

McClure Mumblings

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



June 09



Above: The NAVS End of Year BBQ 2009

The faithfulness of a God who loves us...

"For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth." Psalm 57:10-11

This past term we have been studying the letter of Revelation in our Thursday evening Bible study groups and what a glimpse we have had of the awesomeness and majesty of our God! We began by looking at John's vision of Jesus, someone 'like a son of man', who was among the seven golden lampstands. Those lampstands represented the churches to which John records seven letters and we then spent several weeks studying those letters and thinking about the attributes of love (Ephesus), suffering (Smyrna), truth (Pergamum), holiness, (Thyatira), reality (Sardis), opportunity (Philadelphia) and wholeheartedness (Laodicea). We were very challenged by the relevance of these letters and spent some time thinking about what God might say to our community of believers here in NAVS. Next we spent some time thinking about the scene of worship that unfolds in chapters 4-5 and especially the image of the throne of God at the centre of which is the Lamb 'looking as if it had been slain'. There at the throne they sang *"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."* Finally we meditated on the vision of the new heavens and the new earth in chapters 21-22. We were encouraged to pray that we would eagerly expect and be ready for Jesus' return and our eternal future with Him.

As we look back over the past year, there have been so many occasions when that same awesome God has demonstrated again and again His faithfulness to us as He has provided for all that we need, as He has given us a wonderful son Benjamin, as He has blessed the student group and led us forward, and as He has kept us close to Him. We trust that you will join us in praying that God would lead us and work in us to continue loving, honouring and serving Him as we work out our Navigator calling "to advance the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling amongst the lost." We give thanks for all that He has been doing here in Southampton and look forward to what He will do in Norway and Latvia this summer and in the coming year ...

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Above: Kate and Kashimana (Connect 09/10), Benjamin, and photo from the final prayer breakfast

Below: NAVS Graduate Meal 09

Changes in the ministry...

At the end of another academic year we are sad to say goodbye to a number of students who are graduating this year and moving into the working world. Stacey and Steph are also moving onto new challenges after serving with us on Connect this year. We are excited that next year we have two more Connect workers, Kate Marshall and Kashimana Tsumba who are going to be working with us here in Southampton.

Benjamin is continuing his development at a rapid pace: he is now eating solid food and developing the ability to move around and make a lot of noise! He has been such a blessing to both us and the students this term. Equally we count it a real blessing to have him spending time interacting with the students; he really loves it!

After our trip to Norway and Latvia we will be spending some time resting and relaxing after an exciting but draining year for us as a family. We will be spending that time in Southampton and the Lake District ahead of a busy Autumn term. We are looking forward to a new intake of students next term, a new look local leadership team and at last the beginning of Steve's Foundations for Ministry Course (TBC).

Planner – Summer

Fri 19 – Sun 21 June

Navigator UK Reps Conference

Wed 24 June – Sun 5 July

International Discipleship camp in Skjolden, Norway

Mon 6 – Tues 28 July

Youth Camp, follow up and debrief in Riga/Rezekne, Latvia

Sat 22 Aug – Fri 4 Sep

Family holiday in the Lake District

Fri 4-Sun 6 Sep

Student Forum in the Lake District

Mon 28 Sep – Fri 2 Oct

Soton Uni Freshers Week

Sat 3-Sun 4 Oct

Start of Foundations for Ministry course in Birmingham (Steve)

Sat 8 Aug, Sat 10 Oct

Ministry weddings for Pete & Stacey Hartwell, Tim & Lowri Peters



Partnering with us...

We are so grateful for your prayers and support; below are some of the things that we would value prayer for during the next few months. See separate letter for our itinerary and prayer points for our trip to Norway and Latvia:

Prayers for the student ministry

- Give thanks for Kate and Kashimana and pray that God would be preparing and providing for them over the summer. Pray that we would support them well and that their faith, love and hope would grow this year.
- Pray for Stacey, Steph, Andrew, Liz, YK, Tawa, Harvard, Simon & Gill as they search for and start secular jobs
- Pray that God would draw new students to the group during the next few months; either through our summer studies (to be led by Steve & Holly Price) or through the initial weeks of next term
- Pray that God would continue to raise up spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling amongst the lost

Prayers for us and our family

- Pray that we would be spiritually, emotionally and physically refreshed
- Pray that Benjamin would continue to develop and that he would grow up into a godly young man