

Oasis – the last 12 months

I believe that this has been a year for putting down new roots as well as further establishing some existing ones for Oasis Christian Centre.

One of our greatest callings as a church is to be a force for good within the local community. In this regard I believe that Oasis Christian Centre has been a strong voice for the Lord in Redditch with our work with the community increasing though:

- The charity shops in Winyates and Woodrow;
- our food distribution and Thursday drop in services;
- the Christmas gifts and food that the church distributes each year.

Oasis has also continued to touch the wider world too with our continued support of Hope and Kindness in Kenya, the children and youth work in Romania and of Elim International Missions. Although there is always room for further growth in these areas I believe that Oasis is a church which looks towards the needs of others primarily rather than towards itself. A **bless others club** rather than a **bless me club** if you will. That I feel is so important and must be the foundation of the work that we do in the coming year too.

Services and mid-week meetings have changed in their nature too which has been good. Faith I have been told is spelled r-i-s-k and the church has taken some risks this year in order to extend its effectiveness in serving the Lord. The housegroups have made way for a season to Wednesday night Bible studies in various forms which have been a great blessing to those who've attended. These have helped to bring the church together as well as foster a renewed hunger for the Word of God in many hearts.

Sunday mornings have also seen changes. Time to fellowship before services and opportunities to eat together afterwards has given the church greater time to spend quality time together in busy and hectic times. The lay out on a Sunday morning has changed too and to my mind anyway has worked very well. We have also probably seen a greater number of speakers this year than we've seen for a good while and the church is blessed to have a growing number of people who can bring what God has placed upon their hearts in a clear and effective way.

The size of the church leadership has grown too along with the number of people taking on roles of responsibility. The New Testament vision of the church as a body of believers each with a part to play within the body is ever more taking shape. An opportunity for ministry within services has been created too.

Over the last year I believe that Oasis has transformed in many areas to better meet the needs of the people within and outside of its walls. This is a start but an important one and I'm sure that the next twelve months will see even more. Someone once stated that the only steady thing in this world is change. We must therefore embrace it. Oasis I believe has done that in many areas and this is the beginning of more things to come.

Meddon Turner