

# TORONTO'S REFUGE

## Priming the Oasis Urban Training Ground

**Chris Ortiz, Executive Director at Oasis, provides a glimpse into urban ministry.**

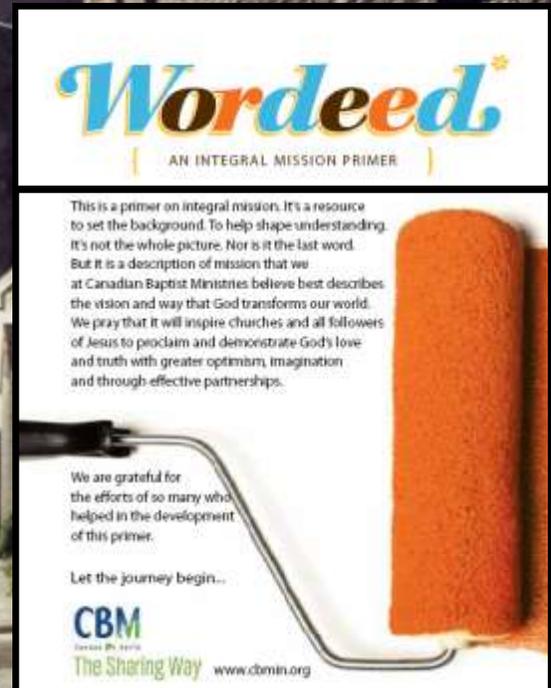
The Oasis Urban Training Ground (OUTG) has the purpose of immersing people from all walks of life in an eye-opening, heart-touching, life-transforming experience in an urban, multicultural setting.

Over the past 20 years, Oasis has tried to follow the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Luke 10:27). This has taken shape in various forms through WORDS and DEEDS. Often, Church and Mission are carried out separately, but at Oasis we see them as interconnected and refer to this as Integral Mission.

### What is Integral Mission?

The following is an extract from the Micah Declaration developed by those present at the Micah Network consultation on Integral Mission held in Oxford during September 2001:

" .. the proclamation and demonstration of the gospel. It is not simply that evangelism  
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Terry Smith is Director of International Partnerships at Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM). His book gives much insight into Church and Mission.

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*"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ...*

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and social involvement are to be done alongside each other. Rather, in Integral Mission our proclamation has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our social involvement has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world, we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world. Justice and justification by faith, worship and political action, the spiritual and the material, personal change and structural change belong together. As in the life of Jesus, being, doing and saying are at the heart of our integral task."

In order to address the whole needs of the individual, Oasis offers support which includes Food Aid, Counselling, Advocacy etc. Often, people who are new to Toronto face many challenges, and thus an integral approach to ministry not only makes sense, it forces the practitioner to understand the needs that exist and build genuine community by journeying alongside the person in need.

Being involved in the discipleship of the church is part of the Oasis vision. We seek to do this by hosting groups from churches for service opportunities that include debriefing, theological reflection, and contextualization.

Canadian Baptist Ministries is also committed to Integral Mission and in 2012, produced a book titled "Wordeed" written by Terry Smith, on staff with CBM. Oasis has used this resource with visiting teams as a way to dig deeper into Integral Mission. It was used in large groups and also individually with youth and was instrumental in bringing about a deeper understanding of the role of Church and Missions.

The groups of children, youth and adults who visit Oasis vary greatly. They could be a group of High School students from Heron Park Baptist Church, Toronto, or they could be an intergenerational group from various Baptist Churches in Atlantic Canada. One group that recently visited Oasis was comprised of 12 people from three Anglican Churches in Toronto. They visited the Oasis Food Bank on Ash Wednesday and discovered the needs that exist in the city of Toronto.

The group, which included Junior and High School students helped by giving out boxes of food, experienced the interview process by shadowing staff and they got a new perspective of hunger in Toronto. After the morning visit to Oasis, the group debriefed with their leaders and they made the following observations:

***"It was amazing!***

***It was scary and sad as I learned that so many people are in need of food.***

***I liked helping to box the food and give it out.***

***I could tell that we made a difference and that we were appreciated.***

***Let's do it again!"***

As Oasis continues to expand its practical experiences for students and young leaders in Integral Mission, we thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers.

*[And it] ...will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.” - Martin Luther King*

# Oasis Celebrates 20 Years

Phyllis Ortiz, Founding Director of Oasis, reflects about how Oasis started and continues to make an impact in the lives of many people. Her full story and more will be shared at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

**“Go ... into all the world.”**

**“Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it to Me,”**

were words that Jesus said when He taught the crowds and disciples that followed Him. Christ's teaching called me to leave Canada in 1971 and journey to a land I had never seen as a Canadian Baptist Missionary.

I discovered that the missionary life did not mean always giving and never receiving, or never needing to be rescued from the snares of my own culture... I returned to Canada 17 years later and then started Oasis as a “Home Missionary” supported by the Baptist Women.



During the 20 years that Oasis has been operating, I have been impacted by the way so many needs are being met at Oasis. Upon revisiting Jesus' words in the Great Commission, I again am amazed that He has brought people from countries all over the world to the Oasis doorsteps; because of this my world has been enlarged and I have seen just how great and awesome our Heavenly Father is! I have also witnessed missionary interns, youth groups, adult mission teams and a host of others catch this vision. I rejoice that the Great Commission and the Great Commandment are being fulfilled at Oasis.

Join us on  
**Sat. Sept. 27, 2014**  
as we Celebrate, Share and  
Remember Oasis. Open House  
format starting at 1pm.

# Oasis Spring 4K



# RUN 8K

**Registration Fees:**  
4KM Walk/Run \$25  
8KM Run \$40

9:00 a.m. Registration opens  
10:00 a.m. Walk/Run begins  
11:00 a.m. Finish & Prizes

**May 24,  
2014**

**START/FINISH**  
West Toronto Railpath  
Wallace Ave. Bridge



Top 3 finishers in both 4KM and 8KM Run win free entry into the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Half-Marathon and 5KM (Sun. Oct. 19, 2014) Value \$80 each.



On-line Registration available



[WWW.OASISDUFFERIN.ORG](http://WWW.OASISDUFFERIN.ORG)