



## Generational Impact...

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” 2 Timothy 2:2*

Next year Southampton Student Ministry will be 50 years old (originally started in 1968). The above photo includes some of the core group that we have been investing our lives with this past year. What an incredible bunch of people who have such potential to impact others with the good news of the gospel. This past term we have been talking about the theme of spiritual generations; something that has always been intrinsic to the mission and calling of the Navigators. We see this idea woven through the pages of Scripture in the promises God made to Abraham. We see it in the way that physical and spiritual generations are interwoven together through the stories of Gods people. Despite being surrounded by need we see how Jesus gave Himself to training and equipping the few in order that they could continue His ministry after He had returned to His Father. We see it in the way that Jesus gives such time to teaching about organic growth (metaphors like harvest, vine, fields, soil and seed are used to describe the Kingdom of God). Finally we see it in the way that Paul goes about trying to develop sustaining leadership in the early church. Paul (1<sup>st</sup> generation) expresses this very clearly in 2 Timothy 2:2 when he encourages his disciple Timothy (2<sup>nd</sup> generation) to pass on the things he had heard from Paul to reliable people (3<sup>rd</sup> generation) who in turn would be qualified to teach others (4<sup>th</sup> generation). As I have taught on this theme this past term (listen at <http://southampton.navigators.co.uk/audio/>) it has become clear that this emphasis on generations has been a hallmark of all we have done these past 12 years of leading the student ministry in Southampton. We have helped equip others on their journey in order that they might be able to do likewise for others. Our ministry has never been about numbers but about going deeper with a few who would go on to have an impact on those around them. It is exciting to think about many from these past 12 years of ministry who are serving God and making an impact for Him in their families, in their workplaces and also in areas of Christian ministry. We think often about friends in Latvia, Norway, Portugal, France and further afield. Jesus likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a tiny and insignificant mustard seed. Yet in time the seed grows beyond all proportion and becomes a great tree. Please join us in entrusting to God all those He brings into our lives and ask that God would make us effective in preparing them for lives of service to Him. A number of our group are leaving this summer (some after many years in the ministry). Please pray for much fruitfulness in all that God has for them in the years to come.

# Summer opportunities...



It's that time of year again and we are preparing to relocate to Norway from Tues 25 July to Mon 21 August. During that period we will host Elvheim's *Discipleship week II* (28 Jul to 4 Aug) and we are particularly excited to have a big group with us this year (approx. 30 plus 8-9 kids assuming Visas all granted). There are people signed up to come from Africa, Azerbaijan, USA, Romania, Germany, France & the UK. This year we will be tackling the third part of our teaching series on 'Faith, Hope and Love' under the title "No Greater Love." Despite the plan to have a summer team with us again this year we are sad to say that this did not work out. God is however opening up some doors for ministry in the period after Discipleship week and we are hopeful that we can catch up with a number of Norway based friends while we are there. Skjolden is an enjoyable place to be as a family and we look forward to the spiritual refreshment that normally comes from just being there.

This is especially important for us at the end of what has been quite a full term. The summer term is brief but quite intense; lots to do quite quickly! We are also excited to say that Debbie has begun a new part time role as an Occupational Therapist back at the Mother & Baby Unit (MBU) in Winchester. This is the next step on her path to recovery and she really loves it. There is obviously less time to fit everything else in but we are convinced that this is a positive and helpful step for Debbie as she continues to put her health issues behind her. Please pray specifically for her over these next few months and for a great time in Norway too.



## Prayer Points– Summer 2017:

- Please pray for us as we transition to Skjolden, Norway at the end of July. Ask the Father that we would have a really special time with the group at Discipleship week and make the most of the opportunities thereafter.
- Please pray for the kids as they finish off another year at school & pre-school. Sam will start school in September and Jacob will increase his time at pre-school from one to five mornings a week.
- Please pray for Debbie as she continues to work back at the MBU; it's such a great story of God's goodness to us and we know that this transformation has been such an encouragement to the other staff.
- Please pray for ongoing conversations with colleagues, neighbours and fellow parents about the way that God has poured out His hope, His grace and His goodness into our lives these past years.
- As we give thought to next year and the need to recruit new students to the ministry, would you pray that God would lead us to people in whose hearts He is at work and in whose lives He would have us play a part.

*To God be the Glory,*

*Steve, Debs, Benjamin, Naomi, Samuel, Jacob & Aaron*

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