

McClure Mumblings



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

Mar 10



Above: Recent family photos...

His Grace is enough ... abounding grace

Reflections on the last term - "But he [God] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

This past term we have been working through some Bible studies loosely based on Jerry Bridges book *Transforming Grace* (NAV PRESS) with our Thursday evening Bible study groups. We have talked about why we so desperately need grace and just how amazing grace really is; grace as a motivator and how it ties in with the ideas of freedom, law and obedience; and finally the sufficiency of grace and our need to respond to and appropriate God's grace. These studies have been hugely helpful as we have attempted to get our heads around what is a very deep and complex concept. Personally it has helped us to appreciate God's grace firstly as *unmerited favour* and secondly as *divine assistance* through His Spirit.

It seems like so much of the way that we go about living our lives hinges on how we understand this significant and extraordinary concept. Do we believe that God loves us, values and accepts us because of His grace alone and not because of any merit on our part? Do we believe that His grace really is enough for our weakness, our inadequacy and our unworthiness? It has been exciting to think deeply on questions like these and see time and time again that God's grace is more than enough; not only in salvation but in every aspect of our daily lives. Throughout all of the pressures, challenges and opportunities of this past term we can testify that God's grace has been enough. We continue to enjoy being involved with student ministry (which in itself is a gift of God's grace) and have the opportunity to use the gifts that God has given us for the building up of His Kingdom.

Family News - "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17

Many of you will know that we are expecting our second child at the end of August. We are very excited and are thrilled that Benjamin (who is growing faster than we can keep up with) will have a little brother or sister to play with. During this past term Benjamin has started walking (which he is now very good at) and is making lots more noise. He really is a gift from God and we give thanks for him. We live in an increasingly busy house (at least 50 people coming for food and/or Bible study/discussion groups each week). We have a couple of guys staying with us this year (James & Patrick) and then there are the cats (Neo and Tabitha) and the fish. Steve continues to enjoy his Ministry and Theology Course (FFM) and has the last 2 weekends this year coming up in April and June. Debs and Benjamin enjoy the mums and toddlers group at our church (Above Bar Church) on Tuesdays and we're looking forward to Bump #2 being able to join them as well. We give thanks for all that God has given us by His grace.

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Above: Latvian Student Wknd (Riga), Right: SOTON NAVS Student Wknd (Solihull)

What a privilege...

Working with students brings with it many diverse opportunities beset with challenges and frustrations as well as joys, encouragements and a deep sense of privilege. This past term has been exceedingly busy; balancing family life and student ministry is always going to be a challenge. It has however been a hugely encouraging term for us. Some highlights would be;

- More students than ever in Bible study and discussion groups this term.
- A great time serving with the Christian Union at their Events week on campus in February
- Being part of a team of 7 students/graduates from the UK to join with our friends from Norway and Latvia for the first Latvian NAVS student weekend
- Tom Walsh, Derek & Eva Leaf, Pippa Brown, Leihlyn Tinio and Josh Brown joining us to help the group engage with the subject of grace at our recent spring term weekend near Solihull.
- Seeing students coming to faith, growing in their faith and taking steps to trust that His grace is enough in their weakness, inadequacy and unworthiness
- All of our Connect workers have had a great term; one recently said "this time last year I was still thinking Connect was a mad idea to do, and was still very much 'inside of my shell'. Now here I am over half way through doing it and having the best time of my life and learning so much from God."
- Watching Benjamin interacting with the group and enjoying spending time with our wider family of around 50 students and graduates who come round to our house each week for various groups.

Those are but a few glimpses of what we have felt so privileged to be part of this term. For students this is such a crucial stage of life and it is so exciting to be part of what God is doing in the lives of those in the group. We are so thankful to God for those who he has given us to work with. Please pray for us in this disciple-making ministry; that we would be faithful to our calling and make the most of the opportunities that God is giving us to draw alongside others.

Partnering with us in this ministry...

Rest & Relaxation - This past term (and especially the past few weeks) has been very busy for us all – please pray for a restful break in the Lake District. Student ministry can feel very intense and we are feeling quite drained. Though there is a slower pace to the summer term there is already much planned as you can see from the planner alongside! Please pray for us as we take part in these events and conferences.

Ongoing Ministry – We have had an absolutely fabulous group this year and God has clearly been in our midst as we have studied, prayed, worked, fellowshiped and witnessed together. Please pray for a good end to the year; pray especially that individuals in the group would continue to grow in their faith and for Connect Workers in 2010-2011.

Summer Mission - We are currently recruiting a team to join us in Norway & Latvia in the summer. Debs and Benjamin are hoping to come to the Norway part of the trip (17 to 30th June) and Steve will stay for the whole trip. We would like to ask you to pray for the trip and to also consider whether you could contribute towards the £1,500 it will cost us to be involved the summer. Thanks for your prayers & partnership☺

Spring/Summer Planner

Fri 19 to Sun 28 Mar

Family Holiday (Lake District)

Mon 22 Mar to Fri 16 Apr

Student Easter Holidays

Sat 10-Sun 11 Apr

Foundations for Ministry (Glas)

Fri 14 – Sun 16 May – Reps

Conference (Northampton)

Fri 4 June – SOTON NAVS End of Year BBQ

Sat 12-Sun 13 June

Foundations for Ministry (Glas)

Tues 15 June - NAVS

Women's Day (Loughborough)

Thurs 18 June - Sun 18 July

Norway & Latvia Summer Trip

Mon 23 August – Baby #2

due to arrive