

Volume 30  
Issue 1  
January  
2015

"Our mission is to love and care for those seeking refuge from war torn countries with the heart of Jesus."

# Oasis International

## God's Word to Oasis for 2015



When we started Oasis International in 1989, God gave us 2 Corinthians 8:14 ***"At this present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality."*** Since that time God has used us in many ways to fulfill this scripture. Have you ever been on a mission trip where you were going to take supplies to the needy people in a foreign country? Then the people in that country poured so much love and food and special gifts to you, that you realized the people



you came to give to, gave more than you could have imagined. I used to come back from a mission trip and immediately wanted to go back. I love the international people who were so full of love and had so much to give. In 2006 we bought the Oasis building in order to reach out to the refugee families who did not have furniture. **Our vision was to give each refugee family a basic house full of furniture.** We have steadily grown to a place where we are now doing just that.

**Our 2015 vision is connecting people to people, friend to friend and family to family.** Refugee families have more success assimilating into the community when they have made a connection with an American family. Our goal is that every refugee family would get connected and then build a relationship with an American family. Remember the Welcome Wagon? Its time for the Church to be to one who welcomes each refugee family to St. Louis. Most cultures expect a visit from the new neighbors. **One Ethiopian refugee said, "The day after I arrived in St. Louis, I put on my best clothes and waited for someone to come visit me. But no one came."** What a great opportunity to visit someone who really wants a visit and wants to pour love back into your life. Most refugees have no family in St. Louis and they so desperately want family. **To give love and receive love is where it begins one family at a time.** Contact us for more information to reach out to a refugee family. *"He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us."* Acts 17:26 & 27



Mark & Joani  
Directors  
5035 Gravois  
63116

Akers Founders/

Ave. St. Louis, MO  
Office: 314-353-3800

Oasis International  
Mark & Joani Akers  
5035 Gravois Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63116

"When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:32-34 (NIV)

# Oasis In The City: "Stories from the heart"

"oasis" a pleasant or peaceful area in the midst of a difficult place: calm in the city

## A Great Christmas Celebration At Oasis

I recently looked up the meaning of the word "compassion". It means, "a deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering." What can we do to alleviate suffering? Every year we give a Christmas party for 80 of our English students and



teachers. It is so much fun eating American and ethnic foods, appreciating the teachers who pick up the students and their children, enjoying our refugee friends and remembering Jesus' birth. A special thank you to Paul Larson and the Larson Group for catering this event this year and bringing special gifts for the refugee families.



This year we were able to give 225 Christmas presents to many of the refugee children that came to St. Louis since January. Destiny Church provided the presents, The Crossing Church and Oasis International provided food for over 100 families, Manchester United Methodist Church provided 20 bicycles, helmets and locks and the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Washington D.C. provided blankets and space heaters. Saturday Dec. 13th almost all of the gifts were delivered to each home by 145 volunteers from Southgate Church, Gateway House of Prayer and Destiny Church. **One of the fathers of one of the refugee families came into Oasis because his family was not home when the volunteers came to his house to deliver his children's presents. We tried to give him the presents but he said, "No, I don't want you to give me the presents, I want you to come visit my family and give the presents to my children."** It truly is all about the visit!

