

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Winter 2020

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL



*'Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
his love endures for ever.'*
Psalm 107:1

Family

What a year it has been! After moving home and then immediately flying out to New Zealand to visit my daughter and grandsons, we returned to the UK and to lockdown!

Well, I did actually manage a couple of weeks of ship visiting before I had to stay away from the port because of Covid-19 restrictions. This did provide Dawn and me with an opportunity to pack away boxes, which were still in need of sorting out after our move. With a much larger garden we also had the time during lockdown to plant flowers, pull up weeds, paint fences and generally get to know our new home. Portishead provides us with lovely walks around the Marina and Lake Grounds to mention a couple of places.

Natasha is in walking distance from our home now, which is lovely! I get to see my granddaughter Elvie more frequently and the new garden is perfect for her to run around in. She generally leaves our house in a scene of devastation, but who can rebuke a little girl with such a smile! **Jonathan** is back for Christmas having been away for long periods in the Royal Navy.

Danielle gave us a new grandson in July of this year and named him Moses. He is absolutely gorgeous! So, we now have a Noah and a Moses and who knows if she intends to have all of the prophets mentioned in the Bible before she's finished? **Sam** works hard to provide for his family. The outdoor life in NZ continues to be a blessing for them all.

Reuben was recently made redundant from his work in a café which was hit hard because of Covid restrictions. It was a disappointment to us all because he had worked there for quite a while and they were very supportive of his disabilities. We are however, trusting in what the Lord may have in store for Reuben in the future.

Dawn loves Portishead and her new home!



The photo above is me with Elvie, my granddaughter, which was taken on my birthday last month. The photo below is Moses, my latest grandson.





Ministry to the Seafarers

I'm thankful that during this 2nd lockdown I was able to continue with my ship visiting. The powers that be realised that Merchant Seafarers are in fact, Key Workers for the UK and those who support them need to continue with that help. Of course, I need to be extremely careful and vigilant as I go from ship to ship, but the risks are greatly reduced when common sense is applied!

It's been encouraging to see how I've been able to help these men and women during this difficult year. Many ships are still not allowing shore-leave for their crew which means that the people I'm meeting are under tremendous stress. They have become like prisoners who are paid. There is a sharp increase in seafarers being abandoned at sea by the owners of their ships. Suicide rates are up and mental health concerns amongst seafarers are sharply increasing. There is little or no downtime available now that shore-leave is not allowed. Even with this in mind, many say that they would rather extend their contracts on ship due to the fact that there may be no work available to them when they decide to return back to sea. The seafarer is definitely stuck between a rock and a hard place at this time.

However, the Good News of the Gospel shines brightly during these darkest times. **Job 11:18** tells us; 'You will be secure because there is hope!' Alongside welfare provisions being provided, I am handing out lots of gospel booklets and encouraging these seafarers to fix their eyes on Jesus. I remind them that God is mightier than any Pandemic and he is able to bring us through this! It's lovely to see faces light up in appreciation of this truth.

Radio Bristol's Thought for Today continues as well as Zoom meetings, YouTube messages and physically preaching at churches. The Lord has given me plenty to do, and I am grateful for this!

*'Why are you downcast, O my soul?
Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I
will yet praise him,
My Saviour and my God.'*

Psalm 42:5



Diary Dates:

December 2020

4th – Radio Bristol

9th – Seafarer Centre Committee

January 2021

5th – Freshbrook, Swindon

13th – Radio Bristol

13th – Begbrook, Frenchay

19th – CLG

February

14th – Emmaus, Severn Beach

21st – Chelsea Christian Centre

21st – St Aldhelms Church

March

2nd – Port Welfare Committee

15th – Rodways Rubies WI

April

4th – Southfield Church

6th – Falfield WI

Prayer Points:

- Praise God that I have been able to continue with ship visiting.
- Praise God that Moses arrived safely into our lives.
- Praise God for our lovely new home.
- Please prayer for good health and protection for my family.
- Pray for Reuben's future support.
- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to work through the work with Merchant Seafarers
- Pray for encouragement

A number of preaching engagements are on hold due to current restrictions!

If you are looking for some short messages for you to use personally or maybe for your church, then you might like to put 'Counties Connect Steve Loader' into the YouTube search to gain access to a number of talks.

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