



## Understanding our identity

*“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:13-14 (NIV)*

We’re conscious that some will not have heard much from us since our last letter in June (unless you get our monthly updates: link over the page). Since then we’ve had another fantastic trip to Skjolden, Norway (Jul/Aug 2019) and we have tweaked our work agreement with the Navigators to allow Steve to devote two days a week to Formation School. Updates on these things are over the page but first we want to write a little about what we are doing with the students this term on the subject of finding our True Self. We’ve been seeing how God made us in His image and because of that we all have intrinsic value as His image bearers. Even though that image became marred at the Fall we still reflect something of Him and have huge value in His sight. Indeed we were so valuable that even “while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). This term we have been asking four questions about Identity centred around what we have described as our felt needs: Am I loved?, Am I significant?, Am I accepted? and Am I Secure? God made us to meet these needs in Him alone and yet because of the Fall we find ourselves taking these questions to the world around us. The problem we are seeing over and over again is that eventually everything else dissappoints: people let us down, hopes & dreams fade and we find ourselves wrestling with our Identity. Instead we have seen God’s answer rooted in being His children, chosen and dearly loved. In Christ we are new creatures given new purpose as He works out His purposes in us and through us. In this light we can tackle all that comes our way with new perspective because we are safe and secure in the assurance that we belong to God. He knows us and created us to reflect His image: no one can do that like we do. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and knowing our identity changes everything. Please pray for a deep and growing conviction about these things amongst all those involved in the student ministry. Please pray that knowing our identity really would transform the way we look and think about the world around us. Please pray too that those who do not yet know Jesus would see that ultimately our identity only makes sense in relation to the God who made us!

What’s on at sotonNAVS? 

### TRUE SELF

Who are you really?

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

SEP	26	Mexican Evening: Intro to Navs
OCT	3	Intrinsic Worth: God’s Image
OCT	17	Am I Loved?: True Intimacy
OCT	31	Am I Significant?: True Calling
NOV	14	Am I Accepted?: True Belonging
NOV	28	Am I Secure?: True Assurance
DEC	12	Christmas Party: True Giving
JAN	9	Glorious Future: True Citizenship

# Ministry Update

**Formation School:** In September Steve began a two day a week role with Above Bar Church's Formation School ([www.formationschool.org](http://www.formationschool.org)) which aims to grow disciple-making leaders. We have a new cohort of 16 people from a wide range of backgrounds, experience and ages. It is also good to have different churches and organisations represented. Steve is responsible for leading Track 4 (about growing disciple making disciples) and co-ordinating our small groups (Huddles). On a typical week our team meets Monday mornings and then Steve is present for the Tuesday night ministry evenings during term time. Formation School has been a real blessing this term and Steve is really enjoying getting his teeth into working with people beyond the student years! Please pray for a good finish to term in a few weeks and for the lessons being learned to be put into practice in the life of the students.

**Student Ministry:** We have been part of the Navigator student ministry in Southampton for what feels like forever (Steve since 1999 and Debs since 2002). Despite the new role with Formation School Steve still gives 2-2½ days a week to the student ministry. This is also still the main focus for Debs as she supports the ministry logistically. We continue to enjoy working alongside both our student and graduate leadership teams. Alongside the fortnightly teaching programme on True Self we are also studying Ephesians and Mark Uncover on the alternative weeks. A few weeks ago we also organised what we called an 'Emerging Leaders Weekend' in Swanage and had around 30 people join us for that. We were discussing what it means to be Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5) and there was a selection of seminars to help us to practically walk with Jesus and live out our faith amongst the lost. Please pray for us we continue to work with those God has given us and for new people as we seek to develop the ministry for the next generation.



**International Ministry:** Summer #15 in Norway was again a huge blessing with a great bunch of people coming together in a particularly warm Skjolden for Discipleship Week. The Elvheim team of Emi, Gez and Beth were incredible along with our summer team comprising of Jonathan & India. We've spoken more fully of our time in Norway this summer in our monthly updates but suffice to say that this continues to be one of the most (if not *the* most) fruitful things that we are involved with. Steve also continues to serve on the Navigators International Missions Team and we are just coming to the end of the process to get our 2020 trips ready for a new intake (see [www.navigators.co.uk/stp](http://www.navigators.co.uk/stp)). Please pray for us as we seek to continue to have an impact into the nations for Christ.

# Family Update

Christmas is approaching fast and looking back it is clear that it has been a fantastic year for the kids. In their own way all of them are developing at quite the pace. Ben (Yr 6) is now Sports Ambassador in his final year of primary school. He is doing really well playing guitar, has trained the cats to come to him and he had a fantastic time at his West Runton Camp in August. Naomi (Yr 4) is wowing the crowds with her singing and is also learning the clarinet. Sam (Yr 2) has started football training on Saturdays and is a very eager apprentice in the world of DIY. Jacob (Yr 1) continues to thrive at school and is developing a love for numbers and cake. Aaron is really enjoying Pre-school (2½ days a week) and is into absolutely everything. All have really loved walking, climbing mountains here there and everywhere and are enjoying their newly decorated bedrooms. Debs continues to work three days a week as an Occupational Therapist and has been receiving excellent feedback for the work she has been doing. What a privilege it is to labour together amongst all of the people that God continues to bring into our lives and with whom He continues to enable us to have a role to play. Have a great Christmas and a happy New Year...



53 Harefield Road, Southampton, UK, SO17 3TG  
Home: 02380-677557, Steve: 07852-233960, Debs: 07767-145012  
[steve.mcclure@navigators.co.uk](mailto:steve.mcclure@navigators.co.uk) / [debbie.mcclure@navigators.co.uk](mailto:debbie.mcclure@navigators.co.uk)  
Sign-up for our regular e-mail updates: <http://www.shorturl.at/kszE7>



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