

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Summer 2024

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL



'Let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord.

Jeremiah 9:24



Family

Natasha, Jonathan, Elvie and Isla continue to do well. Elvie and Isla are an absolute joy to see each week and keep the whole family busy with playing games.

Danielle, Sam, Noah and Moses have had a new addition to the family. Jude was born in February this year and the whole family, including his two brothers, love him to bits. We must make do with seeing him on video chat until the Lord opens up an opportunity to travel to New Zealand to see everyone again.

Reuben didn't continue with Level 3 Art last year, but is now hoping to start a Performing Arts course this summer. He is a natural at acting and is looking forward to making new friends at Weston College.

Dawn loves having all the family over for meals and games. She continues to volunteer at the Children's Hospice Charity Shop and being a part of the team there. Obviously, she misses Danielle and the family in New Zealand.

Dawn is also a part of the early service welcoming team at Woodlands Central and takes great delight in greeting people with a cheerful smile each Sunday morning.

Me, I continually thank the Lord for moving us to Portishead. As well as being near Natasha and her family, we are in more peaceful surroundings. Our garden is my mini garden of Eden and provides a calming environment away from the busyness of ministry.





Ministry to the Seafarers

So, it's been about one year and three months since I went from being a chaplain to the Sailors Society and now the chaplain for QVSR. Other than the title, everything else is exactly the same with regards my ship visiting in the port.

It's been an encouraging year serving the merchant seafarers, with lots of conversations and opportunities to support those who live at sea. One of my prayers over the last few years was that the Lord would increase the number of conversations that I have, which are centred on Jesus Christ; praise God, this has been happening!

As a port chaplain, I am also involved in more challenging issues. A seafarer sadly took his own life by hanging himself. Whilst the police were on the ship investigating this, I was supporting the captain and the crew. It was a reminder to me, and others, that a life spent at sea away from loved ones can be very stressful and the need for pastoral, spiritual and practical support is essential.

I met a very sad looking seafarer on watch, who told me he had just heard his 10-year-old niece had just died of a heart attack. He was angry and sad and spent the next hour and a half sharing his frustration at not being there for his family. I brought his niece and her family to the Lord in prayer as we both stood at the top of the ship's ramp. He told me later that it really helped him through a dark time and that his family are also very grateful.

Nonpayment of wages have also been something I have been involved with. A worker is worthy of his/her wages!

“Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants of the mighty waters....They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.

Psalm 107:23-30

Prayer Points:

- Praise God: For the safe arrival of baby Jude!
- Praise God that the Lord continues to bless my ministry with the merchant seafarers.
- Praise God that the Lord is providing all that my family needs.
- Pray for all of my family.
- Pray for my parents. Parkinson's has greatly reduced my dad's mobility. Also, mum continues to struggle with her own health issues.
- Pray for my family that they may all hear the Lord's voice and respond to it.
- Please pray that I will have the sense to pick up and to put down all that the Lord wants of me.

Diary Dates:

July 2024

- 7th Sladebrook Church, Bath
- 7th Withydich Chapel, Bath
- 7th Florence St Mission, Swindon
- 21st Southfield Church, Nailsea
- 28th Wickwar Congregational Church, South Glos.,

August

- 4th Backwell Baptist, Backwell, Bristol
- 11th Emmaus Church, Severn Beach
- 18th Cromhall Church, South Glos.,
- 25th Union Chapel, Bath

September

- 1st Trinity Tabernacle, Bristol
- 8th Aenon Baptist Church - (am & pm) Morriston
- 15th Speedwell Gospel Hall, Bristol
- 22nd St Mary's, Portbury, Bristol
- 29th Ashton Vale Church, Bristol

October

- 6th The River of Life, Bristol
- 13th Mill Lane, Bristol
- 16th Friends of Weston Museum, WSM
- 17th Meare Chapel ladies club, Somerset
- 20th Redcliffe Bay Methodist, Portishead



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