

# Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Winter 2021

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL

*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.*

Luke 1:32

## Family

I must admit, I never thought we would still be in the grip of Covid-19, but here we are!

**Natasha** is expecting her 2<sup>nd</sup> child just after Christmas (That will be our 4<sup>th</sup> Grandchild) **Jonathan** (Natasha's partner) will have arrived back by the time you receive this newsletter, on HMS Queen Elizabeth, having been away since May. Not only are we all excited by his return, but by the soon to be 2<sup>nd</sup> child. It's been a long time for **Elvie** to be without her father.

**Danielle, Sam, Noah and Moses** were given residency in New Zealand earlier this year. This has been a wonderful answer to prayer, as it gives them some security for their future. Obviously, we miss them terribly, but their happiness is more important to us. Moses is 18 months old, and we still haven't held him in our arms yet.

**Reuben** is doing ok. He is linked up with Weston College and they have been able to provide him with some activities. He goes to the gym most days, which has kept him strong and healthy. This proved very useful recently when I hurt my back whilst gardening. I had to ring Reuben up using my mobile phone, so he could come out of the house and lift me up onto my feet. I remember him making some stinging remark about old age setting in!

**Dawn** loves family life and regularly does the school run for Elvie and frequently provides meals for the wider family whilst Jonathan has been away. She still does her weekly volunteer work with the Children's Hospice Shop, which she really enjoys.

**Me**; well, I'm still enjoying the peace in Portishead!



Dawn, Elvie, Natasha and Reuben with me behind the camera on a trip to Stourhead to see the Christmas lights.



Leading the prayers at the Remembrance Service in the Port of Bristol Seafarer Centre.



## Ministry to the Seafarers

I have been able to continue with visiting the ships at Portbury and Avonmouth docks. The problem remains that I am not going inside the ships but talking with the seafarers on deck. It's often very noisy out on the deck and the seafarers I am talking too are on duty and cannot be held up in conversation for too long.

With little to no shore leave for most seafarers over these last two years; the real concern is for their well-being and mental health. We may complain about the restrictions put upon us, but they are nothing in comparison to the restrictions place on the Merchant Seafarer. It has been said that they are like paid prisoners! But I am there to tell them that our God is mightier than this Pandemic! I encourage them in prayer and to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus and his wonderful promises. Gospel booklets which are written in a number of languages, are given out on every visit.

A Russian captain recently asked me for a large print English Bible. I returned the next day with a lovely, boxed Bible, which he was thrilled to receive. He was stunned to hear that it was a gift and there was no charge. However, he insisted that I should have three packets of cigarettes in exchange. I passed them on to a member of the crew before leaving the ship.

I have also had several good contacts with seafarers via the Messenger app. I have had complete strangers reaching out to me for help when things have gone bad on their ship. I thank God that he can connect a seafarer in need thousands of miles away, to myself in Bristol, where I can give advice and support.

*Blesses are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered,*

*Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.'*

**Romans 4:7-8**

## Prayer Points:

- Praise God that all that family has been kept well.
- Praise God for Danielle's and Sam's residency in NZ.
- Praise God for ministry opportunities
- Pray for Natasha's and Jonathan's new baby (Boxing Day?)
- Our roof has been damaged in the storm and the boiler has packed up etc. Pray for no more repairs leading up to Christmas.
- Pray for the Lord's guidance in Reuben's life, that he will receive all he needs.
- Pray that the Lord will enrich Dawn's life with his goodness.

## Diary Dates:

### December 2021

- 5<sup>th</sup> Emmaus Church, Severn Beach
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sailors Society Carols, London
- 12<sup>th</sup> Cromhall, South Glos.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Chelsea Christian Centre

### January 2022

- 12<sup>th</sup> Begbrook
- 20<sup>th</sup> Speedwell Gospel Hall
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mill Lane Methodist Church
- 27<sup>th</sup> Counties Link Group

### February

- 9<sup>th</sup> Backwell Christian Fellowship
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ladyfield Mission evening
- 15<sup>th</sup> Freshbrook Church, Swindon
- 21<sup>st</sup> Union Chapel, Bath
- 27<sup>th</sup> Chelsea Christian Centre

### March

- 8<sup>th</sup> Port Welfare Committee
- 13<sup>th</sup> Nant Coch, Newport
- 15<sup>th</sup> Stapleton WI, Bristol

### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Parkinson's UK
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Southfield Church, Nailsea
- 5<sup>th</sup> Falfield WI, Wotton-under-Edge
- 6<sup>th</sup> Knowle WI, Bristol
- 10<sup>th</sup> Emmaus Church, Severn Beach
- 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucester U3A

Radio Bristol talks continue once a month.

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