

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Spring 2017

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL



'Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."'

Matthew 28:18-20

Training

The opportunities to grow in knowledge and understanding over the last two years was a great blessing to me whilst on the Counties Training Programme. The friendships that were built over this time with the other trainees, was the icing on the cake!

Family

Reuben has been working in a Café on Bristol's historic harbour side since last summer. He continues to enjoy what he is doing and gets on very well with all the staff. At the moment, he is only working weekends but has been able to fill his week up with other activities.

Danielle and Sam returned in August 2016 from New Zealand and we spent a lovely month together as a family. They returned back to NZ in September and moved to another property in Wellington near the beach. Danielle has also change her job where she now works as a receptionist at a local garage.

Natasha gave Dawn and I the wonderful news that soon we will be grandparents. The baby is due in June and Natasha and Jonathan are over the moon and are beginning to get the necessities for the new arrival. Dawn is doing very well at her first attempt at crocheting a baby blanket.





Ministry to the Seafarers

2016 saw me visit nearly 600 ships of all shapes and sizes. It was very busy over the Christmas period with hundreds of Christmas presents given out. It is a particularly difficult time of year for seafarers to be away from loved ones and so I do my best to make them feel cared for and encouraged. It is also an opportunity to remind them about the greatest gift given to humanity, which is Jesus Christ. The 'Why Christmas?' booklet helps to make clear the true meaning of Christmas.

In the autumn of 2016 I helped an Indian seafarer who was being treated appallingly on his ship. He grabbed my arm as I was about to leave his ship and asked if I could help him. The conversation was very 'cloak and dagger' because he didn't want the captain or the other officers to know that he had asked for my support. He later told me that he had thoughts of suicide and had hit rock bottom. And so with God's ever-present help, I was able to get him off the ship and get him unpaid wages of £8,500. We remain in contact and I have reminded him that the Lord heard his prayers in those terrible times.

I recently visited a young Ukrainian in hospital who was badly burnt due to a gas explosion on his ship. He visibly brightened up whilst talking with him and I'm sure the large chocolate bar that I brought him helped.

Praying over seafarers remains the highlight of what I do. Bringing the Lord into a discussion with a prayer or praying after someone has shared a need is quite powerful. When I pray I always feel that the spot light is directly on the Lord and not on me. In that moment of prayer, there is a tangible presence of the Lord.

I have seen an increase in apathy and indifference from seafarers in recent times to the message of the Gospel. I am not sure why this is, only that it has given me a determination to bring Christ back into the hearts and minds of those I meet. There are however those wonderful times when I meet someone on a ship who is eager to share with me their joy in knowing Jesus as their personal Saviour. The Christians I meet have little or no spiritual food for months at a time but I make sure that I leave them absolutely glowing after reaffirming the greatness of Christ in their lives.

My role as a port chaplain has also given me the chance to share something of my work with others in the shipping industry. I was asked recently to give a talk about my work with a Port Welfare Committee with various people attending including the Port Police, Port Managers, Port Health etc. That went well and I was then asked to share the same sort of thing with a Shipping Agent Company.

The Lord is certainly giving me some wonderful opportunities to talk about this ministry.



Prayer Points:

Please pray for **Natasha** and **Jonathan** for the safe arrival of their child in June and their future together as a family.

Praise God that **Danielle** and **Sam** arrived safely back from New Zealand in August 2016. Now they are once again in NZ, pray that the Lord will work wonderfully in their lives and continue to bless them.

Praise God that **Reuben** got a job after it was given to the Lord in prayer. He is doing well, so please continue to pray for the Lord to direct his pathway.

Pray for that **Dawn** that she would be greatly blessed and encouraged throughout 2017. The children's Hospice that she volunteers for each week has given her some of that blessing – Praise God!

Please pray that the seed of the Gospel would land on good soil when I talk to seafarers. Pray that the Holy Spirit will break through the apathy and indifference found among many of these men and women.

Please pray for my growing family that we will remain safely under the shadow of the Almighty!

Diary Dates:

March

- 11th – Bridgewater's Men's Breakfast
- 12th – Little Stoke Baptist
- 21st – Sailors Society Conference
- 26th – Cromhall Chapel

April

- 2nd – Wickwar Congregational
- 6th – Midsomer Norton Ladies Meeting
- 8th – Disabled Christian Fellowship
- 9th – Bethany Gospel Hall

May

- 7th – Backwell Baptist
- 21st – Union Chapel - Bath

June

- 4th – Emmaus Church
- 10th – Headley Park Men's Breakfast
- 21st – Roath Road Ladies Meeting
- 25th – am – Cromhall
- 25th – pm – Wickwar Congregational

July

- 2nd – Hillfields Baptist
- 9th – Nailsea Baptist
- 16th – Tyndale Baptist Church
- 24th – 27th – The Royal Welsh Show
- 30th – Sladebrook

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