

Rachael Platt, BPS, Artistic Director,
Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, & Script Writer for the
Pointes of Faith Dancers, Inc.

When Rachael attended Elim Bible College, all students were required to attend NYSUM (New York School of Urban Ministry) for their summer course in evangelism. Everyone had to use their gift or talent on the streets of New York City in sharing the gospel. Rachael used dance. People stopped and watched her dance to Christian music literally on Broadway. Many who watched would begin to weep and some of them accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. Rachael, after much prayer, knew that dance was her gift and calling to share Christ with others. She knew that if she was going to share Christ through dance, she had to perfect her dance technique even more.

Rachael transferred her credits to State University of New York (SUNY) at Empire College, where she had the opportunity to hand pick her State approved college dance instructors from the vast amount of choices in Rochester and the surrounding areas. The Lord truly blessed her with her teachers as she was able to study under teachers who had studied directly under renown dancers or had extensive performance and optimal dance training. Her ballet/pointe work training included Vaganova, Checchetti, as well as contemporary ballet such as Balanchine. Rachael studied and /or performed with dancers who had themselves studied directly under Twilla Tharpe, Martha Graham, Limone, Margot Fonteyn, Garth Fagan, and Lester Horton. Some dancers that she worked with and studied under had been dancers with the Joeffry Ballet, Texas Ballet and Georgia Ballet companies along with SUNY Purchase dance majors.

Rachael obtained her BPS (Bachelors of Professional Studies) with a major in Ballet and a minor in Modern Dance. During this time, Rachael was a dancer with the Park Avenue Dance Company in Rochester and also had the opportunity to choreograph for their company. Most of the Park Avenue dancers performed with Rachael in her very first Christian Dance Concert written and directed by her under the guidance of Christine Fendley for her College Senior Project. **Continued on back of brochure**

Rachael Platt continued from Inside Leaf

Rachael began dancing at an early age with Jennifer Banfield who, indeed passed on her love and expertise for dance to Rachael. While still a young teen, Rachael also studied one summer with Ballet Magnificat in Mississippi.

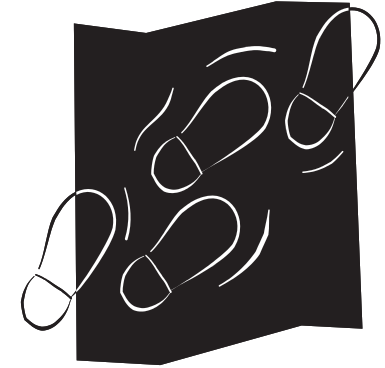
After graduating from college, Rachael moved to Georgia and taught ballet at two different dance studios there and also was the only dance instructor at a Summer Dance Camp held at a local college.

Rachael moved back to New York State and after much prayer founded the state not for profit (501 (c) 3) organization called The Pointes of Faith Dancers, Inc. in Nov. of 2000. The organization consists of the professional dance company (Pointes of Faith Dancers, Inc.) with the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through dance to its audiences. Rachael has choreographed, written and danced in all of the Pointes main performances which have been held throughout New York State and even in Pennsylvania. The Pointes also has a Steps of Faith Dance Studio which trains up students of all ages (3 & up) to learn performing arts (especially dance) and how to share Christ through the arts. The Steps of Faith Missions Team is made up mostly of serious Steps Dance Students. (See Steps Missions Team on inside brochure).

Besides dancing and choreographing professionally, Rachael enjoys teaching children and adults dance. She has been instructing classes for around twenty years and has taken kinesiology, pedagogy, and prevention of injury classes as part of her college curriculum.

Rachael not only has acquired the gift of teaching, the love for children, and the gift of dance, choreography, and writing, but she has, since she was a very young child, the love of Christ and always has wanted to be a missionary. "I do what I do in order to share the love of Christ with my students and our audiences through dance," shares Rachael. The Steps of Faith Dance Studio has also given lessons in dancing, acting, puppetry, film making, etc., with the purpose of raising up performing artists to be able to share Christ with audiences through the arts on a professional level.

Steps of Faith Dance Studio



***Rachael Platt, BPS
Artistic Director***

***A Performing Arts Center
for
Children & Adults***

***55 William Street
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone: 315-946-6180***

***Web: www.pointesoffaithdancers.org
click on
Steps of Faith Dance Studio
for schedule & registration form.***

Steps of Faith Dance Studio

Steps of Faith Dance Studio is the *student* part of Pointes of Faith Dancers, Inc., a professional Christian Dance Company who holds its 501 (3) (c) not for profit status. The Steps encompasses all of the performing arts with an emphasis on dance. Wholesome Christian music is used coupled with prayer to inspire godly values in our students. We want every student to know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made and very loved, that God has a plan for each of them AND we want them to do all things through Christ in excellence for Him.

We have **classes in dance including ballet and pointe technique, modern, jazz, tap, choir, lyrical, women's aerobics and the Steps Missions Team Outreach classes.** Depending on interest, we also have given classes in **puppetry, acting, script writing, theatre productions, choir, and the art of movie making.**

All students (except the aerobics classes) are **required to partake in the year-end recital.** The Steps Missions Team has many outreach performances (up to 14 in one year).

Our goal is to train our students to reach perfection for the Lord. Also, **the younger children (ages 4 -9) are taught to dance through games, giving glory to Christ for their fun in learning how to dance.**

The Facility

The Steps of Faith Dance Studio is a state of the art dance studio with raised wooden sprung floors in both of its dance areas. Harlequin flooring is used on the ballet and modern dance floor to prevent slipping whether the dancer is wearing ballet shoes, pointe shoes or bare foot. Because of our flooring, our students, professional dancers, and teachers are able to avoid typical dance injuries.

Both of our dance studios have very high ceilings, allowing the more advanced dancers to practice lifts and leaps without fear of hitting the ceiling.

We have a comfortable waiting room which many parents utilize when they bring in their younger children, or drive a great distance.

Fees

Registration fee: A non refundable fee for each student.

Monthly Class Fees: Paid on the first class of each month.

Family Plan: All in the immediate family may take as many classes as they can at a single reduced rate in their fees..

Single Multiple Class Plan: A reduced rate for one student who takes multiple classes.

Free Classes: Weekly aerobics class is free of charge to to all moms or grandmothers of students.

Student's Attire for Classes

Girls: All Girls must wear black short sleeved leotards, pink tights and pink ballet shoes (or pointe shoes when on pointe), and black tap shoes. Older students must wear black jazz shoes for their jazz classes. They are bare foot for modern. They are allowed to wear a short skirt (which falls above their knees) over their leotards. The neck and face should be totally free of hair.

Boys: Boys should wear black biker shorts with loose fitting gym shorts over them and a stretchy tight fitting black shirt. They must wear black ballet shoes. If they take jazz, they should wear black jazz shoes. For tap, they should wear black tap shoes.

Adults: See Rachael Platt for attire.

All non-dance classes: Casual, modest attire.

Costumes

Our performance costumes are modest and appropriate. They are beautiful, yet simple so that the expense is kept to the minimum.

Class Schedules

Please Phone 315-946-6180 or 315-594-2571 for Class Schedules and Fees.

Steps Missions Team

(ages 16 - Adult)

We are enthused about what God is doing with the Steps Missions Team. The Steps Missions Team was formed to bring the Great Commission, through the arts, to area churches, prisons, nursing homes, soup kitchens and festivals of all kinds. They can have up to 14 performance outreaches in one year. Through this ministry, many have heard the message of Christ's love and have come to put their hope in Jesus as their personal savior. The Steps Missions Team's mottos are two fold: "We can overcome the enemy through the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony" along with "He has turned our mourning into dancing!" The Steps Missions Team studies God's word together, prays and worships with the dance, as well as, trains in proper technique for all forms of dance: ballet (including pointe), modern, jazz, lyrical, and tap.

God uses this ministry mightily. Many are blessed with their performances and some are found weeping as they sense the goodness of God. During the outreaches, Rachael talks between dances, sharing the salvation message through different testimonies or Biblical themes. It is our prayer that many would continue to accept Christ or be ministered to through dance.

Our repertoire for the missions team is always growing. Currently, we have over twenty songs ready to go, which is around two hours of performance.

Because of the intensity of ministry and rehearsal, the Steps Missions Team is intended for the serious dancers who have a heart for missions. Dancers must audition for the Steps Missions Team. **Many of our advanced Missions team members have become apprentices for the professional Christian Dance Company, Pointes of Faith Dancers, Inc.**

Jr. Steps Missions Team (ages 9 & UP)

Sometimes, the Steps Missions Team performances include the Jr. Steps Missions Team., who train to become Steps Missions Team Members.