

McClure Mumblings



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

Dec 08



Above: SOTON NAVS weekend away 2008, Totland Bay Youth Hostel, Isle of Wight

Working amongst God's harvest...

What a privilege it is to be involved in the lives of others and what a joy and blessing to see them growing in their walk with Jesus. This term we have had a real sense that God has been working in us and through us as we have served here in Southampton. We were talking last week at Navs about what it means to work amongst God's harvest and what motivates us to keep on labouring. We continue to be sure that God is "calling" us to labour with Him in a student context here in Southampton. Our "convictions" about who Jesus is and a growing love for Him continue to inspire us and we have a strong sense that our "crown" is wrapped up with those in whom we are drawing alongside. Matthew records that Jesus had compassion on the crowds because they were harassed and helpless and then He said that the "harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" (9v36-38). We have been asking the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers here in Southampton and it has been such a thrill this term seeing those whom God has led to us, taking steps of faith as they work with us in the harvest.

This term we have been blessed with lots of new people in the ministry and we have observed a genuine desire amongst the group to engage with God and His Word. We have been studying Matthew 5-10 at our Thursday evening Bible study groups and Derek and Eva Leaf helped us focus on what it means to live in God's Kingdom at our weekend away last month. Early every Wednesday morning a group of us have met together to eat breakfast and pray together; we have had a regular women's group (Wisdom) meeting each week and we have also been studying the Bible with someone who is not yet a Christian on Monday evenings. We thank God for all the many and different ways that He has been blessing us this term and the student ministry here in Southampton. What a privilege...

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

The Navigators, Turner House, 54 The Avenue, Southampton, SO17 1XQ
Tel: 02380-558800, Website: www.navigators.co.uk / www.sotonnavs.org

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Above: SOTON NAVS graduate team



Above: Debs with Stacey and Steph



Above: Us pictured with Lidija and Inna



Above: Soton Connect workers Stacey (08-09), Steve (06-07), Tim (05-06), Dave W (03-04), Heather & Debs (02-03) and Steve (00-01) – missing Kelly & Jim (01-02), Dave C (04-05) and Steph (08-09)

Team based ministry...

God has blessed us this year with an amazing graduate team who are willing to co-labour with us amongst students (Steph, Stacey, Jane, Lydia, Chris, Steve, Tim, Lowri & Julie). All of them were involved with SotonNavs as students, and it is clear that God has given each of them a desire to invest in the younger students in the group. We are asking God to show us ways to develop them in their ministry and use the skills and gifts that they have. Already this term our team have been leading Bible studies, meeting up with students one to one and taking on a variety of roles to run our annual weekend away.

Stacey and Steph have been a real encouragement and a great source of energy and enthusiasm to us and the group over the past term. God has clearly led them to new students and has blessed them as they have reached out on campus and taken steps of faith to start new initiatives (e.g. prayer breakfast, Christianity Explored and the Wisdom girls group) within the group and amongst their friends.

We have been greatly encouraged to hear that Lidija and Inna have begun a Bible study group for their friends in Riga. This is a real answer to our prayers over the past few years, and demonstrates a huge step of faith on their part. It has been great to see God use and develop these women within their context. They clearly have a calling given by God for discipleship in Latvia and a desire that their friends would come to faith. Along with another Latvian (Dasha), they visited us in November and came with the group to the Isle of Wight for our weekend away.

Partnering with us...

Thank you so much for your prayers; we can see that they make a real difference in what we're doing!! During the coming months perhaps you could pray through the events on our planner and also for the following specific requests:

- Please pray for our graduate team as they take a greater lead within the ministry next term as we adjust to the new challenges that having a baby will bring.
- Please pray for the group as we seek to work amongst God's harvest, sharing our faith with friends, housemates and coursemates. Many in the group are about inviting friends to next weeks meal.
- Please give thanks for all that God has been doing among us this term and ask Him to help us build on some great foundations next term.
- Please pray for us as a family as we adjust becoming parents, that the Christmas break would be a restful time for us spent with family, that Baby McClure's birth would go smoothly and that God would keep us all in good health.

All our love

Steve, Debs and Bump

Planner – Winter/Spring 08-09

Thurs 4th Dec – NAVS evangelistic Christmas Meal

Wed 10th Dec – Support meeting for students returning to non-Christian families

Fri 12th Dec – End of Autumn Term

Mon 15th Dec – Baby McClure due

Mon 5th Jan to 20th Mar – SU Spring term

Mon 9-13th Feb – CU Mission week

Tues 17-18th Feb – NAVS Student Leadership Community (Manchester)

Fri 20-22 Mar – NAVS weekend away (tbc)

19-20th Jan, 9-10th Feb & 16-17th March Foundations For Ministry (Birmingham - tbc)

Our Address: 53 Harefield Road, Hampton Park, Southampton, Hants, SO17 3TG
Tel: 023-80677557, E-mail: steveanddebs@the-mcclures.co.uk, Web: www.the-mcclures.co.uk