

# Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Summer 2025

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL



*'Even when I am old and grey, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.'*

Psalm 71:18

## Family

**Natasha and Jonathan**, are expecting their third child in October. There is much excitement in the family, especially for Elvie and Isla. **Danielle, Sam, Noah, Moses and Jude are enjoying life in New Zealand.** We haven't seen Danielle and Moses since February 2023. We've yet to see Jude for the first time, though we have seen Sam and Noah in recent months due to a wedding in Sam's family. The cost of getting to NZ and staying in an Airbnb whilst there plays a big part in not seeing each other. Thank God for video calling!

**Reuben** finished a Performing Arts course at Weston College this summer. He did very well and received an award for working harder than all the other students throughout the year. We are now waiting on the Lord to see what is next in store for him.

**Dawn** recently completed ten years volunteering at the Children's Hospice Southwest. She also enjoys being a part of the welcoming team at our church. It's the early service, which sees Dawn arriving at the church for about 7:30 am in the morning!

**Me;** It has been quite busy over this last year. Plenty of preaching and visiting ships throughout the week.

Losing loved ones during 2024 has been challenging. John Herbert who was my mentor and close friend passed away in February 2024 and my father in August 2024. Both had a huge influence on my faith in Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 71** is a blessing to me in many ways. I reached 60 years old in November last year, which has been a shock, but I remain inspired by others who pave the way ahead of me.





## Ministry to the Seafarers

Each week, from Monday to Friday, I continue to visit the ships docked at Portbury and Avonmouth. Next year I will have supported the Merchant Seafarers for 20 years! The calling I received from the Lord has not diminished in any way, and so I continue to point seafarers to Jesus Christ.

Recently, I was blessed to be asked for a Bible from a young Chinese seafarer. He explained he wasn't a Christian, but his mother was. He was quite excited to receive two bibles in his own language. Again, this week, a Turkish chief engineer asked me for a Bible. He had been searching for a Turkish Bible but had not been able to find one at any of the ports he visited – until now. I was blessed to provide him with one, much to his delight! Though a Muslim, he has a desire to see for himself what the bible has to say.

It thrills me to see the seafarers' hunger for the word of God. My Filipino friend Leo, whom I occasionally see aboard a car carrier, regularly leads Bible studies on his ship. Recently, two of his colleagues have given their lives to the Lord and now they all seek to know Jesus more.

It is a privilege to witness to God's hand at work among the Merchant Seafarers, one ship and one person at a time.



*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.*

*The cords of  
death entangled me,  
the anguish of the grave  
came over me;  
I was overcome by  
distress and sorrow.  
Then I called on the  
name of the Lord:  
"Lord, save me!"*

*The Lord is gracious and  
righteous;  
our God is full of  
compassion.*

Psalm 116:1-5



## Prayer Points:

- Praise God: That he meets the needs of my family.
- Praise God that the seafarers are increasingly hungry for his Word.
- Praise God for ministry opportunities.
- Pray for all my family, and especially for Natasha's safe delivery of the new baby in October.
- Pray for my Mum. Dad passed away on 22 August 2024.
- Pray for my family's ongoing financial support. (There's so much to be thankful for!)
- Please pray that the Holy Spirit will work powerfully through the sharing of the gospel, whether on the ships or from the pulpit.

## Diary Dates:

### August 2025

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Speedwell Gospel Hall, Bristol
- 17<sup>th</sup> URC, Portishead
- 24<sup>th</sup> Florence St Mission, Swindon
- 31<sup>st</sup> Union Chapel, Combe Down

### September

- 21<sup>st</sup> Kingswood Congregational, Nr. Bristol
- 21<sup>st</sup> Speedwell Gospel Hall, Bristol
- 28<sup>th</sup> Cromhall Chapel, South Glos.

### October

- 5<sup>th</sup> The River of Life, Bristol
- 12<sup>th</sup> Wickwar Congregational, South Glos.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Colerne Evangelical Church, Colerne
- 20<sup>th</sup> Union Chapel, Combe Down
- 24<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Counties Connect Conference

### November

- 9<sup>th</sup> Emmaus Church, Severn Beach
- 16<sup>th</sup> Southfield Church, Nailsea

### December

- 7<sup>th</sup> Shirehampton Baptist, Bristol
- 14<sup>th</sup> Bristol Road Baptist, Weston Super Mare



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