



Authentic Relationships...

*"He [Jesus] answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'" **Luke 10:27***

Jesus said that there were no greater commandments than these (Mark 12:29-31). Nothing is more important than relationships. God created us for relationships. He made us to relate to Him and to others. If we miss out on relationships, we're missing the core reason for which God put us here...nothing will last longer than relationships. So much of our lives are based around relationships; whether it be our relationship with God or our relationships with others (family, friends, colleagues, neighbours). Indeed for us so much of our work and ministry is focused around relationships; relationships within our family, relationships between one another as team and relationships with those we are seeking to minister to.

As a new semester begins, we have decided to study this exciting topic of relationships in our Thursday evening groups; in particular we are looking at the relationship principles that Jesus taught and modelled. This seemed like a good place to start because after all Jesus is the expert in relationships. As we have prepared these studies it has become clear that studying Jesus from this perspective is intensely relevant and deeply challenging. Often Jesus does not interact with people in ways that we would expect and it becomes increasingly clear that we all have much to learn. As a group we are thinking through the priority of relationships in our lives and how we interact with people in those relationships.

It seems like ages since we last wrote, we have been intending to write for some time but somehow the challenges of life and ministry have kept us from writing. Much has happened; before Christmas we had a full student weekend on the Isle of Wight with our student group, we had 90 people at the Evangelistic Christmas meal and Christmas itself was of course a very busy time as we expect it was for you. The students arrived back at the start of January to do their first semester exams, allowing for a slower paced month. It also allowed time to work on the Relationships studies, to do assignments for the Ministry & Theology course Steve is involved in and to travel out to Riga to visit friends and talk to them about plans for this year's summer trip.

All in all it has been a very busy and pressured few months and we are so grateful for God's grace in helping us to trust Him through this time. As we look ahead the term is very busy but we're hoping that having all the plans and preparation in place will allow us to focus more on relationships.

"To encourage students to know, love and share Jesus Christ through purposeful, intentional and reproducible disciple-making as we share our lives together in community." SOTON NAVS Vision statement, Sep 2011

"To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers living and discipling among the lost" Worldwide, Navigator Calling Statement

Investing in people...



Above Student Leadership Team (left) and wider graduate leadership (Right)

We have spent the last term studying Leadership with our core leadership team. This has been an exciting yet humbling process as we have sought to learn about working together and appreciate one-another amidst our diversity. Over the past 6.5 years that we have led the student ministry here in Southampton building and developing teams has been one of the most exciting parts of what we have done. Currently we have two leadership teams; the Student Central Leadership team (to which our Monday IGNITE team and Thursday Bible study teams are accountable) and then the LIFE net team which is focused on people post Uni. We lead the Student Central Leadership team and provide support to the LIFE net team. We also provide input and mentoring for a number of the people within these teams including the other Reps/Connectors Dave, Tim and Stephen. We are currently recruiting for next years Connect programme and would value your prayers that God would lead people as they consider this opportunity. Over this past term it has been a huge privilege walking with these quality people and helping them as they invest in students within the group. The time we are able to invest directly in students is also very stimulating and hugely encouraging to see a new generation of godly leaders developing.

Pray through our planner

REGULAR GROUPS

Sunday 20:30-21:45

1to1 training for
Above Bar Church

Mondays 12:00-14:00 NAVS

Central Leadership Team
(CLT) meetings

Mondays 20:00-22:00 NAVS

IGNITE discussion groups at
Stile Pub

Tuesdays 15:00-17:00 Small

Group Leader training for CU

Wednesdays 08:00-09:00

NAVS prayer Breakfast

Thursdays 18:30-22:00

NAVS Bible Study groups

OTHER EVENTS

Sat 4 February

South East NAVS day
(Finchampstead)

Mon 6-Fri 10 February

(NAVS team helping at Soton
Uni CU Events week)

Fri 17 – Mon 20 February

Steve speaking at Latvian
Student wk, near Riga)

Fri 2-Sun 4 March

NAVS BIG Wkd (Blackpool

Mon 19 Mar-Fri 13 Apr

Easter Vacation

Fri 30 Mar-Fri 13 Apr

Family Holiday to the Lakes

Pray for our ministry...

Give thanks to God for the following:

- That **Benjamin and Naomi** are both growing up well; Benjamin loves pre-School and playing with his rapidly expanding wooden train set. Naomi loves food and will happily remove it from students eating in our house
- For all of the **teams** we are involved with and especially our group of growing leaders; what a privilege to minister with them and draw alongside them
- For many **great groups** of students/graduates (Thursday evening, Monday IGNITE, CU Bible study leaders, ABC 1-to-1 leaders etc); students in particular are such an exciting group to be around
- Give thanks for Lindsey (Colorado, US), Josh (Connect in Manchester) and Andy (Connect in Leicester) who have been **visiting us**; pray that God would have been teaching them much during their time with us here

Pray for the following:

- That in spite of busyness we would give **priority to relationships** especially with God and with each another as a couple and as a family
- Pray through our planner up to Easter; note especially that Steve is speaking at the **Latvian student weekend** near Riga in a couple of weeks and is taking a group of 18 to the BIG Weekend in Blackpool
- Pray for us as we share in leadership for the planning of this summer's trip to **Norway & Latvia**; the dates are 18 June to 18 July and we are recruiting a team of 6-8 students to come with us
- Finally please pray for our **IGNITE team** as they help follow up next weeks CU Events Week

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