

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



January 2016

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL



'For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.' Romans 1:16

Family

Dawn and I had a much quieter Christmas this year, with both Natasha and Danielle in New Zealand. Natasha joined Danielle in October and hopefully they will be back in England by May. They are both working in order to be able to stay out there, but they have the found time to see and experience many of the wonderful sights in that beautiful country. Danielle has walked around the 'Shire', which featured in 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy. On her first few days after arriving in New Zealand, Natasha did a Bungee jump (which her Nan wasn't too impressed about!). Danielle also managed to do some snowboarding whilst there was snow left. They are now booked to go 'Whale Watching' in the next few months. It makes my holidays of sitting on a rain soaked beach in Cornwall look a bit dull now.



Reuben has been doing very well in *Project Search*, which is run by Bristol City Council. They are giving him, and a small group of others with learning difficulties, the opportunity to get work experience. He recently worked in Halfords assembling bicycles amongst other things. He is about to start some training in catering.

Dawn continues to keep the house in order and managed to make Christmas special, even without the girls.

Training

2015 was full of lots of training opportunities and placements.

- Helping Phil Davies and the team at the Royal Welsh Show in July was great. The event is massive with so many opportunities to share God's love over a cup of tea.
- A training day with James Hyde helped us to look at Church Planting, which was very good.
- Martin Erwin led us through a very worthwhile two days on the subject of Preaching. It was helpful, encouraging and a good reminder to be using scripture correctly and not out of context. The suggestion of a curry at the end of the training brought forth the biggest 'Amen' of the day!

Mike Strange is my mentor with *Counties* and continues to be a great source of help and encouragement to me.





'You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you.' Nehemiah 9:6

Ministry to the Seafarers

510 ships were visited in 2015, though quantity is never the priority!

The following extract from a *Daily Telegraph* article, titled 'The Life of a Modern Seafarer' is a good lead into the work that God has called me too.

- The man who goes to sea, wrote Marco Polo, is a man in despair. This is still true, but today's man of the sea is also probably poor, probably exploited, and living a life that contains, at the least, chronic fatigue and overwork; boredom, pirates and danger. Suicide rates of seafarers are triple those of land-based occupations and carrying sea cargo is the second-most deadly job on the planet after fishing.

I haven't yet come across a seafarer who, if given the choice, would want to be at sea. The job of course does provide the income their families need to survive. One guy said to me; 'We are like prisoners. The only difference is; we get paid!'

With all of this in mind, it's no wonder the Lord wants to set them free. Literature and DVD's play a big part in what I do on the ships. In 2015, 200 Billy Graham's 'The Cross' were given out. One per ship. Another 100 'The Life of Jesus Christ' were also handed out, and hundreds of Gospel tracts that work well with the DVD's.

In order to show God's love in a practical way, I endeavour to help them with their needs. One way is to provide mobile phone cards. Communication with their families is a priority for the seafarer, so when I come aboard a ship, I am usually asked if I have any cards. It normally takes up quite a bit of my time selling the cards and setting up their phones so that they can access the Internet. It used to stress me out when you had a dozen men speaking in broken English, crowding around me, all wanting my help at the same time! These days, I manage these situations much better and when you have a crew all smiling because now they can contact love ones, it provides the opportunity to tell them how much God would like to communicate with them. 'We all get frustrated when we can't get a mobile phone connection!' I tell them. We don't have a problem talking with God, because Jesus Christ has made it possible. We can now be connected to the Almighty at anytime and anywhere. Jesus has paid the connection charge.

Much of what I do is sowing seeds and it isn't often possible to see any fruit. I prayed a little while ago about this and received a text message within days of my prayer. A seafarer who I had spent time with, contacted me saying he had now left his ship and was home. He wanted to thank me for all of my help and said he would never forget the words I had shared with him about a faith and trust in God. He hoped we would meet again. I thanked the Lord for this seafarer and the encouragement he had given me!



Prayer Points:

- Please prayer that the Lord will break through the religion I find in many of these seafarers. He wants relationship, not religion.
- It is good to work with other denominations and faiths but it can cause problems; especially when it comes to sharing the Gospel. Please pray that nothing or nobody will prevent or hinder the sharing of God's Good News.
- Pray for the Lord's protection on Natasha and Danielle in New Zealand and their safe return later on in the year.
- Pray for Reuben that the Lord will eventually bless him with the right job.
- Pray for Dawn as she looks at the possibility of doing part time work.
- My dad (Graham Loader) is 80 years old on 8 January. Last year was a difficult time for him and mum. Please pray that the Lord will richly bless them both throughout 2016.



Diary Dates:

January

Ashton Vale Church	10th
Etloe Evangelical Church	17th
Salem Chapel	24th
Little Stoke Baptist	31st

February

Florence St Mission Hall	11th
Emmaus Evangelical	14th
Counties training day	24th

March

Counties Day Conference	5th
Hillfields Evangelical	6th
Sailors Society Conference	13th – 17th
Cromhall Chapel	20th
Southfield Church	27th

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