

## **To our friends at the South Tenerife Christian Fellowship**

Can I firstly say how sorry Christine and I are at not being able to be with you for the month of October! We have all been taken by surprise by this pandemic - except the Lord!! I am reminded of Proverbs 16 verse 9 where we read "A man's heart plans his way BUT the Lord directs his steps".

Although over the last 6 months, we at Waldringfield have been greatly encouraged by the number of people logging on to Livestream, we have desperately missed fellowship and singing God's praises together! I guess we all took those things for granted.

For very different reasons, we read in Psalm 137 of God's people who were not singing either. Their hearts were sad due to being taken into exile in pagan Babylon where they gathered by the river and wept! The Psalmist records their sadness as they thought back and "remembered Zion". I am sure many of us in these somewhat depressing days have thought back, especially to the S.T.C.F. Sundays when many joined together from several different Countries for worship and praise the Lord and gather around His Word.

However, I am encouraged to read on that the harps that they had played in former times, they had only "hung up" and not broken them up and thrown them in the river where they had gathered! They knew there was a day coming in the future when they would collect them and sing again! Praise the Lord; although our circumstances and lives have changed dramatically in recent months, we still have a glorious future – a CERTAIN HOPE! Yes, one day Heaven, but we also look forward to singing again with you at STCF!

We pray for you all regularly as a Church at Waldringfield as well as personally that God would sustain you and continue to use you in these humanly limiting days. Remember "God is still on the throne and He will remember His own!" – The Lord is still building His Church, and if the gates of hell cannot stop Him, it is a sure thing Covid 19 will not either!

In the words of Paul to Timothy (2. Timothy 1 verse 4) "we greatly desire to see you SOON!"

If I can get it in my case, I will bring my harp too! (I do play a harp – that is the truth, though some want me to find a tree and hang it up!)

We LOVE our times with you in Tenerife and will miss seeing you, (as well as the Italian Restaurant on the corner!)

In the meantime, keep looking up to our unchanging Saviour and Lord Who knows the end from the beginning! Alan, thanks for all your practical help – we do not forget you and the family in this new chapter of your lives.

With Love in Christ, - Steve and Christine