

South Tenerife

Christian Fellowship



Summer 2010

Welcome

“interim pastor”

Graham and Sue Derrig



We are delighted to have been called out to Tenerife for what we now know is for the six month period until December 2010.

As **STCF** is 'in between' pastors, we are happy to stand in the gap, to help the transition into the new season that the Lord has planned. Sue and I have six children and six grandchildren, what a blessing from the Lord. Graham's gifting is in the Word of God and prayer. He is asked to preach and teach in many different types of churches, conferences and on the radio and internet. Sue teaches and hopefully practiced listening skills and has a heart for healing for the whole person.

In recent years the Lord has called us to a ministry with more travelling, bringing the good news but also missions that involve education, health and parenting.....even to the ends of the earth! We have a history of association with Tenerife. Graham visited as a child on

one of those educational cruises. In modern times, we had a holiday, allocated on arrival, near the infamous Veronicas area. As we arrived from a night out, people there would be just going out! As we awoke in the mornings, some of the local clubs would still be letting out. Our intercessions at that time were for the Lord of lords to bring His light and presence there. What a joy it was on our next return to see a ministry that reaches out with His love and light. That ministry, **The Living Room**, is virtually in the place where we stayed!

Praise to the Lord Jesus.

It was that same year 1996, that we were led to and found the **South Tenerife Christian Fellowship**, which was and is a spiritual oasis. We knew that Los Cristianos would be the place for us and eventually we

bought an apartment. We hoped we could retreat a bit, prepare for some of our missions and maybe be wise stewards and make some money by renting our apartment out! To our pleasant surprise almost next door lived the then treasurer and his wife Tom and Sandra Singleton and then very shortly afterwards Pastor Adrian and Lorraine McBride! God always has the best plans.!

We came to Tenerife between a month and six weeks most years. In that time we have so enjoyed the fellowship, friendship and teaching. *STCF* has been a place we were so blessed and refreshed. We have stood in as Adrian's holiday relief and have become friends with so many of the resident flock as well as quite a number of visitors to the
c h u r c h .

What do we hope for in this interim period? Well, the first sermon spoken on arrival in early June was entitled *Commissioned and Commanded*. So the great commission of Matthew 28 v 19/20 is still our '*job description*' until the end of the age!

The commanding is to love, firstly the Lord our God, but then also our enemies and our neighbours (*they may be the same people!*)

True disciples are called to love as Jesus loved us, so that all people will know who our Master is! John 13.

The emphasis at all times is that we want to ensure all eyes are fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He also instructs us to seek first His Kingdom and righteousness. So we sense a refocussing on the Lord Jesus, His ministry through all believers in His love and a vision for His Kingdom purposes both individually, corporately and for that part of the Body of Christ that you belong to.

Sounds straightforward!! We hope not too take ourselves too seriously, but take the Lord and His people far more seriously.

We look forward to welcoming you out here at *STCF* with the rest of the team. May you all know the lavish and abundant love of God and be filled with His Spirit.

Graham and Sue

Steering Group

Following the resignation of the Pastor, the Church membership elected a steering group to oversee the day-to-day running of the Church. The group comprises of Andrew Sibbald, Chairman; Sandra Singleton, Secretary; Alan Parker, Treasurer and Bob King, Maintenance. The initial responsibilities were to arrange pulpit supply and to liaise with the interim Pastor, Graham Derrig, and for a week of prayer for the future of STCF.

Other matters, which have been dealt with to ensure the smooth running of the Church, include the new duty rotas on a designated board, monthly information sheets and a "What's On" pamphlet. A reception was arranged for the start of the Red Route Walk, which this year began at STCF (see centre pages)

A Harvest Festival will take place during our 24th Anniversary with all the proceeds going to needy people here on Tenerife. A visit of representatives from OM Logos Hope ship to the Church is being arranged as we go to print. (More about this and our visit to the ship in Santa Cruz will be in our next Newsletter.) Speakers for the Church Conference in February 2011 and the 25th Anniversary in October 2011 have now been arranged (see opposite & page 14).

We are wonderfully blessed to have Graham and Sue with us to December of this year and value their ministry, their personal concern and contact with all who come to the Church as well as others on this Island. This period of stability will enable us to come closer to God as we seek His guidance for a new Pastor. Please join with us in prayer over this matter that we will know only God's perfect plan.

Maybe you are being led to fill this vacancy or know of someone who may be seeking God's leading to further their ministry with us. If so please contact the secretary at the Church or by email on stcf.tenerife@ymail.com.

We as a Church do value all your prayers and give thanks to God for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come.

Conference 2011

7th - 10th
February
with



Craig Dyer

In April 2008 Craig became Training Director with Christianity Explored, after nearly 20 years serving as Pastor in two churches in Scotland, 13 of these years in Harper Memorial Church in the south side of Glasgow. He is married to Margaret and they have 3 daughters in their late teens. Craig summarises his life's work as,

***"Equipping hundreds to train thousands
to rescue millions".***

Full details of the conference programme will be published when available, in the meantime book your flights and accommodation as we look forward to renewing fellowship with you during the **Conference 2011**. See you there!

New Nurture Group

This is a new nurture group started very recently for people who were either new in the faith or wanted some refreshing from the foundation of their faith. We hope you like the photograph of the magnificent Seven.....?



So this group has or will have met for five sessions over five weeks, looking at the book of Genesis, meaning the beginning, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The final session is an open meeting to search the scriptures and ask any questions! We hope to repeat nurture groups as need arises but also in the process of disciple making for the King and His Kingdom to have other groups and ministries for all those who want to grow and mature in their faith in the Lord Jesus.



Youth Zone

We meet on Sundays from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. It is a time of real blessing and great friendships have blossomed.

We are thankful for all the prayerful and practical support that has enabled us to continue God's work with the teenagers. We have been able to decorate our room, buy a new table tennis table, art products, make contributions towards trips and buy resources for spiritual growth. Our latest initiative is to collect cents. Thanks to the generous donations given, we have already over 200 euros (collected in just 2 months) which will enable us to buy computer equipment for the teenagers. *We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and your part in demonstrating God's love practically to our young people.*

We are in contact throughout the week, whether in person, by phone or by email. The teenagers love to spend time talking, chilling out, using the computer, playing table tennis, playing games and listening to music. Every Sunday we enjoy competing in different chocolate challenges. Each challenge is related to a Bible verse which tells us God's truths. It is often at these times that we are able to answer their questions and enjoy some interesting, and at times, quite soul-searching debates and discussions.



We try to organise a few trips each year. This year's highlight so far was our trip to Loro Parque. Thirteen of us set off early on 7th February ready for our full day of fun. The sun shone all day and we headed around the Park so that we could see all the shows. However our teenagers weren't completely happy until they were soaked in the Orca Splash Zone. Some of the highlights from the day included kissing a sea lion, conquering a fear of penguins, seeing sharks, getting drenched by the whales and making friends with a feathery bird in the Katanda Tree tops.

We know that the work of the Youth Zone is in God's hands and we thank you for praying alongside us as we continue to serve God in His amazing ministry amongst these young lives. We pray that they may come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and seek Him in all areas of their lives.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord” Jeremiah 29 v 11 – 13

Karen and Helen

Hugo Anson

of Grassroots writes....

La Ruta Roja 2010 was an act of prayerful obedience, prophetic unity and joyful witness to Jesus Christ. Christians from across Tenerife got together, walked down the streets, prayed for their towns, gave out Christian literature and spoke to people about Jesus.

It all started at *South Tenerife Christian Fellowship* with over 30 people

arriving – which was exciting as only 5 had signed up the day before! Very Tenerife!? We walked through Los Cristianos and spoke to passers-by, climbed up The Guaza “Mountain” and turned to pray over Las Americas. Then set off along the coast of South Tenerife praying, singing, chatting and celebrating all that the Lord has done. Eventually



we reached *Silencio Church*, where an amazing table of delicious food was spread before us and bowls of cool water lined up ready for our feet! Bill Jeffrey, the pastor of Silencio Church, had gone into special training so that he could join the walk for the day. Over lunch he was heard to say, *“There’s a wonderful feeling of having achieved something important in the Spirit to have walked and prayed all that way. But I’m not sure if I’ll be able to move my legs tomorrow!”*

In the evening we gathered with Christian teams from across Tenerife to put on a show in El Medano Plaza – a beautiful town just South of the airport. The testimonies from those who have come to Christ in “The Living Room” were translated and put between music and dance by church groups from Santa Cruz. All around the square were cafes full of people who were listening intently. Tuesday to Friday the pattern continued with groups gathering in Candelaria, Santa Cruz, Icod de los Vinos and Punte del Hildalgo. The teams included Christians originally from Venezuela, Colombia, Holland, mainland Spain, Tenerife, Chile, Peru, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Nigeria, Uruguay, Lithuania and probably more that we didn’t realise!

As we walked through the towns we prayed at significant places like the Parliament of the Canaries, the Employment Agency (where we encountered a demonstration about government cuts in jobs), the Tenerife government building, the law courts and the street where they make preparations for the Carnival (a massive annual event which is very colourful but used as an excuse to throw off all restraint).

Everywhere we went the team gave people leaflets about Jesus and offered to pray with them. At times the groups were spread out over several hundred metres as people chatted about the Lord. Then, each evening, there was an event in a plaza or town square.



The local Christians groups were very encouraged. Hans and Monica, who lead a housegroup in Punte del Hidalgo, welcomed us on the Friday. They told us that their numbers have grown as a direct result of the prayers and evangelism that happened last year. So they pulled out all the stops this year and Hans walked around with the team introducing us to his friends who run businesses around the little town. Each time he would say whether they had already come to Christ or some of the issues they were facing and the team would pray. We also talked to those wandering around or sitting by the extraordinary seawater pools. After 3 hours of this ministry the youth in the team pleaded to go swimming themselves, but the adults continued chatting to people until the cry went up that lunch was served! As in every place the body of Christ demonstrated an amazing catering gift! This set the team up for further efforts as we walked on to Bajamar where leaders and creative teams from the Santa Cruz churches gathered with us for a final time. It was a lovely evangelistic event using sketchboard, dance and testimony; followed by long conversations about the Lord and invitations to visit the Punte del Hidalgo Christian group. What a privilege to be able to share the Gospel in such a lovely place, in such a gentle way, with such a wonderful, diverse and creative group of people! And Espana won the world cup too! 😊

Treasurer's Report

by Alan Parker

I would like to take this opportunity in this edition of the Newsletter to bring you up to date on matters of Church finance.

One of the major comments I have received since I took over as treasurer is that those who support the church, not only prayerfully but also practically, do not always know what is happening with the monies the church receives. We have decided to alter this so that all who attend the church or support it from a distance and are on our mailing list can receive relevant information and hence become more aware of how the Lord's money is spent, of the church's needs and of others who we support on a wider basis.

We must record with grateful thanks for the financial contributions from many who visit us on holiday, during longer periods of stay over the winter months or those of you for various reasons who cannot come to Tenerife but continue to faithfully send monies to the church for the furtherance of God's work here and further afield.

Whilst I will publish a more fuller financial report after the accounts for this year, ending 30th September, are audited, I am including in this newsletter an abridged cash flow account which I trust you will find helpful and informative and to encourage you to prayerfully consider any further donations you may wish to give to the church.

Over the past few years here in Tenerife, as well as worldwide, financial constraints have been all too obvious to us all. However, we praise God that He has supplied our needs in the day-to-day running of the church and also for the 20:20 Vision Project. A bank loan of 130,000 Euros in 2007, to assist in the purchase of two more locales, has now been reduced to 40,000 Euros in September 2009. We are trusting God that funds will be provided so as to pay off this remaining amount as soon as possible.

So far this year as part of our outreach from this church we have been able to support other Christian charities and those people who have special needs, both here in Tenerife, UK and beyond, to the sum of approximately £5,600. So thank you once again for your continued prayerful and practical support.

It is always a blessing to meet so many of you when you visit the Island or when you write or email and for the encouragement you give. I look forward to renewing fellowship with you in the future.

STCF Abridged Cash Flow Report
1st October 2009 to 31st July 2010

Income:£'s

20:20 Vision and Tax Reclaim	14,237
Conference	972
Conference CD Sales	1,040
CD Ministry Sales	1,040
General Donations	8,801
Gift Aid Donations	9,345
Sunday Offerings	35,562
Tax Reclaim	3,583
Miscellaneous	14
 TOTAL INCOME:	 <u>74,594</u>

Expenditure:£'s

Bank Charges	115
Church	18,013
Conference Expenses	1,190
Mortgage Repayments	2,797
Outreach Giving	5,604
Pastor (Stipend, allowances, car, telephone)	25,067
 TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	 <u>52,786</u>
 OVERALL TOTAL:	 21,808
LIABILITIES (Outstanding Mortgage)	<u>36,190</u>
 BALANCE	 (£14,382)

Testimony of Trish Chapman

I was born in 1948, the eldest of four, and none of my brothers, sisters or parents went to church, we never even had a bible in the house. When I was about nine I just felt I wanted to go to church, I don't know what prompted



me to go in the first place, perhaps it was something I heard about at school, I just had to go to find out about God and the wonderful things Jesus had done, and that was when I first became a Christian, but like most teenagers as soon as I left school and started work outside influences started to take over my life and I stopped going to church for about five years until I met my husband and had our first child Paul, then I returned to church because I wanted my children to come to know God as I had done. We had three children, Paul, Lee and Joanne, but unfortunately only Paul is a committed Christian, he was baptized four years ago, but we both pray everyday for them that eventually they will return to God and acknowledge Him as their Lord and Saviour, for we have every faith in Him, that it will happen one day when the time is right.

Although I have been a Christian for most of my life it hasn't been all plain sailing, I was diagnosed with a heart murmur when I was only ten years old, which got progressively worse over the years but thanks be to God, it has never stopped me leading a full and active life. The next major incident in my life was when I discovered that my youngest son and daughter were both on drugs, and ended up in prison. My daughter was addicted to heroin for five years until we finally, thanks to God, got her off it. That was years ago, and both are now both doing fine, well and happy, with families of their own and I know for certain it was because of all the prayers that they came through that ordeal. Now we have to convince them about the power of prayer, so their lives can be changed again for the sake of their souls and come back to the Lord.

Another tragic thing that has happened in my life was when my marriage broke up after 28 years together I was devastated at the time and we lost contact with each other for over ten years, until we finally met up again in church of all places, at our grand daughters christening, God certainly works in mysterious ways.

I fortunately met and married a wonderful kind and loving man, Lawrence, and although he is a lapsed Christian he has a lot of Christian values and is always saying how much he envies my faith, I continually pray that one day he may take that step back on the road to salvation.

The night before I was to give my testimony I thought I had written down everything I had wanted to say, but God had other plans, when He woke me up at 4 o'clock that morning with all these thoughts going through my head, so I just had to get up and put them down on paper, and it was all about how my life has changed since coming here to Tenerife, back in the UK although people knew I was a Christian, it was difficult and sometimes embarrassing to talk to them about my faith and beliefs but since coming here I have met a lot of people who are not Christians and I find it so thrilling and exciting to be able to talk to them and am amazed when they find out that I am a Christian and start asking questions, because their perception is of someone oddly different to them who's only conversation is about the bible, and it amazes them also to find out that we are ordinary people just like them, who go out and enjoy ourselves and have a laugh and a joke with them without hitting them over the head with a bible all the time, and frightening them off.

God and STCF has made such a transformation in my life in the last five years it is just unreal the difference I feel and has strengthened my faith 100%, that's why I felt compelled to be baptized this May in the Atlantic Ocean, to recommit myself fully to serving the Lord and my fellow human beings to say thank you to God for all the many blessings He has given me, and as Paul said in Romans 12, "because of God's mercy to us we must offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him." Thanks be to God, Amen

New Rainbow Unit

Greer McDonald who started the "Playzone" is a warranted Guider and plans to start a Rainbow Unit at the church. The Unit would be part of Girl Guiding UK and run as a lone unit under British Guides in Foreign Countries and the unit will be officially recognized as such. Rainbows are girls aged 5 to 7 years old, they then go on to Brownies for 7 to 10 years old and then Guides. **The Unit will meet on Friday evenings, commencing on September 10th,** for an hour at 5.30pm. We value your prayers for this new venture that it will blossom in the coming months and bear forth fruit in abundance.

Twentyfifth Anniversary

We praise the Lord that next year, *October 5th 2011* we will be celebrating His church being established here in Los Cristianos for an amazing twenty five years. We are giving you advance notice so that you can join in with the celebrations that are being planned. Paul Mallard, this year's popular conference speaker has agreed to join us leading a mini conference and Anne Linstrum will be hosting a concert, together with a giant buffet and anniversary cake, it will be a prayerful celebration to remember.

Further details will be published in future Newsletters and our website that has been updated - Check it out! www.stcf.org

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

As years go by the number of names and addresses on the Church Newsletter Database increases. However, we are aware, for various reasons, current newsletters may no longer be required. We therefore wish to update this list and compile a new one.

The database is solely for the purpose of sending out the STCF Newsletter. **So if you wish to continue receiving this** free of charge, please can you contact the church treasurer, Alan Parker, either in writing or email, by not later than **31st October 2010** to provide confirmation of your name, postal and email addresses.

(Alan's details and the church address are on the back cover of this Newsletter.) Thank You.

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

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Tel: (00 34) 922 79 00 07

www.stcf.org

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

Interim Pastor: Graham Derrig - Mob.Tel (0034) 660 183 760

[email stcf.church@yahoo.com](mailto:stcf.church@yahoo.com)

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

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