

## Stephen ANDERSON

### SPAIN

**Location:** Torre del Mar

**Mission:** Pastoral Ministry & Outreach

I have been reminded lately of the old maxim "We walk by sight, not by faith.." where Church is all about head counts, bank balances, etc. Yet, as G K Beal has pointed out, once we take our focus off God, and onto something else, there is the danger we become blind and deaf to what he is doing, and subtly disconnected from the God we claim to worship.

In contrast, as we move into April, we continue our Renovare Spiritual formation course with the focus on internal transformation, and in due course, we will look towards what we want to be and how we express our life as a congregation "fit for purpose" - Christ-centred in our worship, and open in our welcome to whoever crosses our path.

As part of this we have continued to slowly build links with other (Spanish) congregations in neighbouring towns, a process which is slow, but one we trust will bear fruit in time.

We have also had the invitation to help build a library resource in the local Ecumenical Centre for other congregations to use. As a result, we have been supplying it with books and commentaries in both English and Spanish which we hope and pray will prove useful to local pastors and congregations alike.

All is happening in the context of a seasonal dip in numbers on Sundays. While this flexibility and



uncertainty may prove difficult for those who focus on numbers and finances, it nevertheless is part of our life together. It is one of 'Hellos and 'Goodbyes', but with a rhythm and constancy, as we welcome newcomers, and old friends alike, into our midst. We have learned that it is not about numbers, but about our shared life together as we celebrate our connection in the Risen Jesus, and our walk of faith as we travel the road of discipleship together.

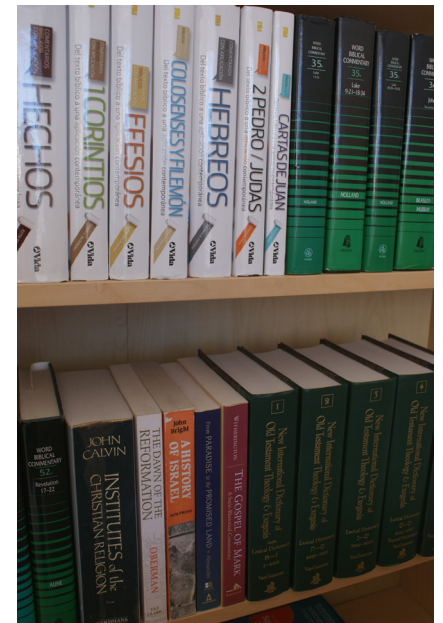


Photo: Library Books

## Prayer Points

- Pray for the congregation, that they will continue to grow in faith and knowledge of Jesus.
- Pray for the building of links with other Spanish congregations.
- Pray for the building of a library resource which will be used by other congregations in the Malaga region.
- Pray that we will be able to offer a place where the reality of faith in Jesus can be caught, as well as taught.