

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



November 2017 – January 2018

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL

Where has the year gone? So much has happened over this year with the family and my ministry that I now approach Christmas feeling a little frazzled!

Family

Natasha – In June of this year Natasha and her partner, Jonathan, had a baby girl called Elvie. She is such a beautiful and happy girl and Dawn and myself are thrilled with our new Granddaughter. I have learnt to use baby talk all over again!

Danielle – What a surprise it was for us when Danielle announced she was also expecting a baby in September this year! Noah was born at the end of September and we are also delighted in him. We have to do with Face Time for now, as Danielle and Sam are still living in New Zealand at present. However, Dawn, myself and Reuben plan to visit early next year and then I will be able to cuddle my chubby Grand Son as well.

Reuben – Continues to work at the M Shed on Bristol's harbourside on the weekends. He also volunteers each Tuesday at the Children's Hospice shop where he is a popular member of the team. Reuben belongs to 'Acta' which performs plays each year to the general public. Their new play is just about to start as I write this letter.

Dawn – Continues to work in the Children's Hospice, which she thoroughly enjoys. Dawn's mother, Pam, has been in hospital for many weeks due to a fall. She is quite frail, so they are assessing whether she can return home or not.

Myself - My parents (Graham & Shirley Loader) are still not well. Dad is on a roller coaster of depression and anxiety, which is being treated, but he is still not free from this horrible illness. Mum is not faring much better due to complications from previous surgery and Dad's long illness, which has now brought her down. Could you please lift them both up in your prayers!



Steve, Dawn and Reuben on holiday in Scotland



Natasha, Jonathan and Elvie



Danielle, Sam and Noah in New Zealand



Ministry to the Seafarers

It has been a year of blessing and opportunity. Hundreds of ships have been visited at Portbury and Avonmouth this year. I have had countless conversations with seafarers about the Lord. I have just had a wonderful conversation on a big car ship with a Jehovah's Witness and a Catholic. I was able to present the Gospel and give my testimony as to why a relationship with Jesus is so important. I left them both with a New Testament and a Missing Peace booklet. I was recently on a tanker ship which had come through a terrible storm. All the crew had suffered with seasickness which went on for days. I had a lovely time supporting them and sharing God's love, reminding them of the story where Jesus calmed the storm on the lake of Galilee.

On a more disturbing note; there is an increase in modern day slavery on ships around the world. I have seen more seafarers not being paid for weeks and sometimes months at a time. I remind them that I care about them and will do my best to help. (There are organisations that I can contact when there are problems with pay etc.) But more importantly, God cares and he is their ever-present help in times of trouble! I am also able to support seafarers through Facebook, which gives them 24 hour contact with me (My phone pings away in the dead of night as they send messages to me). I can then respond with prayer and words of encouragement.

My time on the ships is from Monday to Friday but as you can see from my preaching diary I have taken on too much this year. Sermons need preparation and unless I give up sleeping, I need to make some time! With that in mind, please see some prayer points on the next page.

'He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end.'

Luke 1:32-33



Prayer Points:

- Thank God for the blessing of Grand Children!
- Pray the Lord will be at the center of my extended family.
- Pray that rather than face burnout, I will have the sense and wisdom to plan my diary in a way which is sustainable and doesn't have a negative effect on family life.
- Praise God for his continuous provision for my family.
- Pray for guidance in whether we to have a loft conversion or to move to a bigger house. (I give the house little thought due to having no time, which can get me in trouble with Dawn).
- Pray for Dawn's mum Pam and my parents; Graham & Shirley.
- Please pray that the conversations I have with seafarers and the literature that is given out will be greatly used by the Lord.

Diary Dates:

November 2017

- 2nd - Florence Street Mission
- 4th - Holy Trinity Men's Breakfast
- 5th - Emmanuel Chapel
- 11th - Clevedon Baptist
- 12th - Backwell Baptist
- 12th - Roath Road
- 13th - Union Chapel
- 15th - Christ Church Mothers Union
- 17th - Radio Bristol - Thought for Today
- 19th - Cromhall Church
- 19th - Gilgal Christian Fellowship
- 20th - Pill ladies Meeting
- 21st - Bethany lunch time Meeting
- 26th - Bristol Road Baptist
- 28th - Blaise WI

December 2017

- 3rd - Bethany Carol Service
- 10th - Waterloo Chapel
- 15th - Radio Bristol - Thought for Today
- 20th - Sailors Society Carol Service, All Hallows

January 2018

- 6th - Speaking at my Nephews Wedding
- 7th - Oasis Church
- 14th - Tyndale Baptist Church
- 14th - Union Chapel
- 21st - Emmaus Church
- 28th - Unity Chapel

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