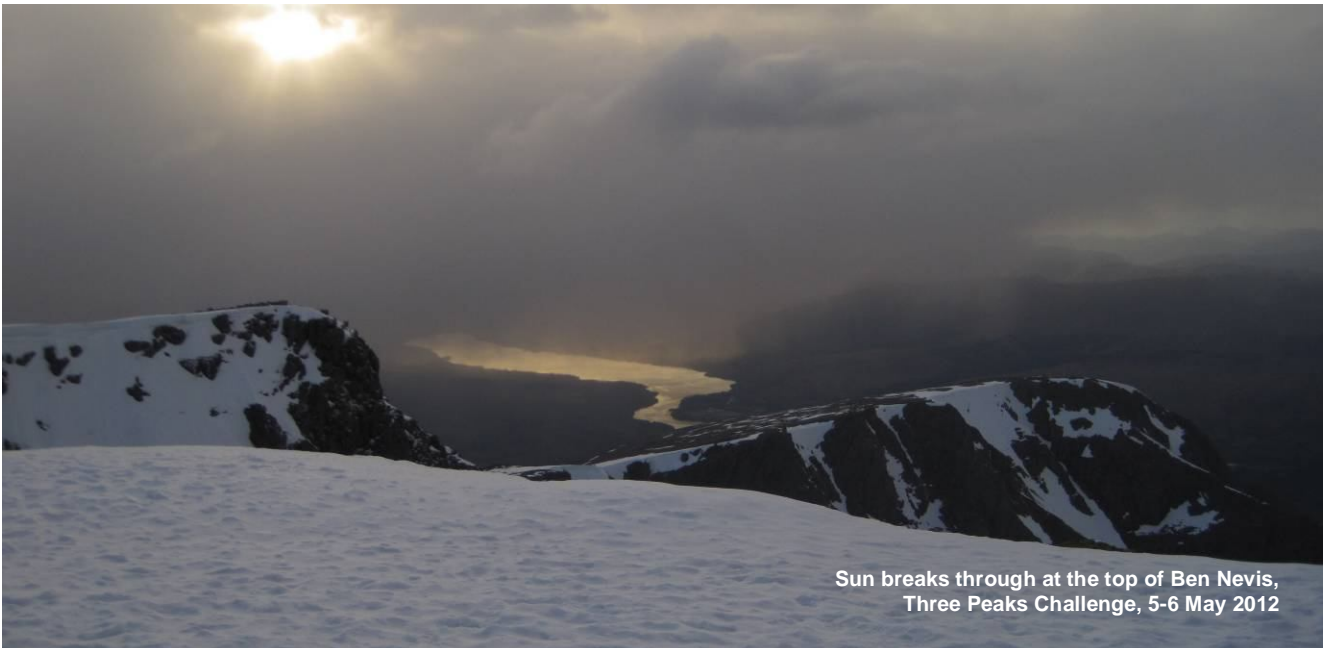




Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond...May 2012 Edition



Sun breaks through at the top of Ben Nevis,
Three Peaks Challenge, 5-6 May 2012

Perseverance, character and hope...

Romans 5:3-4 ...Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

If the autumn term brings vision, growth and new people and the spring term then brings consolidation, focus and the opportunity to work through the consequences of all that God has been bringing to the surface in the autumn term, then how do we describe the summer term? The summer term feels like a brief whirlwind of activity that has passed before you have even had the chance to see it coming. We are already coming to the end of a five week period of lectures that builds with a hefty pace and intensity towards exam season. The term though brief has also been very full for us what with an FFM training weekend (20-21 Apr), our regional Discipleship Day Conference (28 Apr), the Three Peaks Challenge (5-6 May) to raise money with the team for Norway & Latvia and last weekend our Annual Reps Conference (11-13 May). We now find ourselves at a cross-road of sorts as we try to finish term well while our trip to Norway & Latvia is now very much on the horizon.

In many ways the Three Peaks Challenge reminds us a little of the student ministry year; the first term (like the first mountain) is full of energy and motivation but by the end there is something of a struggle to the finishing line. It has been both a hugely encouraging and yet very demanding year for us as a family. Just like the Three Peaks Challenge there have been those moments of elation as we make big steps towards a summit or make it to the summit itself. At other times it has really felt like we have had to persevere but looking back it is clear to see how such perseverance has produced character and how character produced hope.

We are excited about what God has been doing amongst us this year; despite the rigours of the journey we've been walking with people it has been well worth it. The ministry is thriving and we're starting to see a new generation of leaders coming through (see over). The group has embraced all that we have thrown at them by way of weekends, conferences, and training days, and there has been such a good atmosphere in the weekly Monday and Thursday ministry evenings. Above all we have seen people taking steps forward in their faith.

There were times on the Three Peaks challenge when giving up seemed like a highly favourable option but in the end it was all worth it. God has been showing us for some time that co-labouring with Him is also well worth both in the present and for eternity. We give thanks for what God has been doing along the way and for the excitement of looking back over another academic year in which God has been at work in us and through us.

"To encourage students to know, love and share Jesus Christ through purposeful, intentional and reproducible disciple-making as we share our lives together in community." SOTON NAVS Vision statement, Sep 2011

"To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost" Worldwide, Navigator Calling Statement

A new generation of leaders...



Student Leadership Team (SLT)...Luke, Sam, Eleanor, Stephen, Alex, Steve & Stephen

At Easter we reorganised our leadership into two new student teams. First we invited five students (who are also our new committee with the Students Union) to join Steve and our Connect worker (Stephen 10-12) as part of a new team to deal with organisational matters in the ministry. Any new Connectors for 12-13 will join this team in September. This in turn gave freedom to our Reps, Associate Reps and key ministry champions to focus on disciple-making within the ministry. We're pleased to report that this has already been a huge blessing to the ministry; the students have thrived on the additional responsibility and have taken greater ownership of the group. With a little help from some of our older graduates a number of other students have also stepped up and have been sharing more leadership responsibilities within the group. This current term a total of 20 different people have lead Bible study within the various Thursday evening groups. It has also been good to see more people committed to prayer both on a Thursday night and at our weekly Prayer Breakfast. We now turn our sights to the fantastic training experience that is our summer trip to Norway & Latvia. Please do be praying for us and our young team of students and recent graduates who will be learning more about what it means to be a disciple and how to make disciples cross-culturally. Thank you so much for your ongoing support; we couldn't do what we do without you and your prayers...

Pray through our planner

Thurs 31 May
Student End of Year BBQ
Sat 2 June Mission
Orientation Day (Soton)
Fri 8-10 June Final FFM
weekend in Glasgow
Tues 12 June
Leave for Norway
Sun 24 June - Sun 1 July
Elvheim Discipleship wk
Mon 2 July Family return to
UK, Steve & Team to Latvia
Fri 6 to Thurs 12 July
Zosna Camp, Latvia
Wed 18 July
UK Team return home
**End of July / Start of
August** Annual break from
student ministry
Fri 7 September
Baby no. 3 due

Pray for our ministry...

Give thanks to God for the following:

- That Debs remains in good health with this third pregnancy; Benjamin & Naomi are both excited about having a brother arrive in the autumn.
- For energy and perseverance for us all during what has been a brief but busy term
- For our new ministry teams (Student Leadership and Reps Teams); what an encouragement the new student team in particular has been as they have brought so much energy to our leadership meetings.

Pray for the following:

- Decisions about next years Connect team are looming; please pray for us as we make decisions about our own capacity and that of our student team next year as our family grows.
- Our seventh consecutive summer in Norway & Latvia is approaching fast; please pray for us as we do last minute planning & preparation for the trip.
- Pray for students from the group graduating and/or moving on this summer; pray that they would get settled into healthy disciple-making environments wherever God leads them.

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