

Prayer Letter from Steve & Dawn Loader



Summer 2023

Prayer Focus and News from BRISTOL

*'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.'*

Psalm 91

Family

Natasha, Jonathan, Elvie and Isla are doing well. Work and home life is quite tiring particularly for Natasha as she juggles work and raising a young family. Jonathan is currently at Portsmouth during the week and home on the weekends.

Danielle, Sam, Noah and Moses are now all back in New Zealand and are renting a very nice home in Wellington. Danielle travelled back to NZ on her own with the two boys but still managed to arrive fairly unscathed!

Reuben finished Level 2 with his Art and was encouraged by the college to apply to do Level 3 as his work was so good. He is nervous about attempting the next level and would value your prayers.

Dawn enjoyed having Danielle and the family over from New Zealand for 7 months but felt quite exhausted by the time they went. It required a lot of work on her part to feed and look after two families. Dawn and I slept in our caravan on the driveway for many weeks, so Danielle and the family could use our bedroom. In the winter our pillows froze to the inside of the caravan, it was that cold!

Me: In the week that Danielle was leaving to go back to NZ, I was on a Zoom meeting with the Sailor's Society, and they announced that all their worldwide port related chaplaincy would now come to an end. Helping seafarers would now only be done by going online. So, myself and many other chaplains would lose our jobs and no longer be able to work in our ports. For a number of reasons, you cannot operate in many ports without being under the umbrella of a recognised mission. But.. God hadn't finished with this ministry and where one door shut another opened!



Danielle, Noah and Moses heading back to New Zealand in February



Steve, Dawn and Elvie celebrating Isla's 1st birthday



"For nothing is impossible with God."

Luke 1:37

Ministry to the Seafarers

In July 2022, a Christian charity called QVSR, took over the running of five seafarer centres, including Portbury Seafarer Centre where I am based. QVSR, stands for 'Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest.' They provide accommodation in London for retired seafarers and others who need a place to stay.

As did Sailor's Society before; QVSR provide the open door in the port in order for me to share the love of God with the seafarer's I meet. Counties, equally continue to give support so that I can fulfil my calling.

I also want to voice my gratitude to the Counties family who responded with love and support when I received notice of my redundancy. They immediately turned to the Lord in prayer and stood with me as we prayed for what God might do with this change of events. It didn't take long before I was able to share with them how God had wonderfully answered our prayers. In all of this, I never missed a day at the port and was encouraged by hearing how many in the port were pleased that I wasn't going anywhere!

And to confirm that the Lord is very much in this ministry, I have had a number of wonderful conversations with seafarers recently about the Good News of the Gospel. An Egyptian captain was very excited to talk with me about my faith. I gave him an Arabic bible and a 'Why Jesus' booklet.



'Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all of your ways acknowledge him, and he will make you paths straight.'

Proverbs 3:5-6

Diary Dates:

Prayer Points:

- Praise God: Danielle, Sam, Noah and Moses arrived safely back in NZ.
- Praise God that the Lord has kept me in my ministry with the Merchant Seafarers.
- Praise God that He is meeting all of our needs.
- Pray for all of my family.
- Pray for fresh anointing on all that He has asked me to do with the ministry to the seafarers and my preaching.
- Pray for my family, that they may all hear the Lord's voice and respond to it.
- Please pray that we may follow in the way the Lord wishes to lead us this year.

July 2023

- 2nd Kingsholm Church, Bristol
- 9th Frenchay Parish Church, Bristol
- 9th Speedwell Chapel, Bristol
- 16th URC, Hanham, Bristol
- 23rd Union Chapel, Combe Down
- 27th Florence Street Mission, Swindon
- 30th Sladebrook Evang. Church, Bath

August

- 6th Southfield Church, Bristol
- 13th Cromhall Chapel, South Glos.
- 14th Friarn Chapel, Bridgewater
- 20th Bethany Chapel, Lyme Regis
- 27th Ashton Vale Church, Bristol
- 27th Speedwell Chapel, Bristol

September

- 19th Marina WI
- 24th Wrington Chapel, Bristol
- 25th Union Chapel, Combe Down
- 26th Marina WI
- 27th Ebenezer Church, Bristol

October

- 8th Bristol Road Baptist, Weston-super-Mare
- 15th Sladebrook Evang. Church, Bath
- 19th Milton Methodist, Worle
- 19th SevernNet Business Breakfast, Seafarer Centre
- 22nd Emmaus Church, Severn Beach

Contact details:

Steve & Dawn Loader
13 Down Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 6EB
01275 848 856 / 07920 426 321 / steve@stephenloader.co.uk

