



**Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond...Dec 2012 Edition**



NAVS Weekend Away 2012,  
Totland Bay, Isle of Wight

## Growing faith...

*<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **Hebrews 12:1-3***

At our weekend away this term Steve spoke on the theme of "Faith in Action" and we journeyed together through Hebrews 11:1-12:3. We thought about the nature of faith (what faith is and what it believes), misplaced faith (considering the idols in which we place our trust) and finally the substance of faith (how faith is worked out in practice). The final section of this passage (12:1-3) is something of a summary and the readers of Hebrews are urged to remember the heroes of faith and to run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus. As we draw close to Christmas we have been encouraged again to consider Jesus. For a moment just imagine yourself in Jesus' shoes and ask yourself what did Jesus see? Before Him lay sleeping friends, betrayal, angry mobs, violent soldiers, a weak Governor, lashings and beatings, corrupt leaders and a hammer driving nails into a cruel Roman cross. What was to be seen was completely shameful and hopeless. Yet we're told that Jesus had a joy set before Him; the hope of resurrection, the joy of saving countless millions, of revealing the wonder of God and bringing glory to Him. You see even when the 'things that are seen' seem to be against us we are called to live by faith. We are to fix our eyes on Jesus so that we will not grow weary and lose heart. This is why all of those mentioned in Hebrews 11 were commended for their faith.

Our Thursday Bible study groups have been studying the life of Moses and we have seen how God working in out-of-the-ordinary ways did not necessarily lead to faith. After the Exodus the people soon forget God and what He had done for them and while Moses is receiving the Ten Commandments at Sinai (where God caused mountains to tremble and appeared in pillars of cloud) the people of Israel were at the foot of the mountain building a golden calf to bow down to. So we have learned that firstly "what we see" does not necessarily produce faith and secondly that "the seen" is no more real than the "unseen". Paul writes that we walk by faith and not by sight. Please join us in praying for the students to develop a deep, genuine and lasting faith in Jesus; a faith Hebrews defines as *"confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."* (11:1)

*"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*

# Growing Family...



The above photos give something of a glimpse of the character of our wonderful children. Benjamin (nearly 4 yrs) is so full of life and hardly ever stops talking, he loves playing games with the students and is becoming quite the extravert. He has made some good friends at preschool and the Church toddlers group. Naomi (2 yrs) is much shier and is not so keen on all these people who keep invading her house! She has a love-hate relationship with her brother but they are lost without one another. Naomi's middle name is mischief! Finally Samuel is 3 months old already and is developing fast. He is generally a very happy placid baby and is currently sleeping exceptionally well at night. His brother and sister both enjoy him very much although we wonder whether that will change once he is on the move and dragging their toys around the house. Please pray for them all as we seek to make disciples in the student world; much of what we do is in the house and therefore has a huge impact (both positive and negative) on them.

## Highlights of what God has been doing amongst us this term?

- Despite needing to step in and speak at the weekend away we really enjoyed the time away with the students and the feedback from the weekend was extremely positive. Please pray that the lessons learned about faith would be put into the practice in the lives of all those who came.
- We had over 100 people at the Christmas meal last week; praise God for a fantastic team effort and a wonderfully clear gospel message from Andrew Page. We were excited that a number of students also came for Sunday lunch a few days afterwards and also came to the carol service with us.
- We give thanks for those leading various ministries in the ministry and especially Tim (running a Bible study group), James leading the IGNITE team (our evangelistic discussion group), Dave (helping lead a group with Friends International) and Lydia (helping lead the LIFE net ministry for graduates).
- It has been particularly fun being part of the Student Leadership Team this term and we have been so impressed by Alex, Eleanor, Stephen, Sam, Luke and Elizabeth who have brought so much energy and really made the group their own. Do pray for them as they start thinking about plans for next year.

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

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## Term Planner

**Mon 7 January**

Term begins

**Fri 11 -14 Jan**

Visiting friends in Riga, Latvia

**Mon 14-Fri 25 Jan**

Student Exam Season

**Mon 4-Fri 8 Feb**

Christian Union Events Week

**Fri 22-Sun 24 Feb**

National BIG WEEKEND (Blackpool)

**Fri 1-Sun 3 Mar**

NAVS European Student Conference  
(Hattingen, Germany)

**Fri 15 Mar**

End of Term

**Sat 16 Mar -Sat 30 Apr**

Family Holiday; Lake District