



Our Story — Upgrades and Springtime

May 2016 marked a turning point for OCC, as we took inspiration from Deuteronomy 11:8-15, which describes a future that God once promised to his people. We began to look afresh to God for 'upgrades' in our spiritual life together. Since then, we have focused more on praying for, and expecting, greater fruitfulness.

Now, in 2019, we sense ourselves to be in a season of springtime, and we feel able to look ahead at what it will mean for us to enter further into all that God has for us.

For more, visit: oxford.occ.org.uk/dream

Enjoying humility and rest

When the Hebrews entered the land that God had promised them, they did not initially move forward with force, but rather underwent two events that dealt with their hearts (see Joshua 5).

First, at Gilgal, all the men were circumcised; then Joshua was challenged not to think of himself as the person in charge, but rather to defer to the Lord.

So, for us, our hoped-for future depends on us humbly waiting and resting upon God in prayer. We will work towards some great goals, but we gladly accept that God alone makes things grow.

Goal 1 — a School of the Spirit

Why?

There is so much more still to discover of the Holy Spirit's work in and through us. This 'school' will develop a hunger for God, and provide us with opportunities to take courageous steps for Him in all areas of life.

How?

During 2019, we will learn from other churches successfully running a 'School of the Supernatural' and will work out what it's best for us to do, and what help we need to make it fly, before starting in 2020.

Goal 2 — a Sound in the City

Why?

We have seen an unusual measure of God's favour in together establishing The King's Centre, Tyndale Community School and Edge Housing — all of which is in keeping with a prophetic word given to OCC ten years ago — but still very few of us expect our voice(s) to hold significant weight in the city.

How?

We will promote 'gospel confidence' in the whole church, actively support those called to speak into a section of society, and sustain and develop more effective public service for the city.

Strongholds

The Hebrews were opposed by fortified towns like Jericho and Ai. The strongholds that we face are wrong beliefs that stand against the truth about God (2 Cor 10:4-5) and, right now, we recognise three that we need to fight together as a church. We can call them:

- **"Me first"**: If I try hard and know enough, I can do it all by myself!
- **"Us and Them"**: Our way is the best way — let's make friends with people who are just like us!
- **"Anything goes"**: God's way is optional — people can do whatever they want!

For more, listen to the sermon from 28th April 2019:
oxford.occ.org.uk/listen-again

Goal 3 — building effective mission

Why?

We've spent 10 years actively exploring ways for church to be a community that is effective in bringing lost people to Christ. We've learnt a lot about communities reaching out together, the role of evangelists and how to create 'stepping stones' for people into the church community — but we only rarely see it all come together fruitfully.

How?

We will form a new team focused on supporting both groups and evangelistic individuals, and actively linking people across the church to greater effect.

Goal 4 — all God's people equipped

Why?

OCC's foundational vision included both a commitment to help Christians fulfil their calling and sending people to do good in other places. It is changed people who change the world, and God sends many people to Oxford to get the training they need!

How?

We will develop more diverse training opportunities, will ensure that there are opportunities suitable for all, and will also improve connections between them to help foster continued personal development as long as you're at OCC!