

McClure Mumblings

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



Sep 2010



Above Left: McClure family together with new addition, Naomi Grace



Above Right: Naomi Grace relaxing with doggy

Growing together...



"One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27:4

We are pleased to announce the birth of Naomi Grace McClure who was born at 9:10pm on 1st September 2010 weighing in at 7.8lb. We thank God for her and are thrilled to see our family growing; Benjamin is particularly excited about her arrival though he is keen to point out that he is still here too!! The arrival of a baby is a life changing event and it will take some time for us to adjust to the joys and challenges of having a newborn baby in the house again. Thanks for your prayers during these final months of pregnancy; we would value your prayers as we seek to bring both Benjamin and Naomi up in a Christian home set apart for God and the ministry He has so graciously given us amongst students here in Southampton and beyond.

It is not only our family that is expanding; for a number of years now our student leadership team has been growing at a pace and this coming year we have a team of 14 graduates / older students working alongside us to work out our calling as Navigators "To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost." Having led the ministry here in Southampton for the past 5 years we are excited to see the mix of leaders that God has given us here in the ministry and we see that they are hungry to develop and serve God. To that end we are thinking and praying about growing the student ministry; with the arrival of Tim and Lowri Peters (living almost literally opposite our house) we are considering dividing our team across two ministry nights (probably Tuesdays and Thursdays). There is only so many students we can squeeze into our house on a weeknight and we want to give people every opportunity to make it along. In addition the SU Christian Union has decided to stop running house groups for students beyond their first year and are keen for us to help provide for students not involved with home groups at their churches. This feels like a huge opportunity to develop both our team and the student ministry here in Southampton. Please pray for us and the team that we would trust God during these next few months as we seek to recruit a new crop of students to the two Bible study nights and also to our weekly evangelistic discussion group, IGNITE which runs on Monday nights. Please pray that amidst all of these plans and ideas that we would be listening to God, seeking Him and dwelling in His presence.

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Above: Navigators 2010 International Team to Latvia (UK, USA & Norway)

Autumn Planner 2010

- Fri 10-Sun 12 Sep** – National Student Forum (Derbyshire)
- Fri 24-Sun 26 Sep** – Local leadership Weekend (Reading)
- Fri 1-Mon 4 Oct** – Steve at Latvia Student Weekend (Riga)
- Mon 27-Fri 2 Oct** University Freshers Week
- Sat 16-Sun 17 Oct** – Steve at FFM (Birmingham)
- Fri 12-Sun 14 Nov** – Group Weekend away (Isle of Wight)
- Sat 4 -Sun 5 Dec** – Steve at FFM (Birmingham)
- Fri 17 Dec** – End of Autumn Term

We're back from our travels...

Thanks so much for your prayers for us this summer! This our fifth trip together in Norway and Latvia was a very mixed experience; we were so blessed with a fantastic team and it was truly a privilege to walk alongside them and watch them growing in their faith. Taking teams on a short-term mission experience has been such a fruitful part of our ministry and we continue to reap the rewards in the lives of those who come with us for years afterwards. We could tell you many stories this year of how we have seen God at work in those who have been part of the team; we are so grateful to God for the privilege of being involved in the lives of these young people once again this year.

There were many challenges too however; working cross culturally with people from other nations is always going to produce some interesting dynamics and at times some conflict. As we reflect and look back we are thankful for the way that God has been working in these situations and in us. We also observed a lot of spiritual opposition to what we were doing this year; some of this was very tangible but some was quite subtle and lurking behind the scenes. Throughout all these things it is clear that God has been drawing us to Himself and teaching us to rely on Him more. We went on the trip this year with questions; questions in particular about our ongoing involvement and role in Latvia. God has helped us see and understand that the work He has for us in Latvia is not yet finished and He has given us a renewed sense of calling for ministering amongst a people we have come to know and love. As we move forward we don't really know what the future holds but we're committed to remaining faithful to the calling we feel that God is giving us; a calling to continue to invest and make disciples of people both here in Southampton and in Latvia. See also Kate Marshall's (Connect 09-10) summer mission report.



Left to right: (1) UK Norway & Latvia team, (2) hiking in the mountains, (3) team resting in Latvia & (4) Steve in Latvia with Margarita & Lisa

Partnering with us in this ministry...

Ministry Prayers:

- Please pray for our new full-time team of Tim (Rep), Steve (Connect) and Adam (Connect) who all start with us this month. Please pray for us as we prepare, plan and pray together ahead of the new term.
- Please pray too for our wider team of James (Marketing), Steve P (Treasurer), Lydia (Graduates), Kate (Mission), Jane (1to1), Chris (Ignite), Kim (Food Co-ordinator), Holly (Secretary) and Lowri
- Please pray for the ministry as we seek to provide space for growth during the coming year and new opportunities to strengthen and develop our ministry team.
- Please pray for a big intake of new people to join the group this term; Christians and non-Christians in whose hearts God is already at work.
- Please pray through our Planner and esp. the various weekends that we are involved in this term.

Family Prayers

- Thank God for a restful August and a good opportunity to recharge our batteries while awaiting our new arrival. Thank God for the blessing of a new life; God has been so good to us...
- Please do pray for us as a family as we adjust to the new addition to our growing family; please pray especially that Benjamin would enjoy his new little sister and they would be a blessing to one another.
- Pray for us as we minister to one another, to our family & to all those we're seeing and meeting daily.