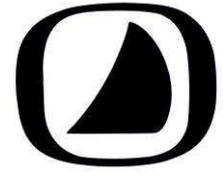


McClure Mumblings

Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton



February 07



Above: Group picture at the Soton NAVS weekend away in December

Habakkuk 3:18-19 "...I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights."

It is hard to believe that not only is it 2007, but we are now into February already! As we look back on the last term, we are thrilled to see the numerous ways in which God has been working both in us and through us. In September we were asking God for some new students to replace those who had graduated last summer and for some willing graduates with a heart to get involved in helping students. After a slow and inconsistent start, God has answered both of these prayers through a variety of people and it has been such an encouragement to see the group change dramatically during the term. Our theme for the term was "remaining in Christ". We studied John's gospel and thought together as a group about how we should respond to Jesus' words before His death.

We had a nice time away from Southampton with our families over Christmas, tarnished only by Steve catching man-flu! Involvement in Student ministry is a rollercoaster ride and there have been discouragements along the way. At the start of another year we are feeling a little hard pressed: attendance has been a little inconsistent in the group during exams, Steve was temporarily deaf due to 2 blocked ears, we've had two missing cats, one dying washing machine, changes at Steve's workplace and we have been adapting to Debs being on full-time placement. However, we are encouraged at this time by the words of Habakkuk who, despite not understanding what God was doing, was able to declare his faith in a God who he knows to be good and faithful in keeping His promises.

Family News:

This term Debs is on a full-time OT placement in the New Forest and has had to reduce her commitments with the group accordingly. She is very much looking forward to finishing her course in May this year and will be looking for jobs to start from the end of the summer!

Steve is still finding his day a week working with NAVS very helpful but is keen to reduce his hours further later in the year.



Our cat Neo returned home this week after getting himself lost and ending up in West Sussex. Tabitha is doing well but we have not seen Millie now since early September.

We are looking forward to a well earned rest at the end of term as we head to the Lake District for a week's holiday.



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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What's happening in the ministry?

This term we have been studying the book of **Deuteronomy** which we have found hard and a real challenge to us all. Many of the students in the group are not used to studying the Old Testament so the need to prepare in advance has been crucial. In the studies we have been encountering the "God who is" and we have started seeing what He is and isn't like. It has been exciting to challenge our own perceptions of God and His character. We have also delegated the cooking on Thursday evenings to the prayer groups (which meet as part of our regular Thursday evening format) to help spread responsibility within the group, provide another context for spending time with individuals and to give the students more opportunities in learning to serve.

This term the Southampton Christian Unions are having their annual **Mission weeks**. We are very excited about our involvement with the Mission in prayer and through individuals helping during the week. There will be no separate NAVS meetings during the week so that the students can get involved. In what has been a challenging few months for Christian Unions up and down the country, please join us in praying for them as they make a stand on campus.

The **Christianity Explored** group is continuing with Ben, Kate and Lois still bringing their non-Christian friends Nicola, Leane, Katie and Massimo each week. We are praying that they will be able to get along to some of the forthcoming Mission events in a few weeks.



Soton NAVS ongoing Latvia Link...

This month we are returning to Latvia to visit some of the students we met last summer, in particular, Inna, Luba and Lidija who visited us in December for our group weekend away.

Four students from the group (Kim, Lola, Bo & Lydia) and our connect worker Steve Price are coming with us. We are excited about spending time with them and also with those we know in Latvia. We are also hoping to spend a day serving with a Christian day centre in Latvia and firm up some of our plans for the summer when we will be returning as part of a five-week summer mission trip to Norway and Latvia. We will provide more details of the trip in the next edition of McClure mumblings.

All our love,

Steve & Debs

Planner

Mon 22 Jan – Sat 3 Feb – First semester exam period

Thurs 15 – Mon 19 Feb – Weekend away in Riga, Latvia

Mon 12 – Sat 24 Feb – SU Christian Union mission weeks

Sat 3 Mar – Soton NAVS Day away in the New Forest

Fri 16 Mar – End of Term

Fri 6 – 14 Apr – Holiday in the Lakes

Fri 15 Jun – Tues 24 July – Steve & Debs in Norway and Latvia



Prayer Points

1. Pray for our five-day visit to Riga, Latvia this month. Pray that it would be a beneficial time to strengthen and deepen relationships both as a group and with the Latvian students who we will be staying with.
2. Pray also for us as we plan our mission trip to Norway and Latvia in the summer.
3. Please pray for Kelly & Joice Smith from the USA who are staying in Southampton for three weeks during February to help with the group en route to Singapore and Indonesia. Pray that their time with us would be an encouragement both to them and to the group.
4. Pray for us in what has been a difficult few weeks. We have struggled to get back into our "term-time" routine and have had some discouragements. Pray for protection and that despite the discouragement, we would continue to trust God and walk with Him in faith.
5. Pray for the CU mission weeks from Mon 12th – Sat 24th February. We are looking for ways in which we can help and support them in this venture of faith.