

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Spring 2020

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL

Psalm 91

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”

Family

Dawn and I have been seeking the Lord for some time about whether it would be possible to move house? So in May 2019 we felt led to put our home up for sale. It was finally sold in the August time but took another five months till we actually moved to our new address in Portishead, near Bristol. I am now much closer to my ministry at Portbury and Avonmouth docks and just up the road from our eldest daughter Natasha. Child minding for our granddaughter Elvie, is now more manageable for Dawn.

We were barely in our new home a few days, when we flew out to New Zealand to spend time with our other daughter Danielle and grandson Noah. The house move was certainly not planned to be so close to our trip to NZ and proved to be exhausting leading up to both events. It was lovely being with Danielle, Sam and Noah and sharing some of their outdoor life for a while. The weather was also a huge improvement on what was happening in the UK!

Natasha kindly looked after our new home whilst we were away and even managed to tidy it up a bit after we left it in such a mess. The moving boxes were all waiting for us on our return!

Reuben thoroughly enjoyed NZ and managed to climb Mt. Taranaki with Sam. The rest of us decided to view it from the base instead.



Christmas time saw over 1000 presents given to the seafarers in Portbury and Avonmouth Docks





Ministry to the Seafarers

As with everyone else, my ministry has been affected by the Coronavirus. With seafarers coming from all around the world to Portbury and Avonmouth docks, ship visiting has become quite challenging. I am taking advice from a number of sources, which include the UK Government, Bristol Port Health and the Sailors Society. Many ships are beginning to deny shore leave for their crew and some are also not keen on receiving any visitors either. However, there are those who greatly appreciate any support, particularly as other sources of help begin to disappear, like the closure of some seafarer centres.

Many of the seafarers that I have been talking to are scared and some really have no idea what is happening around the world. I give advice and support where it's needed and always encourage those with a faith in the Lord, to look to him for comfort and assurance.

My monthly talks on Radio Bristol are also a wonderful opportunity to point people to Christ. I have received encouraging feedback from believers and non-believers alike! As our nation and this world is plunged into uncertainty, what better time than this when we can proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ! My thoughts turn to a verse from an old hymn: *"Make me a channel of your peace, where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there's darkness, only light. And where there's sadness ever joy."*

On the day that I'm writing this newsletter, I received a text from a work colleague who isn't a Christian, asking if I would pray for her and her husband. She is afraid of what the future might hold for them. I greatly encouraged her by saying that within the previous hour I had already prayed for her and would continue to pray for them both!

'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

Prayer Points:

- Praise God for our safe return from New Zealand
- Praise God for the completion of the house move
- Pray for the Lord's protection for me and the family from any nasty viruses as I seek to proclaim the Gospel on the ships
- Danielle is expecting her 2nd child in July – pray for them both
- Pray for God's plans and purposes for me and my family in these rapidly changing times
- Pray about the possible need to cancel preaching engagements and talks due to the spread of the Coronavirus

Diary Dates:

March 2020

9th – Radio Bristol
11th – Good Companions Talk
13th – Welton Baptist Youth
15th – Southfield, Nailsea
16th – Frenchay WI
17th – Brislington WI
29th – Cromhall
30th – Union Chapel

April

5th – Ashton Vale
5th – Oasis, Old Down
6th – Radio Bristol
7th – Freshbrook, Swindon
19th – Chelsea Christian Centre
21st – Summer Hill Methodist, Hanham 22nd – St John's Ladies Guild
26th – Bethany Chapel, Lyme Regis
29th – Backwell Christian Fellowship

May

4th – Radio Bristol
5th – Victoria Methodist Church
10th – Wickwar
13th – Begbrook
17th – Littlestoke
19th – CLG
27th – Headly Park Ladies
30th – Torch, Counterslip
31st – Backwell Baptist

June

7th – Kingsholm Church
14th – Emmaus
15th – Headly Park oap
21st – Cromhall
25th – Florence St
28th – Nant Coch

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