

McClure Mumblings



Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton

April 08



Above: Some of the students from the group at a meeting at our house in January 08

"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." Joshua 23:14

As we have studied the book of Joshua this past term with the students, we have been struck by a surprising number of parallels with the changes going in our lives. The challenges facing Joshua and the people of Israel were about trusting God as He led them forward into the land that He had promised them. As we look back on the last six months it does feel like we have entered a new phase of our lives. In January Steve finished work in Salisbury and is now working with The Navigators on a full-time basis. This has taken the pressure off us both and allowed us to develop a much healthier and more sustainable pattern of work, life and ministry. Debs continues to enjoy her work as an Occupational Therapist and has been making use of the skills she has been developing over these past few years of training.

Often change is not initially enjoyable and we would be the first to admit that these past six months have not always been easy. Yet, it has been clear throughout that God has been faithful to His promises to lead us, provide for us and remain with us. In the first chapter of Joshua we find God encouraging Joshua to be strong and courageous, to meditate on His word and be careful to do everything written in it. These are lessons that Joshua was constantly reminded of as he led Israel into the land God had promised many years earlier and they have proved just as relevant for us as we have move forward with that same God.

We are very grateful to God for the privilege of investing in the lives of the students and young graduates that He continues to lead us to. As we meet up with those students on a 1-2-1 and small group basis it is clear to see that there is so much potential amongst these students and we long to see them growing in maturity and love for the Lord. Please pray that we would be good role models, mentors and friends to them.

Our Calling: To advance the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling amongst the lost

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Tel: 02380-558800, Website: www.navigators.co.uk / www.sotonnavs.org

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Planner – Summer Term 2008

Mon 14 Apr – Term begins

Sat 10 May – Summer mission orientation day in Southampton

Tues 13-15 May – National Student Leadership Community (Birmingham)

3-5 May – NAVS Camping weekend in the New Forest

Sun 18 May – NAVS at "Walk the Wight" (Newport to Needles)

Tues 27 May – Sat 14 June – University Exam period

Sat 14 – Sat 21 June – NAVS National Student Summer Conference

Fri 20 June – 21 July – Summer mission trip to Norway and Latvia.

Highlights from our work with students last term...

Last term was characterised by many opportunities for mission and sharing the gospel. In early February we took a small team from the group to Riga, Latvia for a long weekend encouraging friends and continuing to develop relationships with those we spend time with in the summer. This was a great opportunity to deepen friendships and begin to plan for the summer.

We returned from Latvia for the Southampton CU mission week which proved extremely encouraging for those involved. We suspended NAVS activities so that we could all be free to get stuck in and support our friends in making a stand for the gospel. As follow-up to that week we have been running a small Christianity Explored / Discipleship group which has been regularly attended by a couple of guys (Chris and Adam) who are seeking God. This has been a really great time as we have studied the Bible and chatted together.

Please pray for us and the group as we think a little more about new ways that we can encourage each other to be outward focused and share the gospel with our friends.

Another initiative last term was to take the students away to the New Forest for a day to think about prayer in a practical way. The time was largely devoted to some extended time alone with God using a variety of aids to give us some new ideas to enrich our prayer lives. We know that prayer can often be a struggle and it was really special to have some time set aside to spend with God in such a beautiful setting.

Family News

In March we headed off to the Lake District for a holiday to celebrate our 3rd wedding anniversary. Below is a picture of us by Stickle Tarn in the Langdales where we got engaged 4 years ago. We had a great time and returned from holiday feeling refreshed.



In our last newsletter we mentioned that our cat Neo had run away. We are pleased to report that he returned home only days after that letter was sent and is settling in well.



Above: The group we took to Riga



Above: Pictures of our house

Please give thanks for...

...the way that we have been able to use our house (pictured alongside) for ministry and hospitality again this term.

...a good transition to full-time student ministry for Steve.

...Debs continuing to enjoy her work with the NHS.

...God providing a team to come with us to Norway and Latvia in the summer.

Please pray for...

...us as we continue to be intentional in drawing alongside students and helping them to walk with Christ.

...students in our new afternoon discussion group who are seeking the Lord, and for other non-Christians known to and involved with the group.

...the Norway and Latvia team as we make plans and think about the challenges & opportunities of this adventure.

...those considering doing the Connect programme with us in Southampton next year – that God would guide them.

Thank you for your partnership with us in prayer...

Steve & Debs