

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ within the Oxley/Darra Uniting Church

It's interesting isn't it that each year most people celebrate the birth of our Lord with great feasting, celebrations of all kinds and at varying costs? Yet many of these same people give little or no thought to Jesus throughout the year but come Christmas time it's Christmas cards, blessings offered to all, Peace on Earth sung with gusto!

But in all this, they fail to see the extent of poverty around them. It exists today on an even larger scale than it did yesterday. Loneliness is more acute at this time than any other period.

This Christmas let's pause and take time to look around. Is there a family or individual living near you who is less fortunate than you are? Is there someone who might be experiencing loneliness or isolation, perhaps a refugee family? Invite them over for morning tea or even Christmas lunch. Take time to get to know them. Show them that the love of Jesus really exists and Christians really care.

Most years, we have someone over for lunch who would otherwise sit at home lonely and isolated.

I remember one Christmas Eve (that is the time when we traditionally give out our family gifts because I would be working most Christmas days in the prison) we had just started the proceedings when the phone rang. It was a man who had just got out of prison. He said, "Can I come round. I've nowhere to go."

I asked, "Where are you?"

He replied, "The phone box at the corner."

"I'll come and meet you," I said.

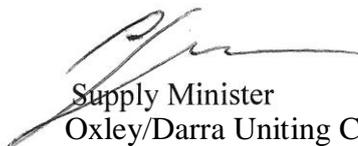
I headed down the road to the phone box. When he saw me coming he started to run towards me, threw his arms around me and wept like a small child.

Here was a man who had survived the tough environment of prison but in society he felt lost, unwanted and alone.

I wonder if near you there is a lonely individual or family, perhaps a refugee family who could learn much more about Jesus simply by you opening the door of your home and in so doing, open the door to their heart.

Bless you: I pray that God will richly bless you and your home this season and throughout 2015.

Pastor Charlie Greer



Supply Minister
Oxley/Darra Uniting Church

Congregations

Darra Uniting Church | Darra Vietnamese Uniting Church | Oxley Uniting Church