



Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond...Apr 2013 Edition



Recent Family Holiday in the Lake District

A time to reflect...

*²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40:28-31***

For any who may not be familiar with our story so far, it goes as follows: Steve studied in Southampton from 1997-2000 before doing the Connect Programme. Debs studied in Cardiff 1999-2002 and we go to know one another at a Navigator conference in Moffat, Scotland in the summer of 2000. Debs moved to Southampton in 2001 to do the Connect programme and we have been ministering here amongst students ever since. After Connect Steve worked for 6 years in Salisbury for a Financial Services company while Debs studied for a second degree in Occupational Therapy part-time while continuing her role with the Navigators. We married at Above Bar church in Southampton in March 2005 and then in 2007-2008 we went through a process of much change. Debs graduated and started a job as an occupational therapist in September and then we moved to our current house a month later. A few months later in January 2008 Steve left his job in Salisbury to start working full-time for the Navigators and when Benjamin arrived at the end of 2008 Debs finished her job as well.

It is hard to believe that we've been leading the student ministry in Southampton for 7 years. Steve has been working full-time for the NAVS for 5 years while Debs been part-time with the NAVS for 10 years now. Those who see us regularly or know us well will know just how much we can relate to the verses above. Student ministry is very intense and it is very draining emotionally, spiritually and physically. Balancing the needs of three young and growing children with all that needs be done in the student ministry has been particularly challenging over the past few years. Hence we've decided to spend some extended time away to have something of a mini-sabbatical this summer. A few years ago we became part of a charitable organisation that owns a youth hostel in Skjolden, Norway and we have been offered the opportunity to stay from the beginning of June until our annual Reps Conference at the end of August. We plan to use this time for some rest and relaxation, to reflect back over the past 7 years in Southampton, to seek God about how He would have us best serve Him going forward. We will also consider how we can best use our time in a way that is sustainable in the longer term. This time will sandwich our annual mission experience to Norway & Latvia (see attached). Please pray for us that the LORD would renew our both our strength and our sense of vision as we put our hope in Him.

"To encourage students to know, love and share Jesus Christ through purposeful, intentional and reproducible disciple-making as we share our lives together in community." SOTON NAVS Vision statement, Sept 2011
"To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost" Worldwide Navigator Calling Statement

Highlights from last term...

Last term was very full with lots happening in our midst. Below is a brief summary of some of the highlights:

- **Weekend trip to Riga;** Luke, Dave, Jane and Steve visited some of our friends in Latvia and our dear friend Patrick Noonan (USA) who works for the Navigators and is engaged with language study there.
- **Serving with the Christian Union;** We stopped our regular activities so that our full-time team could help at the CU Events week in February. Steve now has a new group of young CU leaders to lead and coach through Jonah and recently Colossians. Before Easter we shared an excellent evening with the new CU committee.
- **The Navigators BIG Weekend;** 23 of us from the group travelled up to Blackpool for our annual national student conference. We enjoyed great teaching, helpful interaction and a really good time getting to know one another better (talks/materials at <http://www.navigators.co.uk/big-weekend>).
- **Lighting up Europe;** Fantastic time in Germany with Navigator students leaders from around Europe being equipped and envisioned for ministering in what is increasing a hugely needy continent.
- **Sexuality: God's gift and Idea;** We've been studying the subject of sexuality this past term and have been grateful for some excellent opportunities to go deeper with the students on these issues (download materials at www.sotonnavs.org/materials or visit Steve's blog <http://blog.sotonnavs.org>).
- **Homosexuality and Following Jesus;** Our colleague Laurence Koo from the Netherlands (along with Justin Hester visiting from USA) was a huge encouragement to the group. Laurence spoke honestly about his own personal battle in this area (you can listen at www.sotonnavs.org/recordings).
- **IGNITE does "UNCOVER";** Following Events week our IGNITE discussion group has been working through Luke's gospel using UCCF's Uncover materials. We have been especially excited about the journey of some of the existing members and thrilled to welcome a couple of new guys to the group.



Please pray for us over the coming months:

- For Debs and the family as they transition from life in the UK to life in Norway. We expect to hear about Benjamin's schooling later this month and would value your prayers about that decision.
- That we would finish up this academic year well before we head to Norway for the beginning of June.
- For the new members of our Student Leadership Team (Tom, James, Hugo & Ana) who begin their roles this term.
- For our leavers and movers this year, that we would prepare them well for this transition as we study 2 Timothy together.
- For energy and endurance as there is much to be done before we head to Norway for this extended time this summer.

To God be the Glory, All our love Steve, Debs, Benjamin, Naomi and Samuel

Term Planner:

Sun 28 Apr (9:15am service)

Dedication of Samuel at ABC

Sat 4-Sun 5 May

Three Peaks Challenge

Thurs 2 May

"A vision for Life" (Brian Blacklock)

Mon 20 May-Sat 8 Jun

Student Exam Season

Thurs 30 May

End of Year BBQ

Fri 31 May

McClure's leave for Norway

Thurs 6 Jun

"Transition to working" seminars for graduates (Duncan Miller)

