



## Power made perfect in weakness...

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9*

We are conscious that it has been rather a long time since we last sent out a newsletter and much has been happening in our lives during that time. We are pleased to say that the Navigators offered us a new assignment in July to return to leadership of the student ministry in Southampton. Things will look quite different this time around as Steve works with Adam Collett and Lydia Clarke in giving leadership to the new-look ministry. Steve will also give time to being part of the Navigators UK International Missions team and will also be part of the new Navigators Student Leadership community for the English ministries. You can read more about student ministry overleaf but here we want to reflect back upon a great summer in Norway share some about where we are at!

As ever our time in Norway was a huge highlight! The stresses of the week leading up to going (esp. bronchiolitis for Sam and Jacob in the days prior to wheels up) were soon forgotten and we had a hope-filled time walking, sharing life and enjoying the beautiful Norwegian mountains with. God even saved the best of the Norwegian summer weather for us! Discipleship Week went really well (talks available at [www.sotonnavs.org/audio](http://www.sotonnavs.org/audio)) and was a very positive step for us as a family. The kids had a great time with and without the students/graduates and we enjoyed lots of hiking together as a family towards the end of our time there too. We cannot wait to return next year! The verse above (as referenced in Steve's latest blog at [www.the-mcclures.co.uk](http://www.the-mcclures.co.uk)) sum up how we are approaching our return to the frontline of student ministry after a year which has been quite different! We are conscious that there are still struggles (the ups and the downs) and there will be for some time. Time and time again in Scripture God uses weakness to display His power and Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians makes this quite clear. We are approaching the term ahead with open hands, much flexibility and a great team of people working with us on the pitch AND on the bench supporting us. Please pray that God's power would be displayed through our lives and ministry this year as we live and serve Him here in Southampton. In 2 Corinthians 1 Paul writes about the troubles they experienced in the Province of Asia when they were under great pressure and despaired of life itself. Then he says *"But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead"* (v9). Please pray that God would use all that we have been through over these past couple of years to cause us to rely more on Him. Pray too that we would minister to and serve those God is giving us in the student ministry out of an overflow of this dependence and delight in Jesus Christ. Surely God's grace has and always will be sufficient for us in everything that life brings. Jesus is enough and despite the challenges, true fulfilment and satisfaction is found in Him alone.



## Working with Students again...

With Fresher's now upon us we are gearing up for two of our biggest opportunities to meet new people; firstly the Clubs & Societies Bunfight (Wed 23 Sep) and then our Welcome BBQ (Thurs 24 Sep). Please pray that God would lead us to many students in whose hearts He is at work and in whom God would have us play a part in helping them to (a) be wholehearted disciples of Jesus and (b) be lifelong labourers in His Harvest. To this end we have structured the ministry differently this year and will have a series of larger group meetings at which we will be talking about what it means to be a disciple and what it means to be a labourer/worker (see attached Events flier). On the alternate weeks we will be meeting in close-knit small groups to study the Bible together and be accountable to one another. We see the former as a platform to train and equip students to be fruitful on campus and the latter as a platform for growth which will enable our leadership team to take growing responsibility with the people we are involved with. We would love to see small evangelistic groups springing up to study the Bible with not-yet Christians – the concept of IGNITE will now become a platform to see this happen more relationally amongst and (if appropriate) alongside the students.

### Please pray over the coming months:

- Please continue to pray for good health for both of us as we work out the things God is calling us to do within our student context and beyond here in Southampton.
- Give thanks for good transitions over the past few weeks for the kids in to school (Ben to Year 2, Naomi to Reception and Sam to Pre-School) and for such a great time in Norway this past summer.
- Please pray for us and our team as we adjust to the new format for student ministry, that it would be a huge blessing to the students and are joy for the family to be part of.
- Please pray for Steve, Lydia and Adam who will be leading the student ministry this year
- Please join with us in praying that we would meet some great new students who are seeking the Lord and for students from Christian backgrounds who would have a heart to reach their friends. Please pray for fruitfulness amongst the relational networks of students in which we are already connected.

*To God be the Glory, All our love Steve, Debs, Benjamin, Naomi, Samuel & Jacob*

sotonNAVS

What's on this term

All regular meetings are at 53 Harefield Road on Thursdays at 6:30pm with Food Provided

SEP 24

**Jesus is Enough**  
An Invitation to Follow

OCT 1

**Growing to Maturity**  
An Invitation to Grow

OCT 15

**Building to Last**  
An Invitation to Build

OCT 29

**God's Harvest**  
An Invitation to Labour

NOV 12

**A Vision to Die For**  
An Invitation to Follow

NOV 20 22

**NAVS Weekend Away**  
Unpacking the Vision

NOV 26

**The Worth of the Individual**  
An Invitation to Serve

DEC 10

**The Lord of the Harvest**  
An Invitation to Pray

Growing together as followers of Jesus and becoming life-long workers in His harvest

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UK

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