

Warm Christian Greetings from Deans and Anne

We say there is nothing new under the sun. So true when it comes to travel plans! Think Israel's 40 years Wilderness Wanderings (for an 11-day journey) and you get the point. Coming to Tenerife proved as difficult!

Studying 1 Thessalonians recently, chapter 2:12-20 seemed in tune with our planned trip to be among the fellowship of STCF for September. Paul was anxious to return to Thessalonica to encourage the fledgling fellowship in their new found faith. He *made every effort to see them*, but Satan blocked the way (It is not always Satan: Acts 15:36-16:10 shows how circumstance and the Holy Spirit guided Paul to Macedonia). God's hand is always guiding our way, but it didn't stop Paul making a prayer wish: *Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.*

The way was not cleared for us and we thank you for accepting that, as we have done. Like Paul we made every effort to come. There came a point where, having done all, we left it in God's hands. Soon after Alan kindly phoned 'to put our minds at rest', in that preaching cover was available if we could not come. Jet2 cancelled flights in due time.

Paul had deep affection for the church, and saw them as orphaned for a short time – *orphaned in presence, not in thought*. We echo that and glad of being on regular touch with some of you, and to pray for you in the pressures and challenges you face. We share your sorrow over recent death among the fellowship, not least over Valerie, who bravely kept in touch regularly. We know the shock you all felt over Jonathon's sudden death (we enjoyed a meal with him on our last visit). We hold their families in our hearts and prayers.

We know you, with many others, were in prayer concerning our visit. Thank you for that, and for your advance preparation, and for Lynda's kind offer of her apartment for our stay. We appreciate Alan working with us, even through the difficult last weeks of Valerie's life.

Deans had hoped to speak on the theme of walking with God. May you continue to do so with firm and joyful step, as we also want to do, to the glory of his name, the building of his church and the winning of others to Jesus Christ. May God bless, sustain and guide each one of you, and enable you to work together as well as you can to the glory of God, in these strange times.

With much love on the Lord Jesus Christ

Deans and Anne

P.S. The Scottish weather forecast suggests we won't see much of the sun; we will miss being under the Canarian sun this month!

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