



McClure Mumblings

Steve & Debs serving with The Navigators in Southampton and beyond

June 2018 Edition



Celebrating God's Faithfulness

"It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 3-4

It would be hard not to begin this letter with something about the day of celebration we had in April to mark the 50 year anniversary of Southampton Student Ministry. Approximately 160 from across the generations gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness over these years and to inspire us for all that God still has for us. The day was particularly encouraging in three key ways:

- (1) *It is encouraging to see people continuing to walk with Jesus:* The verses above from 3 John put this really well. It is such a joy to see that the time we have invested in people has not been in vain. The student ministry has always been about people and what an encouragement it is to see people continuing to walk with Jesus. This has been the purpose of the ministry over the years; we want to see fruit that lasts (John 15:16). God has repeatedly blessed the ministry richly with some great people who we have seen loving Jesus increasingly.
- (2) *It is encouraging to hear stories of ministry and service:* It was great to have a whole range of people at the day conference. There was huge diversity in age and generation but there was also a broad spectrum for where people are now serving. Some are serving in full-time Christian work in a variety of contexts. Some are doing that here in the UK while others are overseas. There were also many who are serving Jesus in their workplaces, neighbourhoods, churches and circles of influence. It was clear from the stories shared from the front that their time within the ministry was a significant and formative time for people: a time of digging deep foundations and developing a love for their friends who don't know Jesus.
- (3) *It is encouraging to hear people's excitement to continue to serve:* One person who wrote to us told us that the day was inspiring and had revived their commitment to disciple-making. One of the students shared with us that the day had inspired them and help them to see the bigger picture of what we are about as Navigators. We could share many more stories of what God was doing amongst us and we pray that the benefit of this time would be enjoyed well beyond those who were there. If you weren't there and would like to you can find resources from the day (interviews, talks, photos, the video) which are all available at www.sotonnavs.org.



Steve with the kids during our Easter holiday in the Lake District



Some of the students and graduates we have been investing in this past year



Debbie (with friend Lowri) completed the 26mile Clarendon Way from Winchester to Salisbury

Update & Prayer Points

You will notice that this edition comes with a separate letter regarding our work in Norway this summer. This is one of our 'short term programmes' which Steve takes responsibility for within his role on the International Missions Team. Here we will therefore focus primarily on what we have been doing here in Southampton over the past term!

With the students: The summer term is always short and quite a frustrating term. Students back from Easter are soon busy with their exams and it often hard to get any kind of momentum. That said we have been encouraged by a core group who have continued to make the group a priority. It has been fun studying 1&2 Thessalonians with them and fleshing out our main meeting series on freedom through the lens of some key issues: sexuality, identity and relationships. Debbie and I have really enjoyed working through Christianity Explored with a couple of non-Christian Malaysian girls who are earnestly seeking. One of them has just finished reading "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. Please continue to pray for them to come to know Jesus and for wisdom to know where to take them next. Student ministry looks very different than it did even a couple of years back let alone 5 or 10 years. The emphasis now is to work through others and we are grateful to have a great team of people who help us to lead the ministry. Please pray for those on the team as they continue to step up and grow as leaders. Please pray for each of us as we enjoy a change of pace (and an opportunity for refreshment) over the summer.

With Formation School: You will know from previous letters that Steve has been enjoying being part of Above Bar Church's Formation School ministry this past year. It's been a huge encouragement to be part of this and a great insight into disciple-making beyond the student world! As the year comes to an end please do pray for this ministry to continue to flourish; over the past 6 years it has been a huge blessing to a whole host of folk from the student ministry as well. If you are within reach of Southampton and would be interested in being in being a part of this next year please do check out the website at www.formationschool.org.

Thinking about the future: At the end of the month we have our three year assignment review with the Navigators. It's hard to believe that three years are up already since we last did this. Regular reviews and appraisals are an important part of most jobs these days. We remain open to where God is leading us as a family and will let you know the outcome of this process later in the summer. Please do pray for all involved to hear God clearly and see how our roles might develop over the next three years.

To God be the Glory,

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

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