

The new Faithworks Magazine was launched this summer. This fresh, dynamic quarterly publication hopes to take good news stories of Christians positively impacting their communities to a wide audience. The magazine is packed with features and accessible advice from those with proven expertise in Christian community engagement. It shares best practice, relevant news, information on the latest resources and robust theology from informed and inspirational writers. The magazine is produced in partnership with the publishers of Christianity and Youthwork magazines with the aim of equipping and inspiring effective, transformational community development. Subscribe for just £10 a year and receive the next issue FREE at www.faithworksmagazine.info/subscribe.cfm or call 01892 652644.



1-3 November 2007
City Temple Holborn
Central London

change agents:

sustaining transformation

with
Rt Rev James Jones
Shane Claiborne
Steve Chalke
Fran Beckett
Andy Flannagan
Patrick Dixon
Malcolm Duncan
Joel Edwards
and many more...



Equipping you to approach
the challenges facing your
local community with a
practical faith that works.

faithworks conference 2007

Book online at www.faithworks.info/conference or call 08456 522 511

Sponsored by



With seminar streams by:



Inside:

- A New Term, New Opportunities
- Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking
- Oasis Tell A Different Story Of The Summer
- Volunteering with Oasis

A New Term New Opportunities

In September Oasis Community Learning opened the first Oasis Academies. It's hard to believe that only a few years on from the initial meetings, we are now working with 1,500 students and 350 new staff. This is an exciting and challenging prospect but we are grateful for this fantastic opportunity to work with the academy communities.

The first occasion for students and staff from the Oasis Academies to get together was Friday 31st August. Three students from each Academy came to the Oasis offices for the day, with staff and parents, to meet each other and the staff of Oasis. Everyone had a fantastic time and one student even said it had been the best day of his life.

On 3rd September staff arrived at Oasis Academy Enfield (North London), Oasis Academy Immingham and Oasis Academy Wintringham (both in North East Lincolnshire) for induction and training, with students to follow shortly after. These three Academies are the first of the Oasis Academies, which will each have their own distinctiveness yet all work together as a family, as well as linking with the work of Oasis across the world. Enfield is linked with Oasis Uganda, Immingham with Oasis Bangladesh and Wintringham with Oasis India.

We hope that there will be many opportunities for the Oasis Academies to meet and work together in a whole variety of different ways, both in the UK and linking in with Oasis globally. We look forward to at least four new Academies opening in September '08, with more planned for September '09.

When the students were with us in London they shared some of their hopes and aspirations for the new opportunities the academies will provide. Oasis Community Learning is committed to helping them achieve these.

Naomi - Oasis Academy Immingham (Year 10 - age 14)

Favourite subjects: Drama, IT and PE. I like acting and want to be a primary school teacher or drama teacher so I can work with children.



Favourite sport: Football is my favourite sport and I play for Immingham Pilgrims team.

Best thing about today: Everything! All the opportunities because I've never been to London before - it's a lot bigger and more crowded than I thought it would be.

Looking forward to: I think the learning and discipline will be different because it will be stricter but in a good way. There will also be a lot of new teachers.

Kemi - Oasis Academy Enfield (Year 7 - age 11)

Favourite subject: My favourite subject is art because I like colouring and drawing.

Looking forward to: I am most looking forward to meeting the teachers and the things we will do.

Things I love: I love basketball and horse-riding.

Best thing about today: The best thing about today was coming to the Oasis office and meeting new people.

Shaun - Oasis Academy Wintringham (Year 9 - age 13)

Favourite subject: Maths is my favourite subject because I want to be a mechanic in the army so I will be easy to employ and I like helping people.

Hobbies: Playing chess - I play in a team for Wintringham with other local schools.

Looking forward to: I am most looking forward to the equipment in the new school and getting used to the surroundings again.

Best thing about today: The best thing was going to the Oasis office because all the people are friendly.



Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking



Oasis Belgium is focused on raising awareness about Human Trafficking. The team in Belgium have set up a project called Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking (BTAHT) dedicated to this purpose.

BTAHT was launched in the European Parliament in 2005 and exists to inform people who travel on business about human trafficking and to give them a low key way to report if they have seen children and women who may have been trafficked into prostitution around the area of their hotel.

A business traveller in Dubai saw a woman who was in some distress. When he talked to her, he discovered that she had been trafficked into forced prostitution. He reported the matter to the local police who ensured the woman was able to return to Moldova. During this time, the man contacted BTAHT who were able to help connect the woman to services in her country to help prevent her being re-trafficked.

BTAHT recently launched in the states and Oasis USA have been running training sessions to teach business people about human trafficking and how

to identify a victim of human trafficking. Oasis USA has also produced resources and is working on training materials. Work on informing people about trafficking in the Korean and Mandarin-speaking communities has also been done.

There is a possibility that BTAHT could start in South Africa as well, specifically aimed at raising awareness amongst people who travel across the border from Zimbabwe, Mozambique and other countries to trade. These people often use the same routes as people traffickers and could be very helpful in reporting what is going on.

Every year more than one million children are exploited in the global sex trade. This is just one group of people who can be part of the problem or part of the solution. BTAHT gives them an easy way to help in the fight against trafficking.

For more information about Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking go to www.businesstravellers.org

Stop The Traffik's 1 Million Declaration Challenge!

STOP THE TRAFFIK
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



The Target: 1 million signatures on the Global Declaration

The Deadline: February 2008

The Prize: A vital partnership with the United Nations to fight people trafficking

How: Add your name and recruit at least 10 people. If every reader of Newsround signs a declaration and then requests that 10 friends to do the same and they in turn request another 10 friends to sign, the Oasis Newsround readers will have reached the 1 Million Declarations on their own!

Why: All over the world, children are being bought and sold into abusive slavery; forced prostitution, sweatshops, domestic slaves, manual workers - usually raped or assaulted daily and with no hope of contact with family and friends. They are traded to pimps and gang masters at a rate that would fill 5 Jumbo Jets every day. But, with help from the United Nations, we can stop this appalling trade.

Please sign up now by going to www.stophetraffik.org/declaration

Oasis Tell A Different Story Of The Summer

Over recent weeks, here in the UK, we have been the readers of stark headlines and hearers of difficult news. Much of these have been about young people, many of whom live within or near to areas of urban deprivation, involved in gangs, gun crime and street violence or victims of all of the above. Something is clearly not working. People and places are fractured and hope appears to have broken wings.

Oasis is committed to telling a different story, a story of hope and transformation and showing, in a very practical sense, what this looks like within local communities.

In light of research that found 80% of young people have nothing to do and nowhere to go outside of school, Oasis provided a summer long programme of activities.

In South London, Oasis' Waterloo hub partnered with local agencies to provide its third annual month-long summer community radio station, Southside FM. The project is an opportunity to present a positive image of young people, and offers a safe space for them to develop their creative potential and avoid the trap of gangs, crime and anti-social behaviour. Over 200 young people participated this year.

Ami Rattray, who has been involved in Southside since the beginning said:

"Southside is inspiring the young people in this area to do what they like to do. I mean some of them can't cope with school, or writing things down, but can express themselves through speech, music, film and radio..."

Over 100 young people at risk of exclusion across London participated in day trips and residentials organised by our Social Inclusion team. The young people are participants in our Transitional Support programme that mentors young people making the transition to secondary school. A group of 21 young people enjoyed a four-day residential to a youth hostel in rural Hertfordshire.

This was the first time out of London for many of the young people. They got to take part in new activities, such as mountain biking and boat rowing, helping them to grow in confidence and self-esteem, while also providing the opportunity to reflect on their



upcoming move to secondary school. Three young people who transitioned last year came along to share their experiences and 'buddy' the participants. One 'buddy' said: "Normally in the summer holidays I would hang around with friends or just watch TV and play my Playstation, but here you can go out and do things like ride bikes and canoeing. It's not something you get to do every day, especially in London."

He went on to explain that the transition programme had helped him to be more prepared for secondary school and to understand how his behaviour affected others.

Oasis believes young people deserve to be invested in, to the benefit of everyone in the community. Thanks for supporting us to help these vulnerable young people reach their full potential.

A new chapter

Oasis opened a new chapter in this story when we recently took responsibility for Salford Central Church as part of the Church.co.uk Network. The church building is in a prime location, on the site where the new Oasis Academy will be built. It sits at a crossroads leading to Salford Quays, alongside Langworthy and Ordsall estates and is within reach of the home of Manchester United FC, as well as the Trafford Centre. Salford Quays will also become the home of Media City UK, becoming the home of the BBC, providing enormous opportunities for young and old within the local community.



Oasis is committed to the development of Salford Central as a hub at the heart of the community, a place of inclusion where all people can find a place.

It is a privilege for us to be able to join in with what is already happening in Salford and working alongside other agencies and partners. We are passionate about calling other people to come and be part of all that we are going to be developing. This will

include activities such as a community café, children's and youth work, and work amongst the elderly.

Living out this kind of story takes time, energy, commitment and imagination. It is about committing to the people and the community of which we will be a part. We are looking for adults, young people, families, those wanting to take a gap year, to come and join with us.

To find out more about how you can get involved in the work of Oasis in Salford or to give financially to the work that we are doing please email enquiries@oasisuk.org

Do you want to do something amazing this year?

Are you ready to complete the challenge of a lifetime and raise vital funds for Oasis? If the answer is yes, then get your running shoes on and start training for the Flora London Marathon 2008 as an Oasis team member. This year's marathon was a massive success for Oasis with Steve Chalke raising over £1.8 million and our team securing donations in excess of £40,000, which is a team record. In 2008 Steve is justifiably hanging up his orange vest and allowing individuals like you to claim some of that marathon glory. Oasis has 15 guaranteed running spaces to fill and we want 2008 to be the biggest year yet for our team of dedicated running fundraisers. If you can hear the streets of London calling to you, get in touch with our marathon co-ordinator: annabel.chaston@oasisuk.org or check out the details online: www.oasisuk.org/marathon08

We'll be waiting to hear from you!

Oasis India launches new programme to combat human trafficking

In 2001, more than 24,000 women and children were reported missing in India. This number increases each year. The UN estimates that there are 11 million street children in the country, living in railway stations or under bridges, they are forced to beg or steal for a living. All these groups are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

It is a well documented fact that a large percentage of human trafficking in South Asia is centred on India, Bangladesh and Nepal. The South Asia Centre for Missing or Exploited Persons (SACMEP) is **Oasis India's** latest project which provides a preventative anti-human trafficking programme to avert the sale of people, protect the victims and prosecute the traffickers.

Spread across eight cities in South Asia, the SACMEP programme hopes to achieve this by involving indigenous communities in the fight against trafficking, facilitate multi-agency cooperation and increasing victim care support.

SACMEP carries out committed surveillance of vulnerable communities, as well as known trafficking routes and common entry points to cities. Having this knowledge means missing people are more likely to be found and rescued before they are sold, abused or become victims of human trafficking. There are three distinct strands to SACMEP's work:

- Missing Person's Project – focusing on finding women and children



who have been reported missing.

- An Early Encounter Project – focusing on early intervention with runaways and potential victims of trafficking.
- The Urban Community Network Project – focusing on economically and socially disadvantaged people who are vulnerable to trafficking.

Through these projects, it is easier to deploy teams to intercept the victims being trafficked. These could be people in the process of being sold, people who have escaped or street children who are at risk of being

trafficked. The SACMEP team can then ensure the victims receive appropriate rehabilitation and work to prosecute the people who trafficked or enslaved them. The Mumbai unit has already rescued 23 missing children and woman in the first 3 months of operation, with 10 perpetrators arrested and 8 prosecuted.



Oasis Bangladesh News

Bangladesh is about the size of England and Wales, and is situated on a low lying delta region. Over recent years this beautiful land has suffered from repeated and often devastating flooding. It's in places like Bangladesh that the effects of climate change will be most severe as levels of sea and inland waterways rise. Already there is evidence of soil salinisation, and visible erosion of coastal areas.

It's usually the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most because their land is devastated by erosion. This potential impact on the most vulnerable people, plus a fresh reflection on our responsibility towards stewardship and renewal of creation, has led Oasis staff in Bangladesh to place high importance on environmental issues in the context in which we work.

Oasis Transformation Ltd (OTL) is a new Bangladesh based transformational business. This emerging business model combines commercial objectives with environmental integrity, and a desire to create jobs for vulnerable communities. Our staff are exploring business opportunities within urban renewable energy applications (power back-up and solar hot water systems) and are engaged in pre-investment studies looking at cultivation and processing of bamboo and jute material.

In addition to OTL, Oasis works along side a local partner in Dhaka's Duaripara community. Here we work with around 200 families in a slum community with a population of around 12,000, situated on the edge of a garment



factory area. Every day around 100 girls between the ages of eight and fourteen attend our education programme. Based at the Oasis centre in the heart of the community, we have a team of five health workers who run women's transformation groups and vocational training programmes.

The growth in the garment industry in Bangladesh has brought much needed jobs to many poor families over the past three decades. The flip side of this is that we often see young girls leaving the Duaripara education programme to go to work, due to financial pressure within the family. A recent visit from our environmental consultant suggested ideas for urban permaculture in this community which has suffered as recent flooding has caused an increase in the price of basic food items.

To stay in touch with the development of Oasis' work in Bangladesh visit www.oasistransformation.com and www.oasisbd.org or email David How on oasisbd@generalmail.com.



Volunteering – Making a real difference

Volunteering with Oasis

Oasis began over 21 years ago and much of our work globally would not be possible without the support of hundreds of volunteers.

Today volunteers play a crucial role, working with our different projects providing essential administrative support or raising crucial funds.

Volunteering is simple. It's about giving your time to do something useful, without getting paid. In return you get the satisfaction of time and effort well spent. In addition, volunteering can be a great way to meet new people, learn new skills gain useful experience. It should also be fun!

Oasis to create 380 new volunteer opportunities with the support of V

Oasis is Very excited to receive funding from youth volunteer charity V (wearev.com) to develop our volunteer programme for 18-25 year olds. V is an independent charity championing youth volunteering in England. Oasis will use the funding to increase volunteering opportunities in four of our community hubs in Waterloo, Enfield, Grimsby and Clitheroe. Oasis was able to access this funding thanks to the support of our funding partners.

Volunteers are at the heart of Oasis' mission of transforming individuals and communities. Pete Brierley, Youth and Community Manager at our Waterloo hub, "Without volunteers we couldn't do half of what we do in the community. Hundreds of young people would not receive the mentoring support that helps keep them in school. Young people would be bored, hanging around on the streets instead of learning media training and life skills through our internet radio station. Volunteers are at the heart of our hub and are transforming lives of people in the community"

Volunteers at Oasis community hubs can expect to get involved in anything from producing a youth



radio station, helping to run sports programmes to mentoring excluded young people. There are opportunities to volunteer at an Oasis community hub near you. You can volunteer for as little as an hour a week to full time for nine months!

Karin Jose volunteers at our Waterloo Hub. She has got involved in activities including photography workshops and playing Wonder Women in a summer holiday Superheroes kids programme. She says: "Frontline is a great but challenging experience. There's a lot to get stuck into and room to use your initiative and develop your potential."

Please visit www.oasisuk.org/frontline for more information on how you get involved in Oasis' transforming community work. And even if you don't live near an Oasis community hub, you can find out more about volunteering in your community at www.do-it.org.uk

Oasis Frontline UK

Frontline UK offers you the chance of a lifetime. It's a unique gap year experience for those who want to serve in a diverse, urban context. Frontline UK will enable you to get involved at the heart of a local community expressing your faith in action and serving the local people. It is an opportunity to help transform some of the poorest communities in the UK and to find yourself transformed in the process.



Andy Nelson completed his degree in social work and decided he would take a year out. Here's what he said about his experiences on Frontline.

"I've had the year of my life. Some of my fellow students at university might have said that doing a Frontline year was a step down in comparison to starting a job in social work. However, not only have I developed as a person this year but I have developed as a social worker. Church.co.uk gave me opportunities to test out my leadership skills. My childcare skills were pushed to their absolute limit and

at times I faced crisis situations where I had to act quickly and use my initiative. I feel that I was able to test my own personal limits in a supportive and nurturing environment. This I feel will allow me to approach the rest of my career with a heightened self-awareness."

We are looking for people to join the Frontline teams in Waterloo, Clitheroe and Enfield in March 2008. If you are 18-25 or know anyone this age who is ready to give it all to make a difference, please contact frances.gooderson@oasisuk.org



Oasis Frontline Global

At Oasis we don't sit back and watch the world go by - we like to roll up our sleeves, get involved and make a difference.

If that sounds like you then Frontline Global is just what you've been looking for. We've got a load of options from a few weeks up to a whole gap year. From working with street children in Sao Paulo, to caring for AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe, or helping girls caught in the sex trade in Mumbai, the possibilities are endless.

For further details about Frontline Global Teams, please contact Lisa Harrison: lisa.harrison@oasisuk.org

Volunteering – Making a real difference

International Placements

Oasis Uganda opened its third Net2Work eAcademy - centres for community IT education - in August. While the first two were in the capital, Kampala, the third is in an altogether more challenging location: Gulu in Northern Uganda, an area that has been terrorised by the civil war. Oasis Uganda is working in partnership with World Vision to provide vital IT skills training for former child soldiers who are going through rehabilitation.

If it wasn't for Oasis volunteer Jon Grimes (41), who went to Uganda to co-ordinate Net2Work's development, this vital project in Gulu might never have got off the ground.

Oasis International Placements are an opportunity for people, like Jon who is an IT consultant, who want to use their professional skills or expertise to make a lasting impact in some of the world's poorest communities.

An Oasis connection prompted Jon to explore the opportunities Oasis had to offer, which included the perfect role for him: "I saw information about Net2Work and this position,

which seemed like an ideal fit for my skills," he says. "We prayed about it and got in touch with Oasis. They talked us through the whole process, then went away to think and pray some more before applying." In August 2006 Jon moved to Uganda, accompanied by his wife Paula, and three sons: Daniel (12), Jacob (10) and David (3).

Although based in Kampala, Jon has overseen the establishment of the new Net2Work e-Academy in Gulu. Fifty young people are currently taking classes, many of them former child soldiers who have lived through



"One day I was commuting into work at rush hour in London and I realised I wanted more from life..."

...Six months later my family and I are living in Uganda and I'm co-ordinating a global IT initiative helping people gain essential IT and employment skills."

Jon Grimes, age 41

Formerly a London based IT consultant, now Global Co-ordinator for Oasis Net2Work, based in Uganda.

Oasis
for people & community

International Placements

Using your professional skills overseas

Made a new years resolution to do something with your life? Fancy a career break? Do you want to make a difference?

Opportunities from 5 months to 2 years to make a lasting impact in some of the worlds poorest communities.

Global vacancies in a variety of areas including IT, education, youth work and fundraising.

For a complete list of current global vacancies contact us using the details below - who knows where you could be in six months?

Visit www.oasisuk.org/ip or call us on 020 7450 9041 to apply today!

horrible experiences but are being supported to reintegrate into their society. There are currently 1500 known children fighting in the Lord's Resistance Army – many of those will come through the eAcademy in the next few years.

"We had more applications than places for this first intake," says Jon. "They very candidly shared their experiences about what they'd been through, which was incredibly moving. It really made us convinced of the need for this, and while there have been many challenges, it's a real privilege to be part of it."

Jon is also currently in discussions about opening more eAcademies in different parts of Uganda, as well as working with other Oasis countries, to replicate the Net2Work model across the world. While his schedule is hectic,

he says the Oasis International Placement has been a real opportunity to make a difference:

"There have been many challenges, especially with bringing my family out here. I've also had to get used to the fact that it can take a bit of time to get things done at work, just because the culture is very different. But it feels like home now. I would definitely recommend it to others, even with a family, you can do it. A lot of people have worries that it will affect their careers, but I don't see it as putting my career on hold – it's about using my skills in a different context, and most employers would look on that very favourably."

