

McClure Mumblings

Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton



June 08



Above: We're off to Norway again...not quite on foot though

Norway & Latvia here we come...

We often seem to be asked why it is that we keep on going to Norway and Latvia and what do these countries have in common. Our initial contact with these countries was in 2003 when Debs went on a short term mission trip as part of the Navs Connect programme. The trip proved to be a significant time both for her own faith and also in reaching out to others. Debs always retained a strong desire to go back and after we got married in 2005 we decided to return the following summer. Having taken over the leadership of the NAVS student ministry in Southampton in Sept 2005, we set out together in June 2006 with a group of students from the group. This was the start of what has become a strong link between us and Christians in Norway and especially in Latvia.

The trip is one of a number of established short term summer mission opportunities that are run under the auspices of the Navigators. Historically there have been Norwegian Navigators visiting the Baltic States for many decades and since 2001 there has been a Navigator student team from the US and the UK travelling to Norway and Latvia each summer.

One of the best things about the trip for us has been the ability to keep going back each summer, visit Riga for long weekends during the year and having friends from Norway and Latvia visit us in Southampton. We are very excited about this ongoing link between the UK student ministry in Southampton and students in Norway and Latvia.

This year our four week trip is split into two sections based in the two countries. There will be two weeks of teaching, team building, discipleship and service projects in Norway, and then two weeks of outreach amongst young people and students in Latvia. Please pray for the team as we experience together the joy of knowing Christ and making Him known in the context of this trip. The UK team is made up of us, Adam, Lydia, Jane, Beth, Gill and Inna and we will be working with a Navigator team of 12 students and graduates from across the USA. Please pray for unity and especially for us as we lead and co-ordinate the team during our stay in Latvia.

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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Ministry news...

It has been another good term and we have enjoyed studying James in our Thursday evening groups. The summer months can be a difficult time for students as they return home, so we would ask you to pray that they would continue to walk closely with the Lord Jesus and that they would return in October ready to follow, serve and make Jesus known to their friends.

One of the greatest privileges of working with students is being involved at a crucial stage of their lives and seeing them go on to serve elsewhere. This is also one of the greatest sadness's as we say goodbye to a number of students and graduates moving on to new challenges.

Dave Callaghan who left the group at Christmas to work with OM, will be joining the Doulos Ship at the end of August. This summer Chris will be taking up a 3 year assignment working at Hebron International School in India and Holly will be starting a year on the UCCF relay programme in Southampton.



Above: Chris (India) and Holly (Relay)

We are also pleased to announce that next year we will have two girls working alongside us here in Southampton (Stacey & Steph). We are very excited to have a team of graduates working with us as they develop their own relationship with God and learn to serve others within the ministry.



SOTON Connect workers 2008-2009 (Step and Stacey)

Please pray for them all as they take up these challenges and seek to make the most of new opportunities. Pray for others who are graduating and beginning to serve and minister to colleagues in the workplace. Pray that God would continue to use us to encourage and support them all during these times of change and adjustment.

Family news...

The news that most of you comment on from our newsletters is nearly always about our cats. We now have two very settled cats who are enjoying their home and garden.

Since we moved into our new home at the end of October last year, we have undertaken a number of projects around the house and garden. This has been really helpful for Steve as he has made the transition to working full time with the NAVS with no second job or long commute to Salisbury eating into his time. We give thanks for the home that God has given us and the numerous ways that we have already been able to open it up to others. We have already experienced much joy from ministering to students out of our own home.

We are currently exploring the possibility of Steve participating in the NAVS Foundations for Ministry (FFM) course from January 09. FFM is a 2-year programme for Navigator Representatives which aims to provide foundational teaching on ministry and theology. The availability of the course is dependent on sufficient interest so please pray that the course would go ahead next year.



Above: Walking in the Lake District in March 08

Thank you for your partnership with us in prayer...

All our love

Steve & Debs

Planner – summer 2008

Sat 14 – Sat 21 June - NAVS National Student Conference in North Wales

Fri 20 June – Thu 3 July – Norway - Discipleship & preparation weeks for Latvia

Fri 4 July – Mon 21 July – Latvia - Helping to lead a youth camp and working with students

Fri 1- Mon 4 Aug – NAVS reps conference (Derbyshire)

Fri 5 - Sun 7 Sept – NAVS student forum (the Wirral)