

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



December 2018

Prayer Focus and News from

I blinked, and another year has gone!

How wonderful it is to walk day by day in the shadow of the Almighty!

Family

Natasha – In November Natasha, Jonathan and Elvie finally moved into their new home in Portishead. Much work was needed to get the house fit for living, which required a small amount of effort from some of us to help and a lot of work done by Jonathan! Elvie now loves her new home!

Danielle – We were able to see Danielle, Sam and Noah twice over this last year. In February, Dawn, Reuben and I travelled to New Zealand and spent time with our growing family. Noah is already walking and is happy and smiling much of the time. He has the chubbiest chops you could ever wish to squeeze! And of course New Zealand was all that we could have hoped it would be. Danielle and Sam then came and visited us in Bristol in the summer time.

Reuben – Has grown in stature and maturity over this last year. The two of us often go to the gym together where Reuben has grown muscles and I just seem to hurt myself! Reuben continues to work at the M Shed and has recently performed in another amateur dramatics group. He was an absolute star!

Dawn – Still enjoys helping out in the Children's Hospice Shop every Friday. She also looks after Elvie three days a week so that Natasha can work. It's quite tiring for Dawn but loves taking care of our granddaughter.

Myself - Having grandchildren has added something quite special into my life. It certainly has enriched my family.

I've been getting a bit tired again recently but I think that it's down to the fact that I miss the sunshine!

- Mum and Dad are still a bit up and down at the moment, but I detect a bit of improvement in how dad is feeling.



Steve, Dawn and Reuben on holiday in Scotland



Natasha, Jonathan and Elvie



Danielle, Sam and Noah in New Zealand



Ministry to the Seafarers

The amount of ships visited this year is down a bit, mainly due to our visit to New Zealand. However, I will have visited nearly 500 ships by Christmas time. Looking back over this last year, I am thrilled with the opportunities that God has given me in my ministry! The other day I spent about two hours talking to the Bosun on a large baulker ship. He shared with humility the sacrifice he was making in order to provide for his family. When his second child was born by caesarean section, he immediately went back to sea for 27 months so that he could pay the medical fees. (I hate not seeing Elvie for one week!) This seafarer wondered if his family appreciated the sacrifice he was making for them? It was making him sad and resentful. I shared with him that many are unaware of the sacrifice that our Heavenly Father has made for us! He wants us to know him and all that he has done on the Cross for us and to know all that he will do in the future for those who put their trust in him. The Bosun was visibly moved by these words and said that he had never thought of God in this way before; A father who gives sacrificially for his children because he loves them! As well as many conversations with individuals I also get the chance to share the Gospel with everyone all at once on a ship. Twice this year I was asked by the Captain to share something with his crew. The mess room was quickly organised into rows of chairs with me up the end. The crew of about 18 guys sat and listened to me as I opened the Bible and shared the Gospel with them. I finished by praying a blessing over them to which a number asked for Bibles and thanked me for what I had shared. What a blessing and a privilege to have these opportunities!!

*'I love the Lord, for he
heard my voice;
he heard my cry for
mercy.
Because he turned his ear
to me,
I will call on him as long
as I live.'*

Psalm 116:1-2



Diary Dates:

Prayer Points:

- Thank God for my lovely family! Please pray for them all.
- Pray for good health (We have picked up a number of bugs and viruses this year).
- Pray for wisdom in our thoughts and plans about moving house next year.
- Praise God for his continuous provision for my family.
- Pray for the ministry to seafarers.
- Pray for the twice-monthly '*Thought for Today*' that I'm doing on Radio Bristol.
- Pray for Mum & Dad (Graham & Shirley Loader)

December 2018

- 9th – All Saints, Hartcliffe
- 9th – Roath Road
- 16th – Bethany Carol Service
- 27th – Radio Bristol

January 2019

- 6th – All Saints, Baptism
- 13th – Emmaus
- 17th – Counties Wales & West
- 27th – Henry St, Ross-on-Wye

February

- 3rd – Oasis
- 17th – Shirehampton Baptist
- 24th – Chelsea Christian Centre
- 24th – Nant Coch

March

- 10th – Cromhall
- 17th – Backwell Baptist
- 24th - Sladebrook

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