

**South Tenerife
Christian Fellowship**



25 Years

**Serving Christ
in**

Los Cristianos

1986 - 2011

The ***STEERING GROUP*** welcomes you to this special 25th Anniversary edition of the STCF Newsletter. Serving and praising God for 25 years in Los Cristianos and to celebrate on 29th September a Mini Conference will take place until 2nd October with Paul Mallard the 2010 Conference Speaker coming to bring God's word for the future. See page 9.

It was on Sunday 5th October 1986, that the first morning service of the South Tenerife Christian Fellowship was held in the video room of the Princesa Dacil Hotel in Los Cristianos. Fifteen worshippers attended that historic service which was led by American missionary, Dan Maser, with his wife Betty providing the musical back up with her piano accordion. The video room could accommodate one hundred people and was ample for our needs, but the Lord had other plans for the church and soon the congregation exceeded the facilities that the video room could provide.

Prayers were then concentrated on purchasing our own larger premises and a building fund was instituted for this purpose. Finally the Lord led us to a new development, on top of a hill, that was to become our new and present home. The ***Apolo Centre*** in Los Cristianos where we purchased one of the LOCALES (shop units). Expansion over the years has now witnessed that single unit being multiplied tenfold. Praise the Lord! The memorable first service here was held on 6th October 1991 exactly five years and a day since our inauguration. So on the 5th October 2011 we have been praising His name for 25 wonderfully blessed years!!!

HALLELUJAH!!!!!!

Since our last newsletter we have had a really wonderful time of blessing. October to March is always our busiest time of year. Graham and Sue Derrig who came over to help out stood down in November and we were fortunate to have Tom and Eileen Reston here to take up the reins for most of the next four months.

They returned to the UK on 7th April and we look forward to seeing them again later in the year. We want to thank the Lord for His provision over this period and feel blessed to have had such a time of refreshment.

We were also blessed by having John Payne from *Lawshall Evangelical Church* come for a two week period in January and also Pastor Bill Jeffery from *Silencio Church* and his wife Roz have both preached here during the past few months.

Over the coming period many gifted speakers are visiting to spend time with us preaching God's word to *STCF*. They include George Mitchell who wrote amongst other books "*Comfy Glasgow*" available from our library. Dr Riaz Mohammed from *Newton Mearns Baptist Church* will be here in May with his wife Janet who is a gifted soloist. Then in June and July Dr Ian Paterson, retired minister, now living in France, will be ministering to us. James and Florence McKenzie who run "*Equipped for Living*" a Christian Ministry visit us in August and then in September Harry Vallance, former *London City Missionary*, is here. So you can see we have a very exciting time ahead and if you are able to be with us we pray that you too will be filled.

In February our conference speaker was Craig Dyer from *Christianity Explored*. You can read his thoughts on page 12. And once again we had four days where people listened intently to what Craig had brought us. A wonderful buffet was held on the last night for everyone to enjoy and have fellowship. *Details of next years conference can be found on page 5, we apologise that we needed to move the conference back a week, to secure the speaker.*

As you can witness, the church is moving forward but we will never forget those first Christian men and women who had the vision for a church on a hill all those years ago. Some have gone to be with the Lord, some are still here and in regular contact with the church. We acknowledge their faithfulness and pray God blesses them mightily. Please continue to pray for the Lord to reveal His chosen one to pastor His church through 25 years and beyond!!!

LADIES' PRAYER GROUP

As its name suggest, we are a group of ladies who meet for prayer. We know that God always hears and answers prayer, sometimes no, sometimes wait and sometimes yes.



At times God uses his word to encourage us and so it is with the following verses from Ephesians 3.20/21 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”. These words have really come alive and been our testimony to God’s amazing love, for our God has answered above and beyond what we could possibly have imagined. We give Him all the praise and glory.

As we prayed we were challenged in a very real way to help people living in Tenerife and to show the love of Jesus by reaching out to them in a practical way. We have been able to give gifts of money to some members of the team who work at the Living Room. Due to the economic climate many people living on the Island are out of work and many parents struggle to provide food for their families so we have donated money to the local Spanish Church, who in turn have given food to those in need. Also Roz Jeffery, the Pastors wife from Silencio Church, shared with us the work she is undertaking in the Womens’ prison (see page 13), so we have been able to support her as she takes the love of Jesus into the prison. Without the freewill giving of the ladies none of this would have been possible.

More recently we have undertaken another venture for the Women’s prison by collecting small coins on a Thursday morning at the Prayer Meeting and also on a Sunday. We started collecting on 5th December 2010 and the total amount donated as at 4th April is €434.50. We have bought certain items of clothing such as socks and scarves to cater for the physical needs of the women and given donations to help support four of the women who have no family living on the Island. This money will also go towards providing Bibles, in various languages, and Bible Study materials. We are most grateful to all those who have given, your generosity has been overwhelming.

We are always blessed when visitors join with us and we share together in bringing our prayers and petitions before the throne of grace.

We meet in the Church every Thursday at 11 am. Everybody is welcome so please feel free to come along - we will be delighted to see you.

Valerie Parker

Conference 2012

13th - 16th
February
with



Derek Tidball

Derek Tidball was the principal of the London School of Theology (formally LBC) for 12 years and has been on staff of LST for a total of 26 years. A former President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, he has also served as the pastor of two local churches and as Head of the BU's Mission Department. He is widely involved in the leadership of a number of Christian agencies and is a Vice-President of the Evangelical Alliance as well a trustee and former chair of Network. Derek holds a PhD from Keele University and is a wide ranging author. He remains deeply involved in theological education and is a Visiting Scholar at Spurgeon's College. He has authored numerous books including *Skilful Shepherds: An Introduction to Pastoral Theology*, previously published by Zondervan. He edits *The Bible Speaks Today: Bible Themes* series for IVP and has contributed the volumes on *The Message of Leviticus* and *The Message of the Cross* himself. He is married to Dianne, a Baptist pastor. They have one son.

Julie Davidson's Testimony



By February 7th 2009 I had suffered from depression on and off for fourteen years. That night I was consumed with hopelessness and so completely overwhelmed with it that I thought suicide was my only alternative.

In chapter five of his letter to the Galatians Paul writes about the nine fruits of the Spirit. They are all healthy, positive emotions that feed our soul. The opposite of those fruits are the destructive negative emotions we feel. Emotions that poison the soul and from which a person suffering from depression cannot escape.

When the first symptoms of depression appeared I was in denial. I couldn't believe this was happening to me and so I tried to control it. The fruits of joy and peace were replaced with poisonous misery and fear. Fear that other things would go wrong. As time passed and those fears were realised I was overcome with anxiety which led to illness, insomnia, weight loss and panic attacks. I became irrational and found it difficult to concentrate on the simplest task. I lost a job because of it, I was in and out of employment and I cried all the time. I suffered like this for years so any kindness, goodness, patience or gentleness was quashed by resentment, bitterness and anger. I became desperate and so put my faith in others hoping they could help and then suffered even more when they let me down. More years went by and after blaming circumstance and everyone around me I turned my anger on myself and hated what I'd become.

It was at this point, with a storm of negative emotions whirling around inside me and my spirit poisoned, that evil entered and I lost all self-control. There was a malignant voice in my head telling me that I was useless, worthless and better off dead. I was too weak to fight it, I'd been battling negativity for years, I had no fight left in me. I was filled with abject hopelessness and headed for self-destruction. Suicidal thoughts dominated my waking moments. I had given up, I didn't want to live like this any more. In my darkest hour I felt as though I were in a long dark tunnel that was never-ending. Etched onto its walls were all my problems and fears taunting me with their constant malignant presence. I didn't want to be in the tunnel, I don't know how I got into it, and I certainly didn't enter it of my own accord. But there I was, alone and helpless in the dark. Yet through the darkness there was a faint light shining far in the distance.

Two years earlier I had started writing to take my mind off my anguish and had to look up bible passages for research. Those passages sparked an interest in me and it was this that fuelled the light at the end of that long dark tunnel. At first I ignored it, I wasn't religious and didn't believe I was worthy anyway, besides it meant giving up control. But when I couldn't take any more, that light guided me to **South Tenerife Christian Fellowship**, in the hope of finding a positive energy that would exorcise the negativity that threatened to overpower me.

Four days later on February 11th, I came here. At first I felt a fraud. I wasn't religious, I believed in something but I didn't know what. I was also ignorant, I had no idea that Jesus died for us or what being saved meant. I was a sinner and undeserving and I thought I'd made a mistake in coming here. My first thought was the familiar negative one and it told me to run away "*how can church possibly help you?*" it said. But by then I had opened myself up to the light and it wasn't letting go and kept drawing me back. I read the bible and found passages that could have been written especially for me. There was an answer in there for every negative emotion I felt and I learned my uphill struggle was not just my struggle. So I asked Jesus to come into my life and put all my energy into learning more about Him. Gradually the malicious, self-destructive voices in my head were drowned out by a positive encouraging one. I stopped crying, feeling sorry for myself and I stopped blaming circumstance as I concentrated on coming to know Him. One night I suddenly realised I hadn't cried in months, that I no longer felt depressed and I even felt happy. And I understood that the Holy Spirit was working within me purging the evil, poisonous depression inside, zapping it with Its glorious radiance leaving me clean, healthy and able to see the light. I also knew for the first time what it meant to be saved.

The Lord now answers my prayers by guiding my words and actions when dealing with a particularly difficult situation and protecting me against negativity we all find in everyday life. Today I am surrounded by light for I am on the Lords path having left the long dark tunnel far behind. My fears and problems are still there but they are now etched on Gods path and bathed in His light, which lessens the pain, and I know He is there fighting them alongside me. The fruits of the spirit that were poisoned for so many years, now flourish within me, watered by the Holy Spirit because I gave control of my life to the Lord, I put all my trust in Him and I now follow where He leads because He knows what's best for me.

I am living proof of how truly wonderful, powerful and forgiving He can be to those that believe. For there is no earthly reason why my depression has gone, no psychiatrist, therapy sessions, pills, drugs, etc. absolutely no earthly reason at all, but there is a heavenly one.

Julie Davidson

STCF 25th Anniversary Music Concert

introducing

Anne Lindstrum



accompanied by

Gilbert Speirs

Anne Lindstrum born in Glasgow, is a Classical Soprano and a Gospel Soloist who was trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and the London Opera Centre. She has sung with various companies Glyndebourne, Welsh National and at the Monnaie Opera House. Also doing many television shows and radio concerts in Scotland. During her early career, Anne became a born-again Christian which led her in a different direction. She has sung in America, Canada, Romania, Hungary, Belgium and Austria. Singing in Cathedrals as well as small gospel halls. In the concert she will sing a variety of musical styles — secular and sacred.

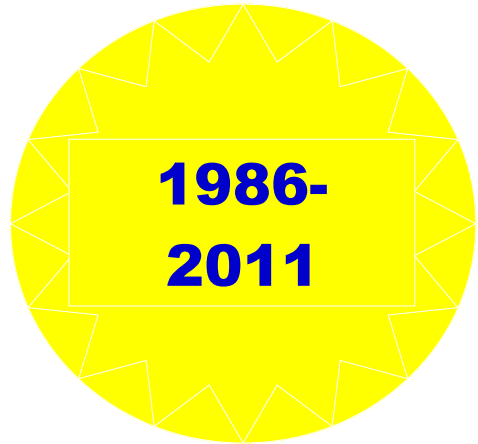
OooO

Gilbert Speirs was born 1953, born again in 1962 and lives near Crieff in Perthshire, Scotland. He learned classical piano as a child. Gilbert enjoys the many different styles of sacred songs from pre Sankey-style piano and organ to the many modern styles of where keyboard holds a different role. Gilbert also enjoys composing and recording, making good use of his own studio in the heart of the Scottish countryside

Saturday 1st October 2011 at 7.00pm. Come early! Free entry!



25 years



Mini Conference
with
Paul Mallard
also
Music Concert
← ← ←



*Thursday 29th September
until
Sunday 2nd October 2011*

**Praising God for 25 years in Los Cristianos
Come on and celebrate with us !!**

Treasurer's Report

by Alan Parker

In the last Church financial year, the constraints upon us have been all too obvious, but we are reminded of the words in Philippians c.4 v.19 (NIV): *“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”*.

We praise the Lord for the continued provision of the financial and also the spiritual needs of His Church. The Church accounts for the year ending 30th September 2010 have been approved by the Auditor (an abridged Income and Expenditure balance sheet is given on page 11). We give thanks to God in that the income exceeded the expenditure which we believe is a further confirmation that He will maintain the work that He started here in Tenerife some 25 years ago.

At the time of preparing this report, I am overjoyed to announce that in the very near future we will be in a position to pay off the remaining outstanding loan on the “20/20 Vision Project”. In the 20th Anniversary year God gave us a “Vision” to expand the Church premises and His work at STCF and in a wonderful way, as we approach our 25th Anniversary weekend, God through His people has provided more than we could imagine and so we give Him all the praise.

May I therefore on behalf of the fellowship thank all of you, wherever you live, for your prayerful and practical support of God's work here in South Tenerife, both in the day-to-day support of the Church and its commitments and also for providing finance to repay the 130,000 Euros loan we took out from the Bank in 2007 for the 20/20 Vision Project.

“To God be the glory, great things He has done” and we prayerfully and expectantly look to the future for the great things He will do.

STCF Abridged Cash Flow Report

1st October 2009 to 30th September 2010

Income:

£

20:20 Vision and Tax Reclaim	17,625
Conference	972
Conference CD Sales	1,040
CD Ministry Sales	1,165
General Donations	10,848
Gift Aid Donations	10,475
Sunday Offerings	40,515
Tax Reclaim	3,583
Miscellaneous	167

TOTAL INCOME: 86,390

Expenditure:

Bank Charges	136
Church	23,877
Conference Expenses	1,190
Mortgage and Loan Repayments	23,559
Outreach Giving	6,869
Pastor	25,113
(Stipend, allowances, car, telephone)	

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: 80,744

OVERALL TOTAL: £5,646

Alan Parker - Church Treasurer



Craig Dyer

This years conference speaker writes.....

After many years of hearing about STCF and the annual conference, in February this year I had the opportunity to visit the island and the church for myself.

It was a great joy to speak at the conference where there was such an evident appetite for God's Word. I could see that the conference preparations had been thorough and prayerful. The simple format of the three daily sessions meant that hearing God's Word central to everything.

It was encouraging to see the attendances remain steady throughout the week, and I was amazed at how many churches from all over the UK were represented in the gathering. The warmth of the fellowship, the joy of the praise, and the hunger for the Word, along with the undoubted attraction of glorious sunshine in February, made STCF Conference a blessing to me." *Craig Dyer*

Thank you too Craig, you were certainly a blessing to us and you will always have a special place here in our hearts at STCF.

Audrey Lancaster

On the 20th February 2011 Audrey went to be with the Lord after battling with illness for many years. Audrey, who was born on the 24th Sept 1936, leaves behind a beloved



husband Joe who is currently resident in a Tenerife Nursing Home. A memorial service was held in the church where many were able to share their fond memories. Please pray with us for Joe and the family as they seek to come to terms with their loss.

***The prison ministry in
Tenerife II is growing
from strength to strength.***

Roz Jeffery, Silencio Church



Every Thursday at 4.30-6.30 pm I go into the module where up to 200 ladies are held. Now I am meeting with quite a large group of mixed nationalities, only a few of whom speak Spanish, that fact alone means they have a harder time adjusting to their punishment, than other inmates.

We start off chatting about any difficulties or worries that they may have and I make notes about any practical help that I can get for them. This would include contacting family, lawyers, consulates, providing clothes, footwear and money to those who have no support. Giving information as to how they need to prepare themselves mentally, emotionally and physically for freedom as most are thoroughly institutionalised. (We also support prisoners out on bail). A school will be helping me with providing educative books for those who want to further their education. I have placed about 20 bibles in different languages and many other Christian tracts and books.

It's a time of encouragement, sharing our lives and coffee. Afterwards we settle down to a bible study which I've been led to prepare in advance and a time of prayer.

It is truly wonderful to see weekly the improvement spiritually and generally in these precious young women. Through the generosity of many people and churches, together with S.T.C.F., Silencio, the Gideons etc we all are praying and working towards seeing God's Kingdom come into Tenerife 11, fulfilling God's promise in Isaiah 42:6-7 6. (AMP).

"I the Lord have called You [the Messiah] for a righteous purpose and in righteousness; I will take You by the hand and will keep You; I will give You for a covenant to the people [Israel], for a light to the nations [Gentiles], To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who sit in darkness from the prison."

What do you think?

Extracts from the church visitors book

- “Enjoyed the service very much”* M & A Smith, Glasgow
- “Good service, made a lot of sense”* O Cash, Barry, S Wales
- “Uplifting word and preaching”* P Patrick, Germany
- “We were so blessed, Praise the Lord”* A & B Douglas, Scotland
- “Warm welcome, uplifting service”* K & J Brook, Kettering
- “Just what we needed, bless you”* K & N Carter, Morecambe
- “A lovely welcoming church”* K & R Walker, Norwich, Norfolk
- “Lovely to see a full church”* C & W Hess, Mornmton, Swansea
- “Lovely service, great preaching”* C & C Jones, Haywards Heath
- “Good to be back”* F & C Adams, Lisburn N Ireland
- “Very glad we found you”* I & J Parteous, Hemel Hempstead
- “A friendly church, lovely singing”* J Thorpe, Diss, Norfolk
- “Good warm welcome, Thanks!”* P Ruscow, Suffolk
- “Thanks for a wonderful ministry”* N, M & D Smith, Shetlands
- “Greatly enjoyed the fellowship”* G Stevenson, Co. Antrim
- “Excellent message, great fellowship”* M & T Cheal, Eastbourne

How Can I Help?

The work of the fellowship here on Tenerife relies very heavily on the dedicated and loving support of so many of you, our friends in the UK and beyond, many of whom support the church with Monthly Standing Orders, that enable the church to plan it's finances. We pray that many more of you will feel led to support the work here in a prayerful and practical way.

UK TAX PAYER'S GIFT AID SCHEME

The Gift Aid Scheme allows the South Tenerife Christian Fellowship to reclaim the tax that you have already paid on your donations or offerings from H.M.R. & C. at no extra cost to yourself.

For your donations to qualify for this extra benefit, you must;

- Be a UK taxpayer, paying income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax we claim on your donations.
- Complete and return a Gift Aid Declaration Form, which will be sent on request or can be downloaded from our Website.

For further information regarding the setting-up of a Standing Order, please contact the church treasurer. Envelopes are provided at the church for those seeking to Gift Aid their offering. Please ask for one on entering the church.

FOR NON TAX PAYERS

We welcome your gifts and ask you to send them direct to the treasurer at the church, by Sterling cheque, made payable to:

SOUTH TENERIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Please kindly remember to sign and date your cheque and to notify us of any change of address. All correspondence should be clearly addressed to the **Church Treasurer Alan Parker**. *Thank you*

STCF is a UK registered Charity No 1068957

SOUTH TENERIFE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Centro Comercial Apolo 57
Calle Pedro Bethencourt No2
Los Cristianos, 38650, Arona
Tenerife, Canary Islands
Tel: (00 34) 922 79 00 07

Weekly Programme

(for everyone)

Sunday

- 11am  Morning Service
- 11am Youth, Kids & Mini Zones
- 6pm Evening Service with Communion

Tuesday

- 11am Playzone for local Mums & toddlers
- 7pm Prayer, Praise & Pastries

Thursday

- 11am Ladies Prayer Meeting
- 5pm Bible Study



Last Wednesday of each month at 11am *"The Wednesday Club"*

THE CHURCH IS OPEN AND STAFFED DAILY FROM

11.00am - 1.00pm and 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Church Secretary: Sandra Singleton

Tel: (00 34) 922 71 11 91 [email stcf.church@yahoo.com](mailto:stcf.church@yahoo.com)

[Website: www.stcf.org](http://www.stcf.org)

Church Treasurer: Alan Parker - Tel: (00 34) 922 71 29 72

[email stcf.treasurer@telefonica.net](mailto:stcf.treasurer@telefonica.net)