope Dance Restoration Ministry is drawn from Jeremiah. 31:4

“I will rebuild you my virgin Israel; you will again be happy and dance merrily with your tambourines”.

Out of pure obedience, God has gifted us to lead His people into His presence, as we totally abandon ourselves in movement of praise and worship to manifest His glory in the sanctuary, to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, pleasing to God as it is our reasonable service.

As we immerse ourselves in praise and worship; we have an expectation to see manifested, burdens removed, yokes destroyed, captives set free, resulting in God’s people being totally restored unto Him.

As we lift our hands in adoration for Him, dance, leap, shout, twirl, clap, bow, and lay prostrate, we enter into true freedom in Christ.

“For He has created all things; and for His pleasure we are and were created.” Revelation 4:11

By doing what we were created to do- praise and worship the Creator- we hope to become an irresistible influence in our community and the world

