

# McClure Mumblings



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

June 2011



Above Left: The family outside the finished extension Right: Benjamin in despair...not more building work Daddy!!

## Our labour is not in vain...

***“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58***

The summer term has ended almost as quickly as it started, and another summer trip to Norway and Latvia is imminent. Through the challenges over the year God has been clearly at work in us, drawing us to Himself, teaching us the importance of standing firm and encouraging us that our labour is not in vain. Our last letter gave a flavour of some of what had been happening with our involvement in Latvia and we could tell a similar tale of trust and discovery through an intensely busy term with a variety of family, ministry and construction activities / responsibilities. God's message throughout (and especially during the Bible study series we have been following this past term in Haggai) has been “don't forget me”... Please pray that we would heed this lesson in all that we do.

Within student ministry there is always a steady stream of people joining the group and those moving away. As this academic year comes to a close we say goodbye to several students in the group as they move away for jobs or placement / work experience years. We are praying that each of these students would experience God being close to them as they move onto the next phase of life and the opportunities and challenges that it will bring.

As another year of the Connect programme comes to an end, Stephen and Adam gave presentations to the group about what they have been learning and experiencing over the past year. It was really encouraging to hear them describe how their understanding of discipleship had developed and deepened through what they had read, heard and seen. It was good to hear them describe the value and benefit of having had a year to invest deeply in their relationship with Jesus, and the opportunity to develop disciplines and skills that will help them in the faith during the years ahead. It has been a joy to work and walk with both these guys as they have participated in Connect, been involved in investing in students and the running of the group. We are excited to see how God will continue to use them in the coming year. Adam is in the process of applying for jobs as an Acoustical Engineer, whilst Stephen will be continuing on Connect 2.

We are excited to be welcoming Dave Callaghan back to Southampton over the summer and he will be joining our team in September as a Navigator Rep with a specific focus on International students. Dave was involved with Navs as a student and then on Connect. He has recently returned from serving with Operation Mobilisation firstly in London and then on the Doulos ship, and has just completed a TEFL course. We are excited by Dave's desire to serve God in this way, his heart for International students, and his desire to disciple them and see the Gospel spread into the Nations.

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# Life in the McClure's household



Since writing out last newsletter we have enjoyed a lovely and restful family holiday in the Lake District over Easter. We were blessed with amazing weather which enabled us to do some good walking as well as have some rest times throwing stones in the Lakes, sitting in tea shops, and playing in the parks. We were very much in need of a rest and some refreshment, and by the end of the holiday we certainly felt rested and ready for another term of ministry followed by a month in Norway and Latvia.

Life in the McClure household is busy, and in the words of one of our lodgers "there's never a dull day living here"! In January a team of builders (see pictures above) armed with a digger and dump truck descended on our garden to begin digging the foundations for our new extension. However, fairly torrential rain left us needing to pump out water from the trenches for several days before they could pour concrete in and begin building. In March, during a particularly cold week of weather all the walls at the back of our house came down and from there the builders slowly began to make watertight our home again. Steve has been kept very busy with DIY, learning and developing skills in plumbing, laying tiles and constructing kitchen cabinets as he fitted out our new kitchen and utility room. Many of the students have assisted in many ways over the last five months with building cabinets, painting walls and ceilings, crushing bricks, moving rubble, digging trenches for foundations etc.

Whilst the battle with the dust is still ongoing (though we finally feel we are winning now) we are pleased to announce that the extension is now complete and fully functional. We have an extended kitchen, an additional lounge at the back of the house, a porch/utility room and an extension to the children's room. We are already experiencing the benefits, making it much easier to host student groups in the house and minimising the impact on the family in the evenings. We are very grateful to God for providing in an unexpected way so that we could complete this work, and we are thankful for the blessing it has already been to us and the students.

The children are growing up quickly and it's great to see them learn and develop their own personalities, likes and dislikes. Naomi is now 9 mths old and has recently learnt to crawl in a slow and very methodical style. She is enjoying her new-found freedom and being able to explore areas of the room that she had previously only been able to look at. One of her favourite destinations is the radiator knobs, closely followed by Ben's train set! She is a happy little girl who needs lots of cuddles. Unfortunately she hasn't yet learnt that night time is for sleeping, not playing!

Ben is almost 2½ and is an adventurous little boy. He thoroughly enjoyed fell-walking on our holiday in the Lake District, and even achieved a few summits. He loves climbing anything and has little fear of heights. His favourite toys are his train set and his buses, and one of his favourite trips out is a walk to watch the trains at our local station. He continues to enjoy going to the weekly Toddlers group at church, and has just started Sunday School at church. On the whole Benjamin is enjoying his little sister and sharing his toys with her, but is finding it a little too traumatic when she takes his train set apart and starts chewing the track!!

Debs and Ben are enjoying growing fruit and vegetables in the garden and greenhouse. Ben seems to have green-fingers as everything he plants seems to grow much better and taller than anyone else's. We've just enjoyed the first carrots and strawberries from the garden, and are hoping for lots more fresh produce over the summer.

James and Kate have been living with us during this past year, and it certainly is a joy having them in the house. Both have shown much patience and tolerance as the house has been turned upside down; despite this James has decided to continue living with us again next year while Kate moves on at the end of August.

## Family Prayers

We would value your prayers over the summer for:-

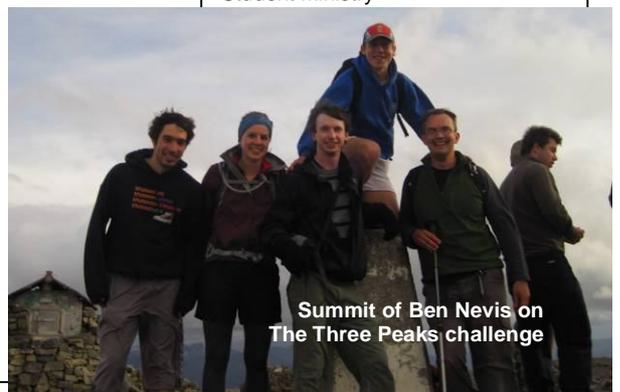
- A great family time in Norway and in Southampton
- Safety & health on our travels
- God's wisdom, strength and grace as we love, care for and parent Ben and Naomi
- Good time of rest, relaxation and family fun in August
- Benjamin and Naomi; that they would come to know Jesus Christ for themselves



Naomi, dedicated 22 May

## Summer Planner

- Fri 3 Jun** – End of Year BBQ
- Sat 4 Jun** – South East NAVS day (Finchampstead)
- Tues 7 June** – Norway & Latvia team orientation (Southampton)
- Sat 11-Sun 12 Jun** – Steve at FFM (Glasgow)
- Tues 14 Jun** – Travel to Norway
- Fri 17-Fri 24 June** – International Discipleship week, Norway
- Sat 25- Sun 27 June** – Prep days for Zosna camp, Norway
- Tuesday 28 June** – International team travel to Latvia
- Fri 1 July** – Debs, Ben and Naomi return to UK
- Fri 1-Wed 6 July** – Zosna camp, Latvia
- Thurs 7- Thurs 14** – follow-up and debrief, Latvia
- Fri 15 July** – UK team returns from Latvia to UK
- August** – Annual break from Student ministry



Summit of Ben Nevis on The Three Peaks challenge