



September 2015

Inside Oasis

A new season

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

A golden oldie sung by "The Byrds" back in 1965. Music-lovers among you will be familiar with the song. Those, who perhaps share the same age as Graham and I, will even remember it in its original version. Did you know that the lyrics of the song were borrowed from the Scripture?

Let's pause for a moment and reflect on life in general. It's true, isn't it? There's a season for everything and there is a time for everything in our lives. God has our lives mapped out. We might not always comprehend His ways, yet He assures us that He is in control of our lives and only allows what we, by His grace, can bear. Often, only when looking back in life, we grasp understanding of what has happened in our lives and why.

Graham and I are about to start a new season. Our next step will be to enter retirement; a whole new chapter in our life. We have passed the stages when creating a family or raising kids was on the agenda. We have seen our girls getting married, became grandparents and look forward to celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary soon. A new season, which we will have to grow in yet, started last Friday, 4th September: 'retirement' season! For many years, working life has somehow given us a routine in our everyday life. Now, after a few decades as an employee, starting this new season may be the most challenging one of all. For the first time, our daily routines will be shared as we will be home together all day. Bonnie, our Cocker Spaniel, seems to be the happiest of us, as she is looking forward to have Graham wholly for herself all day, which is her idea of dog heaven.

We do not plan to relocate. So Luxembourg will remain our home. Graham's is officially passing on the baton to the next generation on 17 October 2015. He will resign from his role as senior pastor of Oasis Church of God, however, retain the post as the Overseer of the Church of God in Luxembourg.

Retirement also means new opportunities. For the first time, we will be able to attend the European Conference. One that we've always wanted to be part of, however, due to work commitments, have found it challenging to sign up for it. This year's one will take place in Paris in October. I hear Paris is lovely in the autumn!

Another enjoyment of being retired is also to be flexible when travelling and to discover countries we've wanted to visit for some time already. Our caravan is ready to hit the roads and there're plans in the making of visiting friends, such as Karen & Andy Farmer in France for instance. We feel blessed being able to travel by caravan as this means that Bonnie can come along, too.

BUT, and this is a big but! No matter how many future plans we make or how-well they're developed, they all rest in God's hands. A different season on the horizon might arise, one that we've not thought about.

Living a life that is dedicated to Christ and following God's calling is, as mentioned during my sermon in church two weeks ago, rather a lifestyle. *Christianity is not a religion it's a way of life and our priority is to do God's will.* So, our next season in life is a bit daunting for us. Perhaps a bit like opening a door and not knowing what is on the other side.

Chris & Graham

Update & Space to share

New at Oasis & What we support

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

A Bible Study group has started just before the summer break. 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.

Meeting times are

Sundays from 9.30 - 10.15 am

in the n-Counter room on the 1st floor of the church building in Bonnevoie.



Esperanza House is Teen Challenge's arm in Luxembourg, whose mission is to support people in our society, who've experienced a stroke of fate in life, are less privileged or even suffer drug dependency. Esperanza House is open every Tuesday and Thursday evening and offers a warm meal, shares the good news and gives those disadvantaged groups the opportunity to share their stories. Oasis Church of God is involved in this ministry and prepares and serves a hot meal once a month. Our next turn is

1 October 2015

If you like to dedicate your time and help prepare or serve food, this is a perfect opportunity to join. On top, you'll learn more about Teen Challenge and their work in Luxembourg.

Please inform Janice & Marlon Libang at Janice_Bautista@ept.lu or Chris Kettle at diary@coglux.com.

EUROPEAN FINISH CHALLENGE CONFERENCE

The conference will bring in leaders from around Europe and the Middle East for a time of refreshing and edification.

The FINISH Challenge is a strategy that will guide World Missions over the next few years in their effort to F – find unreached peoples; I – intercede for them; N – nurture them through support ministries and education; I – invest in them; S – send into the harvest.

17-19 September 2015 – Hotel Bencúr Budapest

For more information on the conference, please contact the Oasis News team at newsletter@oasis.lu

Testimony

As many of you will know reading this, my dad died in May after a short but terminal illness.

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank all my brothers and sisters who are part of Oasis, for your prayers and messages during his illness and following his death. Although he was 77 years old, he was extremely fit for his age, had no real health issues to speak of and had never previously been in hospital, so it was a big shock for all of us. God is good though and throughout this time, I have definitely experienced His peace and His strength, as has my mum. So I thank God for His work, but I also thank all of you for playing your part by praying.

Secondly, I would like to share a little testimony. When my dad started to become ill, one verse was given to my parents which came to mean a lot to us all. The verse was Proverbs 3:5-6. I think it's amazing that this was the memory verse Oasis Kids learnt at camp last year and which has been repeated as the memory verse this summer. The version they learnt was slightly different, but in the NIV it reads:

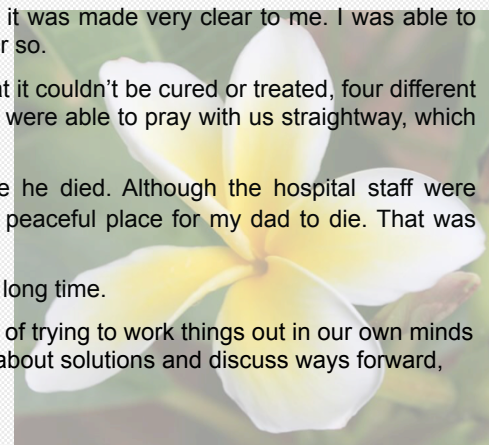
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

There were many occasions, when God made the paths straight as we trusted Him. There isn't room to go into great detail here, but some of the significant things were:

- The timing of my arrival. I agonised over when I should go, but when the time was right, it was made very clear to me. I was able to arrive while he still could communicate clearly, an ability which he had lost within a week or so.
- Moments after the doctor first talked to us about what he thought the problem was and that it couldn't be cured or treated, four different people arrived to see my dad (three of which had been expected the following day). They were able to pray with us straightway, which must have been a God-incidence.
- The bed in a hospice becoming available when it did, two days and one night before he died. Although the hospital staff were wonderful and we had been able to visit at any time, the hospice was a very quiet and peaceful place for my dad to die. That was indeed a blessing.
- Finally, the speed at which the illness progressed meant my dad didn't have to suffer for a long time.

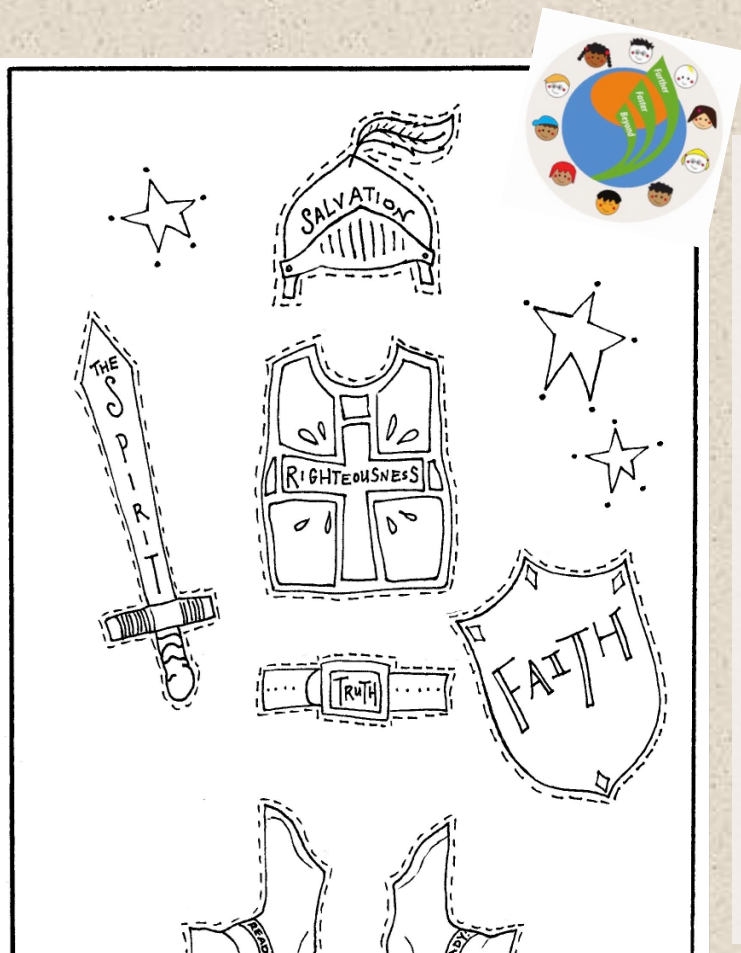
God gave us brains and he doesn't want us not to use them, but for those of us who have a habit of trying to work things out in our own minds and strength and worry about them (me!) this verse is really important. We can reflect and think about solutions and discuss ways forward, but ultimately we need to let go and trust God to work things out for good.

Alison Wilson



Events coming up... Oasis Kids Corner

Saturday, 12 September 2015	Oasis Youth Night - EXPLOSION Anyone aged 12+, who would like to meet Christian young people to worship and spend time together with is welcome. Contact Francesco & Tania at francesco_di_bari@hotmail.com to receive more information.
17 – 19 September 2015 European FINISH Challenge Conference Hotel Benczúr Budapest Hungary	European FINISH Challenge Conference Church of God World Missions is holding this conference. It aims at bringing in leaders from around Europe and the Middle East for a time of refreshing and edification. If you're interested in receiving more information or the agenda, please contact Oasis News as newsletter@oasis.lu
Friday, 25 September 2015	Oasis Youth Night Anyone aged 12+, who would like to meet Christian young people to worship and spend time together with is welcome. Contact Francesco & Tania at francesco_di_bari@hotmail.com to receive more information.
Saturday, 26 September 2015	Inter-Church Prayer Meeting for Luxembourg Prayer meeting, followed by optional street evangelism. For details of the exact venue, please email Murielle Lemvoka-Raskin at murielle_lemvoka-raskin@hotmail.com
Every Saturday at 6 pm Christian Hope Centre 72, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	Iglesia de Dios Luxemburgo Praise, prayer & preaching (in Spanish), plus patisserie Please spread the word about this and invite your Spanish friends. Contact: Pastor Pietro at pietro@coglux.com for more information.
17- 18 October 2015 Christian Hope Centre 72, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	Church Anniversary & ordination of Pietro & Giovanna Colaci. 17 Oct. cake & coffee after Spanish church service 18 Oct. meet & eat after Oasis church service The Spanish & English speaking churches will celebrate together. Speaker at both services will be Chris Swift.



Oasis kids

Back to school

Well, kids - it's here, the start of school!
 One thing many people do to get ready for school is go shopping. To get some glue, crayons or some exercise books. You probably need those things to start school.
 Well, there's something everyone needs for school that you probably haven't even thought about. You need it. In fact, we all need it!
It's the armor of God!
 Now, don't start sweating if you've never heard of the armor of God. Let's check it out together:

- **Belt of truth** - know the truth by reading the word of God, then defend the truth
- **Breastplate of righteousness** - doing the right thing
- **Have feet shod/ put shoes on** - ready to share the gospel
- **Shield of faith** - to fight off Satan's attacks
- **Helmet of salvation** - to protect our heads, but much more importantly our minds, to see the tricks of Satan better
- **Sword of the Spirit** - the Word of God; memorise scripture in order to fight the enemy.

Regular Events, Prayer Items & Final Word

Stewart Cooper, 24 September 1936 – 15 August 2015

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

If frequency of quotation is a reliable guide, Romans 8:28 is Stewart's all-time favourite Bible verse, and he used it many times to encourage, support and motivate (but never bully) those around him. And if all roads lead to Rome, then all home group Bible study passages and topics could be made to lead to Romans 8:28.

It's not easy to sum up Stewart's active and varied life, but there are a couple of things that leave a lasting impression. Above all, Stewart had the amazing ability to see the good in everyone: when the rest of us lamented the pride, grumpiness, greed, tendency to be a serial killer or whatever sin we saw in others, Stewart would remind us how much they loved their wife/children/dog/cat and that was enough to wait for the other stuff to get fixed. It was a quality that had landed Stewart in various troubles during his life, but he never lost it.

The second equally outstanding quality was Stewart's unbridled enthusiasm. The world will be a poorer place because the Cooper Complete History of the Popes never made it to publication. Whether he was building a house, writing a book, hosting an all-night prayer vigil, teaching DIY courses or having a good-old sing-song round the piano, it was all done with life, and life in all its fullness.

There's only little space left to mention Stewart's ability to get people to help him, even in the least customer-friendly of shops in Luxembourg (of which there are many), but we can explore that more the next time we drink to his memory.

Thank-you, Stewart, for your support, friendship, enthusiasm, care and help. Until we meet again around the piano (clouds and harps optional, but a couple of angels would be nice).

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

Worship Practice

Tuesday: 7.00 pm Worship practice

72, rue Dernier Sol

L-2543 Luxembourg

Ladies' Group

Thursdays: 9.30 -11.30 am

Resuming on 17 September 2015

72, rue Dernier Sol

L-2543 Luxembourg

Youth Fellowship

Friday: 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Under 18s - twice per month

See Events' Diary or contact

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, 24 September 2015 to newsletter@oasis.lu**

Tithing and Offerings

Bank account: Church of God

Luxembourg (BGL BNP Paribas)

IBAN: LU45 0030 6819 5781 0000

BIC: BGLLLULL

Bible study

Sundays from 9.45 am

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

Prayer Meetings

Sundays from 9.45 am

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

Home Groups

Every 2nd Monday at 7.30 pm

In Kayl – "Care"

Contact: Fernand Gilles

Every 2nd Wednesday at 7.30 pm

In Itzig – "Connect".

Contact: John and Jessica Mills

Thursdays 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

Leadership

Senior Pastors: **Rev Dr Graham & Chris**

Kettle, 691 863 848,

Email: church@coglux.com

Pastors: **Pietro & Giovanna Colaci**,

Tel: 2656 8663 or 691 694 504

Emails: pietro@coglux.com,

giovanna@coglux.com

Pastoral Board: **Torugbene Adekolu**,

Mauricio Fulco, **Justin Griffiths**,

Emmanuel Kabamba, **Lena**

Martensson

Email: info@oasis.lu



Listen again....to recent sermons at: www.oasis.lu/welcome/messages/

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) for financial provision and workers to complete the training centre and fund the first trainees. Now that the centre is officially opened, the work is just beginning and our support is needed now more than ever.
- **Christians & missionaries in the Middle East** – for God's protection, guidance and courage to stand firm as they face persecution

Opportunities to serve

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