

McClure Mumblings



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

Dec 09



Above: Group Photo from our recent NAVS Weekend Away on the Isle of Wight

Generations of labourers...

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others" (2 Timothy 2:2, TNIV)

At our recent weekend away, Martin Cooper showed the group a photograph of the student ministry he led in Southampton 30 years ago. He talked about some of the people in the picture with whom he was still in contact with and told a number of stories about how God was using them in their different contexts. This got us thinking about our ministry here in Southampton; reflecting on all that we have seen God doing amongst the group and thinking about what we would like to see God do in the lives of the students God has given us, past, present and future. We have been involved with helping students in Southampton since we served on the Connect Programme (Steve 00-01 and Debs 02-03). In 05-06 Gez and Alison Perry took a back seat in the ministry as they prepared for a move to France and they asked us to take more responsibility for the group. We officially took responsibility for the ministry from 05-06 and along with our graduate team have been running the group since then.

A lot has happened in the group over the past decade; a total of 15 people have served on the Connect Programme in Southampton, and many students have come through the group. Some have moved away to be involved in full-time ministry around the world (Manchester, Oxford, India, France, Malaysia, sailing on MV Doulos); many have continued to serve God in their spheres of influence (home, workplace, neighbourhood). We count it a great privilege and joy to be involved with so many people at such a crucial stage in their lives.

Paul in 2 Tim 2:2 charged Timothy with the task of passing on the baton, the task of entrusting all that Paul had taught him to faithful, reliable and trustworthy people who in turn would be able to pass it on to others. The Navigator calling is "To advance the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost". As we reflect on the past decade it is humbling to see the way that God has been using both us and others to invest in generations of people who share a heart to work amongst God's harvest-field. A significant portion of our current leadership team have been with us since we took responsibility for the group in 05 and it is particularly exciting and a real blessing to see them investing in the next generation...

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From right to left: (1) Gorilla & Kashimana @ SUCU, (2) Talent item at the weekend away, (3) Benjamin, (4) Lola, James & Helen

What the Lord is doing in Southampton...

So much has happened this term and there is only space here to give you a glimpse of what God is doing in us and through us. It has certainly not been an easy term but amidst the pressures and business of term we really feel that the Lord's blessing has been with us in all that has been happening. We have been especially encouraged that there has been a consistent group on Monday evenings talking about big questions such as 'does God exist?', 'what about other religions?' and 'the problem of pain'. We have also been encouraging the group to pray for their friends and for opportunities to share their faith with their friends. There have been events this term to bring friends for Sunday lunch with the group, watch the Star Wars marathon and come to the Christmas meal but we are also hoping that people will feel able to invite friends from the group to enter into their own social networks. Evangelism is very much on our agenda and we want to be a group embedded in the campus, 'living and discipling among the lost'. Thursday night Bible studies have been encouraging with numbers regularly around 25 people. We have been studying Jesus' parables in Luke's gospel and have found them very stimulating.

In October Steve began his course in Ministry and Theology (FFM) and has been enjoying studying modules such as 'Knowing the Bible: Old Testament', 'Evangelism in theory and Practice', 'Church History' and 'Understanding and Using the Bible'. Debs' Discipleship Explored course at church has now ended but it been a good opportunity to get to know some other mums better.

Winter/Spring Planner

Thurs 3 Dec

Evangelistic Christmas Meal

Fri 11 to Tues 15 Dec

Weekend trip to Riga

Mon 14 Dec to Mon 4 Jan

Student Christmas Holidays

Mon 1 to Fri 5 Feb

CU Events Week 2010

Wed 24-Thurs 25 Feb

Student Leadership Community

Sat 20-Sun 21 Feb

Foundations 4 Ministry (Soton)

Fri 25 Feb – Mon 1 Mar

Latvia Student Weekend (Riga)

Fri 5-Sun 7 Mar

NAVS Spring Weekend Away

Fri 19 Mar

End of Spring Term



Above: Tim & Lowri Peters who were married on Sat 10 Oct

Partnering with us in prayer...

Ministry Prayers;

- Please give thanks for a fantastic term and for many new faces around the group
- Please give thanks for a great leadership team helping us; both the Connect workers and others on our team have done a fantastic job this term
- Please pray for a number of students involved with the group who are not-yet Christians; pray that in time they would come to know Jesus for themselves
- Please pray for the networks of relationships both within and beyond the ministry, pray for greater involvement with these networks and a growing heart to reach friends for Christ
- Pray for us as we write studies for next term on the theme of grace, please pray that the studies would deeply touch and transform people's hearts
- Please pray for the upcoming trips to Riga in December and February; please also pray for us as we start planning next summers mission trip to Norway & Latvia

Family Prayers;

- Please pray that we would have a restful break over the Christmas Holidays, pray that we would be refreshed spiritually, physically and emotionally
- Please continue to pray for Benjamin who is growing ever so fast; pray that in time he will come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour

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