

PASTOR'S REPORT

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.

Well, this is now our 14th year back at Redditch. The time has gone by so quickly. All of those young children we worked with are now grown up and I am nearing my 50th. I know I look older! Esther and I are now the longest serving Pastors of this church. It has been a privilege and extremely challenging. There have been many changes and there are many changes to come. But one thing I do not believe has changed is God's desire to do something amazing in this Town: something that will impact our nation.

I want to re-iterate what I mentioned last year. Do we really want 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**. In 2 Corinthians 9:6 we read: **remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously**. If we believe what this says is that we reap what we sow. Sowing is essential for reaping. This year I am again asking you to sow generously into the ministry at OCC with your time, energy, prayers and finances so that we will reap generously. I don't believe we can reap a generous harvest unless we do.

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, to let 2014 merge into 2015. 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.

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.

How can Oasis transition from a good to great this next twelve months? How can OCC make this leap? It is possible to turn **good** to **great**. In order to do so we certainly need a disciplined culture: Disciplined people, disciplined thoughts, and disciplined actions. There has to be a **corporate** ambition (desire) of building something larger and more lasting than we have in the good. It has to be more than what an individual wants, our own wants and desires (although these are important to OCC). Is this too big a change for OCC, for you or for me as the church minister to bring about? I would like to say **Yes of course we can**, but I know it will take the commitment, sacrifice, support of more than a few good people, This will stretch the leadership and it will stretch you too. It will take the corporate us, together to transition and with this willingness and commitment, with God's help then I can say **Yes we can**.

I would like to personally thank you for all your time, finances and input in helping our community.

This year I also want us to focus on serving and supporting people in OCC. Taking time to get to know people, making new friends perhaps, fellowshiping together, share the love of Jesus practically and spiritually.

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We have temporarily suspended house groups to concentrate on Bible study and prayer corporately. We are going to explore and study the Word of God together in these times and I am optimistic that you will join us. I hope that by the end of this year we will read the Word more, know the Word more and can teach others the Word of God as we have never done before, and will have a deeper love for Jesus than ever before. It is not enough just to know the Word of God we have to apply it to our lives. In the Christian Life style series we have just finished, there are 10 areas of life we can become more like Christ in. I would implore you to study these for yourself and make it a priority this year.

Please, do not let this year just pass by. Raise the bar for yourself. Do something you have never done before for God, stretch yourself, step out of your comfort zone. Now is the time! I'm pretty sure that 2014/15 will be a most challenging time for all of us. We will need faith and trust in Him.

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