

McClure Mumblings



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

Sep 08



Above: Highfield Campus, University of Southampton

Preparing for battle...

A few days ago we returned from a weekend with the other Navigator student Reps where the theme for the weekend was "preparing for battle". We spent time thinking about the idea of being in a spiritual battle and facing four enemies: self, the world, fallenness and the devil. The percentage of UK students who know Jesus as their Saviour may be as little as 2% of the student population which is a challenging statistic. In Southampton the University campus' are already filled with a multitude of international students from all over the world and in just a few weeks the new Freshers will arrive in full force!! We are deeply aware that we are in a spiritual battle. The "god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the glory of Christ..." and we need God to make His "light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Cor 4:4-6).

We were also reminded that all that we might refer to as "our ministry" actually belongs to God and is given to us by God. Paul says in 2 Cor 4:1, "therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." Sometimes it can be easy to lose heart especially when experiencing the highs and lows of student ministry. The past few months have been quite varied with the encouraging but somewhat disjointed summer term, our exciting trip to Norway & Latvia and a low-key August. We have experienced the joys of seeing students growing in their faith but also the sadness of seeing others move on from the group.

During the weekend we also talked about the issues in Corinth (1 Cor 1:10-16) and how Paul dealt with these issues by demonstrating the power of the cross for salvation (1:17-31), for evangelism (2:1-5), for knowledge (2:6-16), for discipleship (3:1-17) and for mission (4:1-21). This was extremely helpful in reminding us that despite the fact that we are in a spiritual battle, it is not down to us but the power of the cross and the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the students that we are working with. During the coming term we want to look to God to lead and direct all that we're doing here in Southampton and further afield. Please join us in praying that we would be continually looking to God to work in us and through us and that this term we would see His Kingdom advance as He gives direction.

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

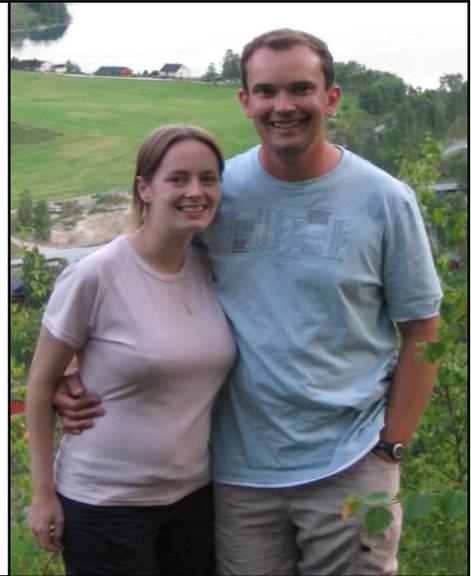
The Navigators, Turner House, 54 The Avenue, Southampton, SO17 1XQ
Tel: 02380-558800, Website: www.navigators.co.uk / www.sotonnavs.org

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A new addition (no it is not another cat!!)

Many of you will already be aware that there are big changes on the way later this year!! We are expecting a baby boy on 15th December and we are very excited about the change this will bring to our family. After Debs maternity leave God has led us to the decision that Debs won't go back to working as an Occupational Therapist. Rather we will give our time and energy to the student ministry together. We are excited about the privilege of being parents and very excited about working as a family in ministry both here in Southampton and further afield.

The cats (Tabitha and Neo) are very excited too and do seem to have an awareness of the changes coming for us ALL. It has been great having lodgers with us during the first year in our house but as our situation is changing Matt has already left us and it won't be too long before we say goodbye to Julie as well.



Asking God to work in our midst...

Please ask God...

- To lead us to a new crop of students in whose hearts He is at work during the new term
- To lead & direct us, our team (Steve, Holly, Jane, Stacey, Steph) and the group this term
- To continue to help Stacey and Steph who started the Connect programme with us last week and that they would grow in their own faith and learn to help others do the same
- For Debs health; that she would stay well during the remainder of the pregnancy
- To help us to trust in His leading and provision during this new period of change
- For the Navigators theology and ministry course (FFM); that everything would come together for it to start from Jan 2009 and that it would work out for Steve to be involved

Please thank God for...

- A great summer Bible study group which has met in our home during the last few months
- His provision and protection during our time in Norway and Latvia
- His work in those who have moved on from the group this summer both to the workplace and to full time Christian ministry in various contexts



Planner – Autumn 2008

Sat 27 Sep – Team Planning meeting and training workshop on “Disciple Making”

Mon 29 Sep to Sat 4 Oct – Freshers Week at Southampton University

Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nov – Group Weekend away at Totland Bay Youth Hostel, IOW

Fri 12 December – End of term

Mon 15 December – Baby McClure due

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