

December 2015

## Inside Oasis

*"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."*

*Isaiah 60:1*

We are celebrating the Advent season, a time of waiting and expectation. Wherever we turn these days, lights are very present. The Christmas lightings come in all forms, shapes and sizes and decorate our streets, our market places and the public buildings. Christmas trees or Advent wreaths are decked with candles, a more natural way to provide for light. Their shining not only creates a cosy inner feeling as they're being lit, but also has the ability to cut through the dark and create brightness. It is contagious, warm and even reveals hidden things.

The verse in the Old Testament passage was written by the prophet Isaiah and is addressed to God's chosen people in a time, when there was much despair and hopelessness. The intention was to encourage them, to stir up hope in a desperate situation and to invite them to look forward to the coming of the Messiah, who was the ultimate light.

Jesus Christ then came as the true light and ignited people's heart in His first coming. He still does so today. It is a light that is from God. The only light that overcomes darkness. We can't shine until **His light has illuminated** our hearts and souls. Once it's lit by Him, no other person will be able to extinguish it. That's step 1 only. Step 2 is to **arise** and **shine**! So that nations will see and come to Him. Or on a rather smaller scale, so that our neighbours, friends, colleagues, schoolmates and family members will see and come to Him. Might be challenging at times. How could this look in practical terms? Or in our everyday lives? Telling of who God is and what He has done for us. Whenever possible sharing our positive experiences. Seeing the world through the eyes of love and thereby through God's eyes. Giving a helping hand to those in need. Looking for what's possible rather than what's not. Giving positive feedback. Seeking and finding the light in others and discover how to make that light burn brighter. Staying connected with others who walk the path of love.

To be sunlit and sun like calls us to force actions on our emotions, our consciousness and to declare God's praises to all nations. The same way we have received hope through Jesus Christ, so we too are called to bring hope to our environment and light the fire in people's heart.

We are not left alone in this job but receive a marvellous encouragement in the second part of the verse: "The glory of God rises upon you". The glory is the weighty manifestation of the Lord's splendour, majesty, honour, and abundance. It is the revelation of His greatness that births reverence and worship in the hearts of all who are touched by His glory. His glory changes everything it touches.

His glory has risen - has come forth, come out and appeared upon us to utterly overtake us with the reality of His majesty, splendour, worth, and greatness. His glory brings all flesh to the end of itself so we stand not by our own power or might, but only by His Spirit. His glory captivates us in ways that nothing else ever will be able to do.

May we shine as lights in the midst of darkness and bring illumination and revelation of His grace and glory to the world around us.

*Merry Christmas, Tamar*



# Subject of thought & discussion

Confronted and concerned with the flowing stream of refugees coming to Europe these days, we are challenged to deal with this important issue one way or another.

## Here's some food for thought

**Bless** is a French-based European mission organisation committed to training young people for mission across Europe. Bless is run by Gerard & Chrissie Kelly and supported by many volunteers. *The following coverage is an eyewitness report from a visit of one of their groups to the Calais refugee camp.*

"On Monday a group of us went up to the Jungle in Calais to meet refugees we have contact with there and to see how things lie. Badly is the simple answer. This is not a refugee camp in the normal sense. There are no neat lines of matching tents; no UNHCR teams holding it all together. Instead this is a thrown-up shanty of rutted muddy tracks and wind-blown tents, where a pallet and tarpaulin mash-up is the most permanent structure available. There is garbage everywhere, including tents flattened by wind and rain, abandoned where they fell.

In the midst of this transient chaos, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church of St Michael is an oasis of peace and beauty. Solomon Gatachow, its guardian, sleeps in a hut at its side to assure 24 hour security, and fights for the funds to run its generator and gas fire for daily morning and evening prayer and crowded Sunday services.

When Solomon and his friends built the church around a year ago, it was on a clearing away from the camp. Now the camp has grown around it, engulfing it in the very chaos it is designed to overcome. Inside, though, nothing has changed. The floor is carpeted, the tarpaulin walls fabric-lined. Brightly coloured icons of Jesus, Mary and the angels guide the prayers of the faithful. Michael, muscular and angelic in equal measure, battles Lucifer on their behalf. A cluster of hand-made walking sticks are available for the old and infirm and others who find it hard to stand for the 3 to 4 hour long services.

Part circus-tent, part art gallery, this holy space gives rich meaning to the term 'sanctuary'. Its visitors are people in desperate need; people whose lives are in free fall. Fleeing poverty and war, their way into the UK is blocked. Increasing violence mars the nights when hundreds will try to outrun a growing police presence to grab a life-threatening slot on the undercarriage of a train. Others have given up the fight, but where should they go? Home is not an option. France hardly more so. They stay, and try as best they can to build some kind of life in this wilderness.

Those who spend precious moments in this tabernacle are able, even briefly, to believe that they are part of a story bigger than themselves. Bigger even than war, than slavery, than violence. That this story is alive in this place, held together with cheap nails and plastic sheeting, is itself a miracle.

The late Robert Webber said in *Ancient-Future Faith*, "The very narrative of faith which we seek to know is symbolically expressed in our space. We take the ordinary aspects of life - stone, wood, windows, tables and chairs - and form them into voices of the Christian mystery. Space becomes the visual image of the connection between the known and the unknown.

He would have liked Solomon Gatachow. *The label 'Place of Worship' is too often used for redundant buildings that are no such thing. Here, in the most unlikely of places, is a structure worthy of the name.*

## Is This The Best Definition of Worship You've Ever Seen?



## Ways to help refugees in Luxembourg

### Red Cross Luxembourg

Clothes donations can also be made with the Luxembourg Red Cross at various locations across the country. For more information visit the website: [www.croix-rouge.lu](http://www.croix-rouge.lu)

### Caritas Luxembourg

The charity Caritas in Luxembourg is running a campaign to help Syrian refugees where you can make donations or become involved in the charity itself. For full details and contact information visit the website: [www.caritas.lu](http://www.caritas.lu)

### OLAI

For its part, the OLAI (Luxembourg Office for Reception and Integration) is looking for volunteers to sort clothes, help children with their homework, and provide language courses. If you are interested in helping out, send an email to: [info@olai.public.lu](mailto:info@olai.public.lu) and visit the website [www.olai.public.lu](http://www.olai.public.lu)



## Events coming up... Oasis Kids Corner

<b>Every Saturday at 6 pm</b> 50, Rue de la Déportation L- 1415 Luxembourg-Gasperich	<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>Friday 18 December 2015 at 6:30 until 9pm</b>  <b>Esperanza House</b> 70, rue Dernier Sol L- 2543 Luxembourg-Bonnevoie	<b>Oasis Youth Night – Spiritual (Youth Christmas Party)</b>  Welcome to anyone aged 12-18, who would like to meet other young Christians. We'll enjoy a 'raclette' style meet & eat, as well as spend time in worship, prayer and discussion for the final meeting of 2015.  Contact Francesco & Tania at <a href="mailto:youth.fellowship.oasis@gmail.com">youth.fellowship.oasis@gmail.com</a> for more details.
<b>Saturday, 19 December 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>Saturday, 23 January 2016 at 11am – 16.30 pm</b>  Centre Sportive Woiver Rue Neuwies L-4635 Differdange	<b>Grow Up Kids encounter in Differdange, Luxembourg</b> Main language spoken: Luxembourgish  Awaiting for children is a mini-Olympics with spiritual input. Please pack your sports clothes. To register children, please contact Alison Wilson at <a href="mailto:kids@oasis.lu">kids@oasis.lu</a>



Oasis Kids Corner  
coming up...

**The path to victory**



Kids encounter coming up on  
 Saturday, 23 January 2016  
 Time: 11 - 16.30 pm  
 Age group: 7-12/13  
 Theme: **Revolving around Jesus**

Place?

**Centre Sportive Woiver**  
**Rue Neuwies**  
**L-4635 Differdange**



Please register with Alison Wilson by  
 31 December 2015  
 Email: [kids@oasis.lu](mailto:kids@oasis.lu)

### INFO

- INVITATION -

**THURSDAY 31 DEC.**  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
**GATHERING @ Gerd's in**  
**37, rue Grundhof**  
**IN BERDORF**  
 Time? 7pm

Please inform Tania di Bari at  
[tania.gentile@outlook.com](mailto:tania.gentile@outlook.com)  
 If you like to join.



# Regular Events, Important Prayer Requests & More

## NEEDED:

NEW CREATIVE TEAM MEMBERS TO  
JOIN THE OASIS NEWS TEAM AS  
WEBSITE MANAGER & NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR

## Please pray for ...

- **Our church family** – God's vision and guidance
- **People** in the Oasis family who go through difficulties, need to take decisions or face challenging times
- **Our city and country** – government, local authorities, our neighbourhoods
- **European continent** – the upheaval taking place in our societies
- **Missionaries we support** – **Piotr & Ana Ozana** in Poznan (PL), **Matt & Janet Dawson** and their work for Wycliffe Bible Translation
- **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)

## 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 **Monday, 28 December**  
**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: BGLLLULL

## 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 –  
Contact: Fernand Gilles

**Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 8 pm**

In Itzig –  
Contact: John and Jessica Mills

**Every Thursday at 7.30 pm**

In Strassen –  
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: **Pietro & Giovanna  
Colaci**, 2656 8663 or 691 694 504  
Email: [church@coglux.com](mailto:church@coglux.com) or  
[pietro@coglux.com](mailto:pietro@coglux.com),  
[giovanna@coglux.com](mailto:giovanna@coglux.com)  
Assistant Pastor: **Emmanuel Kabamba**  
Pastoral Board: **Torugbene Adekolu,**  
**Mauricio Fulco, Justin Griffiths, Lena  
Martensson**

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



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