

McClure Mumblings



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

Dec 2010



Above Left: Benjamin the Wise, Middle: All the family & Right: Naomi our angel

Experiencing God over a lifetime...

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." Romans 15:4

On Tuesday and Thursday evenings this past term we have been studying the life of David; "God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do' and it is said that he served God's purpose in his own generation. (Acts 13:22,36). At a time when the nation of Israel needed God desperately, the life of David brings hope. God was (and still is) looking for men and women He could trust with the outworking of His purposes. David was a man who had on his heart what was on God's heart. One thing is very clear with David, he had a personal relationship with God and he allowed his life to be an instrument in God's hands. The Bible is a record of God touching the lives of individuals so that He can use them in the way He wants to and David's life has shouted this message to us.

David's life has been a huge challenge but also a real encouragement and source of hope. We've looked at his life from his anointing (1 Sam 16) through to his sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam 11-12, Psalm 51). We have especially considered the foundations of his relationship with God and learned the lesson that while God *does not depend* on human means *He does use* human means. Please join us in praying for the next generation of leaders; the foundations students and young graduates are laying today will have a huge impact on the rest of their lives. We thank God for the foundations that God laid in our lives; for the people who helped us, the commitments and relationships which have made such a difference to us.

David faced some significant challenges to his faith; we've thought especially about the areas of relationships (a difficult relationship with Saul but a helpful relationship with Jonathan), the disappointment of returning from battle to find their wives and children captured (1 Sam 30) and the destructive power of sin (2 Sam 11-12). Amidst all these things David's relationship with God stood firm. At times others helped him to find strength in God (1 Sam 23:16) and at times he had to do it on his own (1 Sam 30:6). Please continue to pray for us and those in the various Bible study, discussion and graduate groups that our relationship with God would be the basis for all that we are and all that we give our lives to.

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Latvian friends on IOW



Weekend away 2010

Partnering with us in this ministry...

Ministry Prayers;

- Give thanks for a great team; esp. our full-time team (Tim, Stephen & Adam) have worked really hard and been a huge support to us.
- Praise God for bringing some new faces into the group and pray that the slow but steady growth that we have seen this term would continue.
- Pray that many would want to take part in trips to visit friends in Latvia, France and Norway next term. Pray too for wisdom for us as we seek God about next summer and a possible return trip to Norway and Latvia.
- Pray esp. for the Monday group (IGNITE) and especially for Andrea, Natalia, Isaac and Conno who have been coming with many questions
- Pray for Steve as he prepares a Bible study series over Christmas on the theme of "Experiencing the Spirit."

Family Prayers

- Thank God that Naomi made a full and swift recovery from bronchiolitis
- Pray that we would continue to prioritise our relationships with God and each other amidst the busyness of all that is happening around us.
- We are enjoying doing life and ministry together as a family but it has been a tough term for us all. Please pray that we would be a good example to others as we live our lives among students, friends and family

Spring Planner 2011

- Mon 10 Jan** – Students return from Christmas ahead of exams (17-28 Jan)
- Sat 22-Sun 23 Jan** – Steve at FFM (Southampton)
- Sat 29 Jan** – Regional South East NAVS day (Reading)
- Mon 7-Fri 11 Feb** – NAVS helping at CU Events Wk
- Fri 12-Sun 14 Feb** – Steve at the National "BIG WEEEEKEND" for students/graduates (Derbyshire)
- Fri 25-Sun 27 Feb** – Latvia Student Weekend (Riga)
- Fri 1 Apr** – End of Spring Term
- Sat 2-Sun 3 Apr** – Steve at FFM (Birmingham)
- Sat 16-Sat 30 Apr** – Family Holiday in the Lakes

What's been happening in SOTON NAVS?

As you can see from the pictures much has happened this past term. The weekly groups on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays have all gone well; it has been encouraging having new people coming along and even more encouraging to see people engaging with the Bible. The autumn term is always about foundations and a process of rebuilding after losing graduates at the end of the summer term.

We started the term with two weekends away for our leadership team; (1) the National Student Forum with student leaders from around the country in Derbyshire and (2) a weekend away solely for our leadership team with our regional leaders Neil & Emmie Bidston in Finchampstead. Both weekends were really great times of vision casting, planning, prayer and spending time together ahead of the term. One of our key roles within the team is to motivate, lead and facilitate fellow labourers. God has gifted us with a fantastic group of people with a vast array of skills, personalities and giftings. We thank God for them and are so grateful for the time and effort they devote to serving God through the group. It has been exciting walking with some of them this term as they have been putting those gifts into practice for the good of the group. Some examples would be; James who organises our marketing strategy has been working hard to develop good links with other groups, Adam who is responsible for encouraging us and the group to be praying, Chris who runs the weekly IGNITE group, Jane who encourages the group to be engaged in 1-2-1 amongst one another, Kim who co-ordinates food for the groups, and so on. We've had many events this term including a weekend in Latvia, a group weekend away on the Isle of Wight with Ted & Linda Pilling, and a whopping 72 people at our 9th consecutive annual Christmas meal.



Christmas Meal 2010



Dave & Adam



Latvian student wkd