

*Christian Friendship Fellowship's early years, as recorded, in various letters, by Pastor David R. Lowe, its founder, first director and, in later years, its first and only president.*

“ It has occurred to me that my original letter to the Charity Commissioners, presenting to them something of my vision for the C.F.F. ministry, contained a specific statement of my original objectives which I believe was in accordance with charity law... In that letter, dated 27 August 1976, I made it plain that I planned to start a non-profit making, inter-denominational ministry for bringing single and otherwise unattached Christians together for mutual benefit. This charitable organisation was to help overcome ‘the problems of loneliness and isolation, with their frequent disastrous consequences’. This is still the essential basic purpose of the C.F.F. after 15 years. ”

*Letter dated 22 June 1991*

“ The C.F.F. was dedicated by me personally ten years ago to serve fellow Christians on their own, whom I knew from years of pastoral ministry, to be lonely. This awareness had been intensified by several years' service with the Samaritans, in which I discovered that loneliness was one of the major causes of depression and kindred ills.

I believe that God put into my mind the simple idea, that to bring lonely people together to enrich each others' lives was the best possible remedy to this basic problem.



*A holiday in Volosko, Yugoslavia*

I set about it in a very small way locally to try and help lonely Christians to meet with each other in a spirit of sharing and caring. As the weeks went by very gradually the circle of those involved began to grow. After a few months letters of appreciation began to come in by almost every post. As the years have come and gone the numbers have expanded at an increasing rate, first in hundreds then in thousands.

Holidays and Houseparties for Christians on their own were then introduced as a venture of faith. From the outset the warmth and bonds of love that were generated at these events by the interchange of experience and testimonies exchanged, was truly amazing in its clear benefit to those participating. Many hundreds of such events have been organised and promoted in all parts of the country.

From this development a spontaneous new progression took place through the initiative and shared vision of one

individual member which soon passed on to others as they began to start local social and fellowship groups within their own homes. These have now expanded to all parts of the British Isles, with a few now starting overseas. They now number over 120 with a new one being added every 2-3 weeks. More recently regions have been formed with coordinators so that groups of Christian singles now meet together for rallies of social and spiritual refreshing and interchanges of experiences.

Now many thousands of Christians on their own (with overall more than 15,000 having been registered as members) of all denominations and age groups, are involved in enriching each others' lives. We are proud of this remarkable achievement under God's continual blessing, and deeply desire to see it expanded unhindered, to its full potential in meeting the proven existing need. ”

*Letter dated 8 September 1987*



*David and Joy, December 2002*

“ I would like to take this opportunity to share one piece of good news with you. We have just passed the 1,000 marriage milestone through the C.F.F.'s ministry and outreach, which we are celebrating and rejoice in. Following the establishment of the 100th group earlier covering almost every part of the U.K., we feel confident the C.F.F. is serving a very real part in God's purposes as an alternative to the permissive society. So we are renewed in our efforts to carry forward this ministry to the utmost of our abilities and resources. ”

*Letter dated 20 October 1987*

“ My wonderful wife, Joy, feels at times as though she is being dragged through a hedge backwards... but she bravely and loyally soldiers on. We both have a measure of faith which is bearing us up... our endurance is certainly being tested to the full. ”

*Letter dated 18 December 1989*

## Anniversary greetings

Forty years on, David's vision is still being fulfilled and many continue to share in, and benefit greatly from, C.F.F.'s ministry. Representative anniversary greetings are sent by one local group in each of the four home countries:



*Belfast Group*



*Glasgow Group*



*North Wales Group*



*Blackpool and Preston Group*

*~ and from the present CFF trustees:*

*Fiona Hay (Chair)*

*Douglas Cracknell*

*Maud Grier*

*Ian Noble*

*Patricia Wilson*