

October 2015

## Inside Oasis

**It's a rather strange feeling to write a final article as the Senior Pastor of Oasis.** After 24 years 'at the helm', Chris & I will be standing down from the Pastorate of our wonderful church.

Back in 1991, Chris & I were part of eight adults who started a work called '*Luxembourg International Christian Centre*'. A big title for a very small church. Having already led two churches in the UK, this one was nice and comfortable, small and easy to manage ... so we thought. God had other ideas and as we expanded, the big title didn't seem that big.

Isolation was a danger and it remains so for any Christian group that stands on its own. There is security in being accountable to another, in case you are heading away from God's path. This applies to churches and also individual believers. We all need accountability, which is why the Lord Jesus created 'Church'. That happened for the church when we joined our family, the '*Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee*' in 1993. A switch of names and formal registration as an ASBL '*Church of God Luxembourg*' was a new step.

In the intervening years, that relationship has opened us up to a worldwide family through which we have met many wonderful men and women of God. One main example of this was our sister church in Belgium loaning, then 'giving' us Pastor Adama to serve in our francophone congregation *El Shaddai*. Yes, the Church of God Luxembourg has been blessed by the Lord since 1993 as we moved to language-based congregations, *El Shaddai*, as mentioned above, and of course our own anglophone congregation, *Oasis*. Yet that isn't the end, as we now prepare to celebrate with our now well-established Spanish-speaking congregation, *El Faro*.

Some years ago, a prophecy was given to us that each congregation would not grow 'to thousands', but that our growth would come by planting congregations based on language - not a bad start so far, but it is only the start. With His help this will continue.

Our growing relationship with our Seminary, ETS in Germany, has been another example of working with a family, sending out members to it to be trained and then reaping a reward by taking from ETS Pietro & Giovanna who will take over the roles of Chris Chris's & myself at the service on 18th October.

Having now retired from secular work, an expectation is to sit back and relax, but you know God doesn't work that way. There is no Biblical example of retirement ... such a shame :-) So, what now?

Remaining as the National Overseer, my next role is to better build the Church of God Luxembourg to enable it to work as congregations with specific visions, but a common purpose and a drive to see the lost saved. Working with the other Overseers in our Region, our intention is to provide vision and resources where they are needed, to see the Great Commission fulfilled.

I hope you will all be at the service on the 18th October. When a church succeeds in passing the pastorate from its first main incumbent to the next generation, then it means - for me at least - that the church is here to stay. So many works of God end when the man or woman with the initial vision departs; this isn't going to be the case. Oasis and the Church of God in general is here to stay ... and grow. We commend Pietro & Giovanna to you. Remember, this is their first Pastorate and it is a daunting and sometimes scary prospect. Those who have never held a Pastorate can't realise the commitment required and the pressures that you experience in that office. Keep the prayer going for them and for their children ... if you want to know the effect on Pastors' children ask our daughters :-)

Thanks to so many of you who have stood with Chris & I over the past 24 years, your love, prayers and concern have been a blessing that we can't adequately express. That period in our ministries is over, but pray for the next phase to come. Remember, there is no retirement in the Kingdom.

Chris and Graham Kettle



# Get involved?

## LUXEMBOURG CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES



**For a number of years now**, Oasis has been taking part in Operation Christmas Child, in which people pack shoeboxes for children who may not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas. We do this under the umbrella of the German organisation **Geschenke der Hoffnung e.V (Weihnachten im Schuhkarton)**. Our boxes are sent to countries in Eastern Europe. Over the years, the project has grown, mainly as a result of individuals inspiring colleagues, friends and neighbours to get involved.

**250 shoe boxes...** Last year, Oasis (YOU!) collected a record number of 250 boxes. This became part of the **1172 shoe boxes....** collected from various local churches, groups and individuals and taken to Trier. We like to think of each box as representing a child, which means **1172 children** were blessed last year by this project.

### 1500 shoe boxes (children)

This is our overall target for this year. Can you help us reach this total? Please join us in bringing 'joy in a box' to a child this Christmas. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

If you would like to help, you will find to the right, a summary of what you need to do. For more information, visit the shop being run in the foyer every Sunday in October or see the Oasis website: <http://www.oasis.lu/welcome/shoebox-2015/>  
For more pictures from 2014, please see: <http://lux-shoebox.weebly.com/>

All shoeboxes should be handed in by **1<sup>st</sup> November**.



### How to pack a box...

You will firstly need a medium sized shoe box, which needs to be wrapped in gift paper (lid and box separately). We also have some flat-packed boxes (while stocks last). We like to send boxes containing all of the following items. Choose whether you're packing for a girl or boy and in what age-range (2-4 years, 5-9 years or 10-14 years). Please pack all of the following:

- Small items of winter clothing
- A small new cuddly toy
- Another age-appropriate toy
- Hygiene items – toothbrushes, toothpaste, wrapped soap
- Sweets and chocolate – please note the restrictions
- School items for 5-9 and 10-14 age groups
- A personal card or letter and 6 Euros.

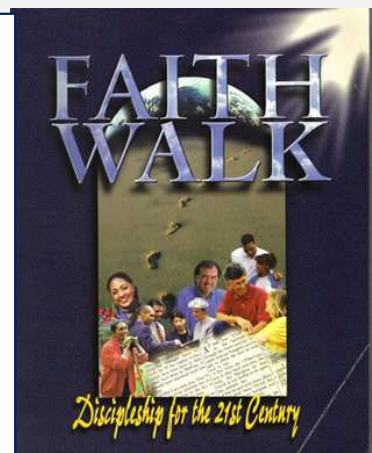
### Sunday Bible Study

A Bible Study group meets every Sunday morning. Given the diversity in the denominational background of members and regulars, this is a unique opportunity to establish a solid and sound understanding of key Bible truths.

The Bible Study is open to ALL:- New Christians and Old-timers alike and not a rehash of what is covered in the Home Groups.

The study is currently following *Faith Walk* – a book published by the Church of God covering foundational Biblical truths.

Meeting times are Sundays from 9.30 - 10.15 am  
in Esperanza House (part of the church building in Bonnevoie)





## Events coming up... Oasis Kids' Corner

<b>Every Saturday at 6 pm</b> <b>Christian Hope Center</b> 72, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	<b>Iglesia de Dios Luxemburgo</b> Praise, prayer & preaching (in Spanish), plus patisserie Please spread the word about this and invite your Spanish friends. Contact: Pastor Pietro at <a href="mailto:pietro@coglux.com">pietro@coglux.com</a> for more information.
<b>17- 18 October 2015</b> <b>Christian Hope Center</b> 72, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	<b>24th Anniversary Weekend – two joint services with El Faro</b> Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> at 6pm – Farewell Service to Pastors Chris & Graham Kettle, followed by coffee and cake. Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> at 10.30am – Handover Service to Pastors Pietro & Giovanna Colaci, followed by a Meet & Eat (shared meal).
<b>Friday, 23 October 2015 at 6.30 until 9pm</b> <b>Esperanza House</b> 70, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	<b>Oasis Youth Night</b> Welcome to anyone aged 12+, who would like to meet other young Christians. We spend time in worship, prayer and discussion at these meetings every two weeks, plus monthly social activities are arranged. Contact Francesco & Tania at <a href="mailto:youth.fellowship.oasis@gmail.com">youth.fellowship.oasis@gmail.com</a>
<b>Saturday, 24 October 2015 at 10am</b>  Email for details of the exact venue	<b>Inter-Church Prayer Meeting for Luxembourg</b> Prayer meeting, followed by optional street evangelism. Email address: <a href="mailto:murielle_lemvoka-raskin@hotmail.com">murielle_lemvoka-raskin@hotmail.com</a>
<b>25 October 2015 at 10.30am</b> <b>Halle Victor Hugo,</b> 60 avenue Victor Hugo, Luxembourg (Limpertsberg).	<b>Inter-Church Service</b> This is an excellent opportunity for Christians to come and worship God together. There will be a children's programme for 5 -12 year olds. Please bring a picnic lunch (cold food only) and share fellowship afterwards.
<b>Friday 30 October 2015, 5pm until 7pm</b> <b>Christian Hope Center</b> 72, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	<b>Bright &amp; Light Party</b> This is our alternative to a Halloween Party for children aged 4 – 8 years old. This year we are celebrating light. Cost 5€ per child. Please pre-register your child, so we can plan properly. Contact Alison on <a href="mailto:kids@oasis.lu">kids@oasis.lu</a>



**Saturday 17 October at 6pm (Hope Center)**  
 Farewell service to Pastors Graham and Chris Kettle  
 Followed by coffee and cake

**Sunday 18th October at 10.30am (Hope Center)**  
 Handover service to Pastors Pietro & Giovanna Colaci  
 Prayer of installation for Assistant Pastor Emmanuel Kabamba  
 Followed by "Meet and Eat" (shared meal)

Weekend Speaker: Chris Swift  
 (W. European Regional Superintendent.)

On this occasion we will also celebrate the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Anniversary of Oasis and the 3rd Anniversary of El Faro





## Oasis Kids

**Come and join our  
CELEBRATION OF  
LIGHT**

ages 4-8

On **Friday 30 October 2015**  
 At **72 rue Dernier Sol, Bonnevoie**  
 From **5pm until 7pm**  
 RSVP [kids@oasis.lu](mailto:kids@oasis.lu)

5 €




[www.lightparty.org.uk](http://www.lightparty.org.uk)



Once again, Oasis Kids is organising a "Bright & Light Party" at the end of October to provide children with an alternative to a Halloween party. Halloween has become increasingly popular in Europe and our children often want to take part, as most schools tend to make a big thing of it. They may also have questions about it. It is probably best to deal directly with the questions your children and young people have and to be positive rather than negative. The Scripture Union website has a great article about talking to children about Halloween: <http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/1198.id> Meantime, some ideas..

- Pray together about Halloween and for those who get involved that they might find something of the light of Jesus. Remind your children to put on their armour of God (Our memory verse this month is Ephesians 6:13 -16).
- Make October 31 a really good family night – rent a good DVD, have a special meal and celebrate Jesus together. Use some short Bible readings and Christian songs. Perhaps you could share this with another family.

# Regular Events, Prayer Items & Final Word

SAVE THE DATE!  
Church Meeting  
Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
After the service

PLEASE DON'T FORGET:  
Deadline for shoe boxes 2015  
1<sup>st</sup> November  
THANK YOU!

## Worship Service

**Sunday: 10.30 am Worship Service**  
72 rue Dernier Sol, Bonnevoie,  
With a time for fellowship over tea &  
coffee, before and after the service

## Oasis Kids

Sundays during the service  
•Morning Stars (under 3s)  
•Kindergarten (3-5s)  
•Sparklers (6-8s)  
•N:Counter (9-11s)  
•S.M.A.S.H. (12-16+)  
For information, please  
email: [kids@oasis.lu](mailto:kids@oasis.lu)

## Worship Practice

**Tuesday: 7pm Worship practice**  
72, rue Dernier Sol  
L-2543 Luxembourg

## Ladies' Group

**Thursday: 9.30 -11.30 am**  
72, rue Dernier Sol  
L-2543 Luxembourg

## Youth Fellowship

**Friday: 6.30 - 9 pm**  
**Esperanza House**  
Under 18s - twice per month, plus  
one social.  
See Events' Diary or contact  
[pietro@coglux.com](mailto:pietro@coglux.com) for more  
details of dates and events.

## Newsletter

Please send items for the *Events' Diary*,  
Prayer Needs, news/articles - **or**  
**requests to receive this newsletter**  
**by email** – for the next monthly  
newsletter by **Thursday, 22 October**  
**2015 to [newsletter@oasis.lu](mailto:newsletter@oasis.lu)**

## Tithing and Offerings

Bank account: Church of God  
Luxembourg (BGL BNP Paribas)  
IBAN: LU45 0030 6819 5781 0000  
BIC: BGLLULL



Listen again....  
to recent sermons at:  
[www.oasis.lu/welcome/messages/](http://www.oasis.lu/welcome/messages/)

## Bible study

**Sundays from 9.30 am**  
Esperanza House – front door

## Prayer Meeting

**Sundays from 9.45 am**  
**Intercessory Prayer** for church needs,  
prayer requests & listening to God (2nd  
floor of Hope Centre)

## Home Groups

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7.30 pm**  
In Kayl – “Care”  
Contact: Fernand Gilles

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 7.30 pm**  
In Itzig – “Connect”.  
Contact: John and Jessica Mills

**Every Thursday at 7.30 pm**  
In Strassen – “Excel & PowerPoint”  
Contacts: Lena Martensson  
and Emmanuel Kabamba

**For information about all of the  
home groups, please contact  
[info@oasis.lu](mailto:info@oasis.lu)**

## Leadership

Senior Pastors: **Rev Dr Graham & Chris  
Kettle**, 691 863 848,  
Email: [church@coglux.com](mailto:church@coglux.com)  
Pastors: **Pietro & Giovanna Colaci**,  
Tel: 2656 8663 or 691 694 504  
Emails: [pietro@coglux.com](mailto:pietro@coglux.com),  
[giovanna@coglux.com](mailto:giovanna@coglux.com)

Pastoral Board: **Torugbene Adekolu,**  
**Mauricio Fulco, Justin Griffiths,**  
**Emmanuel Kabamba, Lena**  
**Martensson**

Email: [info@oasis.lu](mailto:info@oasis.lu)

## Please pray for ...

- **Sunday & Torugbene Adekolu** –  
for God's comfort and peace in  
their current situation.
- **Esperanza House**  
(Teen Challenge) Please pray for  
more volunteers to be involved in  
this vital outreach to the homeless  
and substance-addicted people on  
our doorstep.
- **Horizon of Hope** (H o H, Romania)  
that the building would finally open
- **Christians & missionaries in the  
Middle East** – for God's protection,  
guidance and courage to stand firm  
as they face persecution
- **For people fleeing war and  
violent situations**, especially at  
the moment from Syria and Iraq.

## Opportunities to serve

- **Singers, instrumentalists** in the  
worship team. Practice sessions on  
Tuesdays at 7 pm.
- **Newsletter editors** – Interested?  
Write to [newsletter@oasis.lu](mailto:newsletter@oasis.lu) to let  
us know your interest.
- **Volunteers in the Oasis Kids'  
ministry**. If you have a heart for  
kids, please write to [kids@oasis.lu](mailto:kids@oasis.lu)  
to find out how you can support  
them.
- **Volunteers for Esperanza House**
- **Volunteers to help with coffee &  
tea before & after Church**. Please  
contact Brian or Grace at:  
[info@oasis.lu](mailto:info@oasis.lu)