



An Adventure of a Lifetime...

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

This coming term we are going to be thinking with the students about the 'Adventure of a Lifetime'. I don't know about you but we love adventure especially when we are exploring the outdoors. Our perfect day would be high up in the mountains, the sun is shining and we have the freedom to explore to our hearts content. Amidst the thrill of the adventure there would of course be plenty of challenges along the way; perhaps a steep or scrambling ascent, a hairy descent, a boggy section or maybe even a period feeling lost. The highs and lows of such experiences are a great picture of the 'Adventure of a Lifetime'. At times the adventure is a real thrill but at other times it is a slow and painful progress. As you know we've been through the mire somewhat over the past few years but are very excited to be firmly back on a strong footing and loving God's unfolding adventure for us. It is great to be on the adventure together with others. The kids continue to be such a blessing and it is great fun watching them grow and develop. It is also a privilege to have many other people with us on the adventure, family, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Another person who is critical to our adventure is Jesus Christ. Many years ago (Steve 24 years, Debs 22 years), we both committed to walking with Jesus on this adventure of a lifetime. Encountering Jesus is a central part of this adventure both for the good times and the challenging times. The Gospel accounts are full of such encounters and it's really interesting to see how these encounters impacted the people involved. Peter saw that there was something quite extraordinary about Jesus, so much so that he left his livelihood as a fisherman (as well as the colossal amount of fish Jesus had just helped them catch) to go and follow Jesus. The woman at the well came thirsty for water but Jesus showed her that she was really thirsty for 'living water' that only He could provide. For Jairus his encounter provides an opportunity to grow his faith and gives him cause to hope as he responds to the death of his daughter. The 'sinful woman' who had experienced the acceptance and forgiveness that Jesus offers responded with a lavish act of love by washing His feet. For the rich young man, encountering Jesus brought a tough call on his life to let go of that which he treasured most; his wealth. He went away sad but Jesus was clear that anyone who gives up something for Him will not fail to receive 100 times as much both here and in eternity. Walking with Jesus has been quite an adventure and at times it has been costly but we can testify that it is worth it! Will you join us in praying that the students respond to this invitation to an 'Adventure of a Lifetime'?

Reflecting on the summer ...



What a blessing we had in Norway this summer. As usual we stayed at our home from home, 'Elvheim' in Skjolden, Norway. With a group of 37 people it was our biggest Discipleship week since 2013. It was also one of our most diverse groups with a big contingent coming from Kenya. We encountered Jesus together as we thought about the subject of 'God's unconditional love' in the context of a 'conditional world'. It was a very challenging week on lots of levels but we were so thankful for a fantastic group, good weather when we needed it and the opportunity to meet new people and deepen existing relationships. The feedback was exceedingly positive and it was clear that the week had meant a huge amount to those who came. God willing we will continue to travel to Skjolden with groups and teams for some years to come.

After Discipleship week our friends from Kenya stayed some more days with us and then there were others with us at Elvheim from Norway and Austria. It was also good during those final weeks to spend time with friends and colleagues in Bergen, Osterøy, Asker and Oslo. Steve even managed to squeeze in a work project on Elvheim panelling the new entrance room. What a blessing this amazing house continues to be as we bring the nations together to learn about what it means to be disciples of Jesus.

Autumn Prayer Points:

- Please give thanks that the kids have settled well at school (Ben yr 4, Naomi yr 2, Sam Reception and Jacob at Pre-school). Pray for them as they continue their own adventures towards faith.
- Please pray for the start of term as we welcome new and returning students. Having seen core students move on over the past few years we really need to identify new students in whose hearts God is at work and who He wants us to help.
- Pray for that we would maintain a healthy work-life balance with other commitments including the kids groups and activities, Debs' Occupational Therapy work, Steve's studies at Formation School and hosting our church home-group.

To God be the Glory,

Steve, Debs, Benjamin, Naomi, Samuel, Jacob & Aaron

Autumn Key Dates:

- Mon 25-Fri 29 Sept:** Freshers Week including our Welcome BBQ
- Fri 20 Oct:** English Student Leaders Community day away Huddles on 2nd Friday of each month (Steve)
- Sat 21 Oct:** Southern NAVS Quadrant Gathering in Thatcham
- Wed 25 Oct:** Intl Missions Team Meeting in Soton (Steve)
- Fri 3-Sun 5 Nov:** English NAVS Emerging Leaders Weekend
- Fri 17-Sun 19 Nov:** Southern NAVS Student Wkd Away (New Forest)

Regular Activities

- Thursday evenings:** NAVS Big Meetings and Bible Study Nights
- Wednesday evenings:** Church Homegroup (1st & 3rd Wed of month)
- Tuesday Evenings:** 'Formation School' at Above Bar Church (<http://formationschool.org/>)



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