

McClure Mumblings



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

March 09



Above: Benjamin McClure, photographed at 10 weeks old...

The blessings of family and ministry...

After Benjamin James McClure was born on 26th December 2008, Boxing day will indeed never be the same again!! Our lives have been transformed by the many blessings that Benjamin has brought us both in family life and also in our ministry. Benjamin is a very happy and relaxed baby, and enjoys lots of attention and cuddles from the students!! He has already been on a number of exciting weekends away, and is happy being carted around to various coffee shops, church and home group meetings and various student events. We are very grateful to God for the little man who is already showing a lot of character and personality. You can decide for yourself whether you think he looks more like his Father or Mother!!

The additional responsibility of being parents has brought new challenges and pressures to our lives but we are grateful to God for sustaining us over these past three months. This past term has been about adjusting to being a family and at times we have both had to make hard choices about how much we have been able to do. At the same time God has been challenging us afresh that a healthy ministry needs to be an overflow of our relationship with God. A verse which has been particularly special is Isaiah 40:29-31 which says *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

We are thankful that once again we have experienced God's grace to be sufficient in our lives and ministry. Even though we feel as if we have been struggling in being faithful to God we can testify that He has been faithful to us and has helped us through all of the challenges of this past term. This has not always been easy but it has certainly been a privilege to see God working amongst us, leading us onward and challenging us to share "not only the gospel of God but our lives as well" (2 Thess 2:7). Benjamin has proved to be a real blessing not only to us but to all who we have been opening up our lives with. Praise God for His blessing...

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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Planner – Spring/Summer

Mon 20 April: Summer term begins

Fri 24-Sun 26 April

Euro conference in Germany (Steve)

Mon 4 May

Mission orientation day in Soton

Mon 11-Tues 12 May

Student Leadership Community in Southampton (all)

Fri 15-Sun 17 May

Selection Conference for next NAVS National Director (Steve)

Tues 26 May-Sat 13 June

Soton University Exam period

Fri 19-Sun 21 June

Reps Conference (all)

Wed 24 June-Tues 28 July

Mission trip to Norway and Latvia (all)



Student Ministry Update...

Wow, what a busy (probably too busy) term we have had working with students!! There have been so many great opportunities which have included another student weekend away (pictured above), small group leaders training, a weekend encouraging friends in Riga and some great Bible studies based on the themes of freedom and knowing God. We feel slightly exhausted just thinking about all that God has enabled us and the group to be involved with!! After finishing some really helpful studies in Matthew 5-10, we sensed that God was leading us to work through some of the challenging and provocative issues that we and others in the group were struggling with. What a blessing it has been to think about what it means to know God and have a better understanding of what He is like, to think about our identity in Christ and how that impacts on our relationships, and to think about our struggles with sin and spiritual warfare. We organised another weekend away in Solihull to continue thinking about these things. A number of friends / colleagues came and led seminars on being 'Free to love', 'Free to forgive', 'Free to serve', 'Knowing God through prayer', 'Knowing God's guidance' and 'Knowing God's delight in me'. It has been a real privilege being involved in what God has been doing in the lives of those in the group and we have seen much fruit this term. For instance Alex and YK (pictured below) both became Christians, and from meeting with students 1 to 1 and hearing many of them share at our testimonies evening at the end of term it's clear that God is working in their lives. We have a growing number of labourers working with us who are committed to the vision of being disciples, making disciples and being disciple makers. Please pray for us as we support them in working out this calling together...



From left to right: Norway & Latvia Team 09 <-> Friends at the Riga weekend (Feb 09) <-> Alex and YK at the weekend away

Partnering with us...

We really appreciate your partnership with us as you pray for our ministry amongst students both here in Southampton and also in Norway and Latvia. Please pray especially for the following:

Prayers for us and our family

- ◆ That we would have a good time of rest and relaxation as a family during our Easter break in Shropshire and the Lakes (4th-18th April) and that Benjamin would continue to be a happy, growing and healthy baby
- ◆ That we would be refreshed spiritually after an emotionally demanding term balancing ministry and family life
- ◆ We would have safe travel throughout our busy itinerary of meetings, trips and conferences next term

Prayers for the ministry

- ◆ That the group would be built up as we study the early chapters of Revelation this term
- ◆ Thank God that Alex and YK (pictured above) became Christians this term and pray that we would be able to help them become established in their faith.
- ◆ That the students graduating from the group this term would know God's leading for their future. Pray too for a couple of girls thinking about Connect and a couple of people applying to be Associate Reps here in Southampton.

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