

Pastor's report

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord Because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry (1 Timothy 1:2)

Last year has gone so quickly – the personal challenges for Esther and I were some of the most difficult we have faced in life and we can honestly say that our God is faithful and the Lord has kept us. It is such a privilege for us to serve Him and you at Oasis Christian Centre. I do, as the scripture above says, thank Jesus because He has counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.

I reminded us in the report last year of two of our values at OCC: We value people who do not know Jesus Christ and offer them the opportunity to receive Him and enter into Christian fellowship; we value our community and seek to reach out to them with the love of Jesus Christ. We have had some wonderful opportunities to reach our community with the Love of Jesus in both practical and spiritual ways, pages could be penned about such opportunities we have had in the last 12 months. There will be many more this year.

Many people were involved in the Christmas food parcels and toys project. Over 76 families and 125 children received toys this year. There was a fantastic response from OCC and others in partnership with us. So many lives were touched with this act of kindness and generosity.

The team of volunteers who cook and serve the drop-in every week have faithfully and consistently served our community. Again many lives have been touched by these acts of kindness. There is opportunity for you to join this team, to serve, cook, pray and talk with the people that come in.

Oliver Medhurst desperately needed a new wheel chair. We were able to raise over £5,500 for this. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Every Sunday morning a number of people serve OCC by giving their time and energy to setup, prepare breakfast, car parking, serve refreshments, tidy up, teach the children, look after the babies, prepare communion and so many other unseen tasks. On behalf of the OCC leadership a big thank you for all you have done.

Each week we give out storehouse bags of food; many lives are touched by this vital ministry. Thank you so much for the way you serve Jesus, OCC, and our community.

You are a generous people, who show loving acts of kindness. We are a people who really are Jesus' hands and feet to this world.

I do believe this year will bring a harvest of souls. There is a well know saying that people reap what they sow. I want to briefly focus on two scriptures:

2 Corinthians 9:6: remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Galatians 6:9: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Pastor's report

Do we really want to see and believe for a harvest of souls? When we studied the Life of Christ – The greatest person on earth. We talked about experiencing a **bumper crop**. I believe this is God's plan for us at OCC. If we believe what 2 Corinthians 9:6 says is that we reap what we sow. Sowing is essential for reaping. This year I am entreating you to once again sow generously into the ministry at OCC with your time, energy, prayers and finances so that we will reap generously.

We must not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. This is not a time to give up, to let the year pass by. This is a year to encounter Jesus and to see Him move powerfully in our own lives and through us to others who desperately need Him and are moving closer to a lost eternity. Let's ask Jesus together to give us a greater love for the lost.

We cannot afford to be apathetic, which seems to be the spirit over our town. We need His Spirit to bring life. **John 6:63: The Spirit gives life.** We cannot allow the spirit of apathy in our midst. We need the Holy Spirit to bring life and hope. We hold the answer to the needs of our town.

It is exciting that we are planning to open a second charity shop in Woodrow. We need help to get the building ready and volunteers to run the shop. If you can help please let me know. This will take a fair amount of effort to get the shop up and running and any help will be gratefully received. This is a larger shop than our one at Winyates and if you can donate any small good quality unwanted items of furniture that would be great.

Joshua will also be starting as a part-time paid youth worker on April the 1st. We hope to be able to get into some local schools and offer some Christian activities and events there as well as provide the best care we can for our own youth and to mentor them. Please pray for him and for our youth work. This could be a pivotal year for our children's and youth work.

I would like to personally thank you for all your time, finances and input in helping our community. In the next year I pray that we would all work closely together to continue to bless our community and share the love of Jesus practically and spiritually.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to honour the leadership team who are very faithful, hard working and make many sacrifices as they serve us. Oasis Christian Centre is truly blessed to have you, as am I. May God bless you abundantly!

I would also like to add my personal thanks for your love, care, encouragement and the support you show my family. I deeply appreciate it, and love you for it. Finally, I always thank my wife Esther and my grown up children and do so unreservedly again. They are a real source of blessing, support and encouragement to me and to Oasis Christian Centre. They each make many personal sacrifices for the ministry, for me, this local body and for their master and Saviour Jesus.

Every Blessing

Pastor Robin