

Ministry Trainee for Oldham Bethel Church

About us:

Oldham Bethel Church (OBC) is FIEC affiliated, situated within 5 minutes walk of the town centre in a predominantly Asian Muslim community. OBC has just over 30 members and usually has 45-60 congregants on Sunday mornings. The congregation is mixed internationally and across ages. Our doctrinal position is reformed evangelical.

There are a number of young adults attending, some of whom are asylum seekers. There is no youth club or teenage work at present but there has been in the past and there is a desire to start this work again. Sunday school is quite small with children ranging from 3 to 16 years old.

God has blessed us with a steady stream of conversions over the past 4 years. There have been several conversions of Muslim background asylum seekers, particularly from Iran. Part of the ministry of the church is helping asylum seekers in various ways: English language skills, finding solicitors, filling out forms, advocacy when interacting with various organisations and so forth.

The pastor's wife runs ESOL English classes once a week for immigrants. These are asylum seekers from various countries, refugees, economic migrants, immigrants from Pakistan & Bangladesh. There is a ladies only class for the Asian Muslim ladies. These classes have proved very useful in building bridges and some have come to church. There is always demand for more classes but resources are limited.

The building is opened twice per week for Coffee Mornings to encourage local people and churchgoers to come in and chat. This has also proved fruitful in introducing people to Christ.

The church runs Christianity Explored courses twice per year and has run Discipleship Explored courses as well. There is a weekly Bible Study which meets in the church building. There is also a House Group each week which is run by one of the members. Weekly Bible classes are given in Farsi using bilingual material from Word of Life.

The pastor was trained at WEST and has been at OBC since September, 2005. He is keen to encourage those wishing to test God's call, particularly to the preaching & pastoral ministry, hence the opportunity now being offered.

Your opportunity:

You will be provided with accommodation and living expenses. If other expenses are incurred they will be dealt with on an ad hoc basis. Both the church officers and pastor will provide prayer support and guidance during the term.

There will be opportunities to prepare and preach sermons and to lead Bible studies. We expect the person to be active in outreach activities – either in supporting existing initiatives or to start up new ones. There will be opportunities to make pastoral visits with the pastor and later alone.

The person will be expected to attend the weekly NWP training day at Leyland and will be given time to prepare assignments and read course material.

The pastor will make time each week to personally coach the person by giving feedback and responding to questions which may arise. The person will be encouraged to think through issues which arise biblically and time will be given to do study in this important area.

The opportunity is offered for one year initially with the option to review and extend to a second year.

Further info.

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