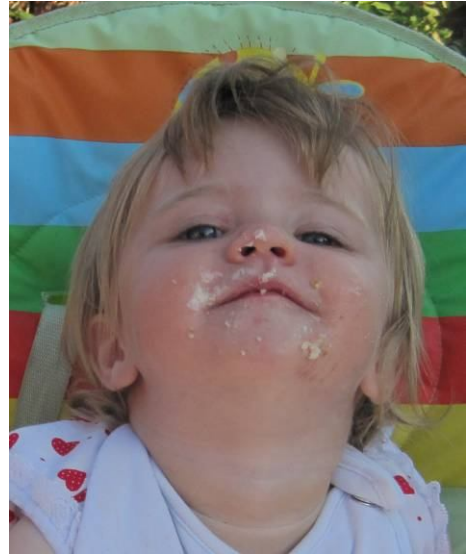




Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond...October 2011 Edition



## A vision for disciple-making...

We all have some kind of vision for the future, consciously or unconsciously. That vision relates to the things that are important to us, the things that we want to make a priority. During the past few months we have been spending some time thinking about vision and in particular how God is asking us to work out our Navigator calling amongst students on campus. The vision statement below is the result of our thoughts and prayers and is an expression of how we see that calling worked out amongst students. There is a hive of Christian activity for students in Southampton which presents a huge danger of burnout, getting stuck in a Christian bubble and potentially students not receiving the help they really need. In that context the things that God is putting on our hearts about our contribution to this mass of Christian activity are...

**SHARING OUR LIVES** *“Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well” (1 Thess 2:8, NIV)* Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians is an inspirational example of disciple-making in action. Paul talks about sharing not only the gospel but also our lives and that is the very heart-beat of the ministry God has called us to. We are eager to minister to students within the context of sharing our lives together. This idea of sharing lives comes in the context of how Paul, Silas & Timothy had been like a mother (gentle, caring) and like a father (encouraging, comforting & urging them to live lives worthy of God). At the start of a new term we are so grateful for God’s goodness to us in giving us some great new students to get alongside and seek to help. Our conviction is that disciple-making is not so much about programmes but about relationships and we are so excited about encouraging these students to know, love and share Jesus Christ.

**PURPOSEFUL AND INTENTIONAL** *“Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith” (1 Thess 3:10)* It is also clear that Paul’s approach to disciple-making was both intentional (he took the initiative) and purposeful (he was trying to fill up what was lacking in the Thessalonians faith). To that end we feel more committed than ever to encourage students to get into God’s word; to encounter Jesus together in community as we read, study, discuss and learn together.

**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)* Another facet of Paul’s approach to disciple-making is that it is reproducible; the idea that we are looking to model, teach and entrust something to people that they in turn can do likewise for others and so on. We continue to be so grateful for the generation of graduates and older students that God has given us to partner with us in this ministry. Some are new to the team while others have been with us for anything up to 10 years. Part of the challenge for us is not just how do we help the students but how do we help others to help them.

*“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 flavour of our ministry...

**LEADERSHIP;** Please pray for our Central Leadership team (us, James, Tim, Jane, Dave C and Stephen); pray that we would be united in working out a common vision and that God would use us in leading the student ministry. Within this team are Dave, Stephen and Tim who are working with us full-time. Pray too for our wider leadership of graduates & older students and also for Dave W, Lydia and Steve & Holly as they lead and develop our LifeNET ministry for people beyond their student days.

**IGNITE;** Praise God for James, Ana, Stephen & Pieter who lead our IGNITE group. We've launched this group at a pub situated on campus and have had a handful of people coming so far...please pray that more of those who expressed interest at the Societies Bunfight would come during the next few weeks.

**BIBLE STUDIES;** We are so encouraged this term and have been seeing numbers in the order of 27-35 turning up for Bible study. We are studying 1 Peter and there is a real sense of community starting to build. Please pray for this fantastic community of believers and praise God for the blessing of our recently extended house to nourish both physical and spiritual needs.

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY;** We want our contribution to bless not just the NAVS student ministry but the wider body of Christ. In practice this looks different for each of us involved on the team...Steve is helping Above Bar Church with 1 to1 training and the CU with small group leader training. Please pray for good ongoing relationships with other student organisations (e.g. CU, FI) and local churches.

**FAMILY;** We are really enjoying doing ministry together as a family. Benjamin is a real extravert and loves it when there are students around to play with. Naomi is less keen but has still been a real blessing to the group this term. Please pray for us all that we would strike that difficult balance between family and ministry life.



## TESTIMONIES FROM PEOPLE INVOLVED LAST YEAR

*"In NAVS I have found a second family which welcomed me and helped me to integrate better in a new lifestyle. Above all it has been a spiritual family which has helped me to grow in my relationship with God and know him better through his Word. The studies were one of the few commitments I managed to keep during my stay, mainly because it satisfied my thirst to get to know someone who really cares for you no matter how much you mess up. It was really nice to get to know other Christians while having some good food before an informal yet enriching weekly bible study. I will treasure the times of prayer in small groups because I experienced how accessible our God is and how he works in very personal ways."* **Simon, Msc Student 10-11**

*"NAVS has been instrumental in growing my faith in God. If it were not for them who knows how deep, real and genuine my faith would be. I have benefitted from love, time and kindness of others. Through NAVS I have learned to study the bible in depth, learned to pray with brothers and sisters, learned to serve, learned to relate to others but most importantly I have learned to seek God with all my heart. I have been given opportunities to lead and step out in faith where otherwise I might not have. Doing connect this year has just been a continuation of this and now I'm in a position where the roots of my faith are deeper and stronger than ever. What a blessing it has been to be a part of the NAVS ministry, from all that I have received, learned and applied. Thank you Lord for using NAVS to help me know you more!"* **Adam, Student 06-10 & Connect 10-11**

## Pray through our planner

### REGULAR GROUPS

**Sunday 20:30-21:45**

1to1 training for Above Bar Church

**Mondays 12:00-14:00**

NAVS Central Leadership Team (CLT) meetings

**Mondays 20:00-22:00**

NAVS IGNITE discussion groups at Stile Pub

**Tuesdays 14:00-16:00**

Small Group Leader training for CU

**Wednesdays 08:00-09:00**

NAVS prayer Breakfast

**Wednesdays 16:00-17:30**

NAVS football

**Thursdays 18:30-22:00**

NAVS Bible Study groups

### OTHER EVENTS

**Sat 22 October**

South East NAVS day (Finchampstead)

**Fri 4- Sun 6 November**

NAVS Wkd away (IOW)

**Fri 18-Mon 21 November**

Family break (Devon)

**Sat 3-Sun 4 December**

Steve at FFM (Birmingham)

**Thurs 8 November**

10th Annual Evangelistic Christmas Meal

**Sun 11 December**

NAVS Sunday Lunch and trip to CU Carol Service

**Mon 19 Dec-Fri 6 January**

Christmas Holidays

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