

July 27th, 2016

“and the Lord was adding to them daily those who were being saved”
Acts 2:47

Dear friends and partners in the Kingdom,

We rejoice that we are experiencing how the Lord is adding thousands of believers to His Church, in the Middle East and around the world! Horizons continues to actively disciple hundreds of these new believers, and is mobilizing and equipping hundreds more to join in the harvest!

I'd like to share with you a report that reflects this discipleship and equipping, from Horizons' Director of Member Care, Ashley Dykstra (maiden name Hermanson):

A Legacy Worth Following

Do you know what is special about this photo? This is no ordinary altar call. At the end of the Horizons Legacy Conference in Grand Rapids Georges Houssney invited the attendees to come forward and receive prayer from brothers and sisters who come from a Muslims background. These former Muslims prayed for us to have boldness to reach out



to Muslims, like they used to be. Over 500 people came to Legacy to learn more about reaching Muslims, and to follow in the legacy of Samuel Zwemer, a pioneer of missions to Muslims in the late 1800s.

Cubs to Lions

Thank you, if you prayed for the 35 Christians from a Muslim Background (CMBs) [from 18 different countries] that attended the one week discipleship course in June! I met several who attended this conference, and it was obvious that they had developed significant bonds with each other during this transformative week. In the midst of the teaching and fellowship these brothers and sisters shared with each other the deep grief they feel from losing their families for the sake of the gospel. For many, choosing Christ meant being at odds with their families and even having to flee from them for safety. It was a comfort to share that together and to begin to care for each others needs. Two of the attendees understood the gospel for the first time, and joined God's family that week.

Please pray that these men and women will find new "family" within American church communities, where they often feel lonely and misunderstood because of cultural differences.

Pray for more spiritual transformation at the Canadian Cubs to Lions Conference Aug. 1-5.

Ashley Dykstra, July 2016

These two exciting programs are just two examples of the powerful ways God is working recently. In the last three months we also completed two Engaging Islam Intensive training courses, in Beirut in May, and Boulder in July, resulting in over 75 students equipped for evangelism and discipleship among Muslims, and the salvation of over 10 Muslims as students participated in street-evangelism during the Beirut event!

Global Ministry:

In the past year I have traveled on a whirlwind tour that took me to several states and countries. Nationally to Arizona, California, Illinois, New York, Ohio, and Virginia. Globally to Egypt, France, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong, Korea, Lebanon, Malta,, Thailand, Tunisia. Everywhere I go, I see the Lord moving in fresh and new ways. Muslims everywhere are coming to Christ and the church globally is finally waking up to her role in reaching the unreached Muslims. This obviously gives Horizons a huge open door for ministry the world over.



Trip to Hong Kong and China:

Joy and I traveled to Hong Kong in March. Horizons International Asia staff scheduled me for a two week training course that was attended by 90 people. Additionally, I spoke in the evenings and weekends in various churches. I also gave lectures to Muslim students on two university campuses. The visit was very encouraging, as I learned a lot about the Chinese church and saw the huge potential for impacting Asia for Christ. The MENA ministry so far is our largest but Hong Kong has the promise of being a strong ministry. My book and many of my articles have been translated to Chinese. They are circulating among the churches, drawing much attention to the 400,000 Muslims in Hong Kong and 30 million Muslims in China.



My visit to France:

The publication of my book in French has given me a new field of ministry and influence. Last November just the week after the terrorist attacks on Paris, I spent 8 days speaking at various venues and at book signing events in Paris and Grenoble. The response has been phenomenal. People were lining up to receive a copy of my book and a number of leaders spoke of inviting me to do a major training in the fall. Requests from all over Europe have been also coming in. Europe will be a major new field of ministry. But we need to train more staff for new challenging opportunity.



My Trip to Egypt:

In early February I spent a week with 45 Korean missionaries who came from all over the Muslim world. This is a follow up from my trip to Korea last May. An association of 26 mission agencies invited me to train their missionaries. It was special to hear many of these Koreans speaking Arabic. Their commitment to reaching Muslims put a lot of Western missionaries to shame. They are focused on preaching the gospel and planting churches. I have observed some of them in Lebanon who partner with us in our center in Beirut.



This is my third training event with Koreans in the last two years, in addition to my trip to Korea. These doors have open in large part because of the Korean version of Engaging Islam. Praise God!

My Trip to Thailand:

In February I traveled from Beirut to Thailand to speak at a large conference for an English language institute in China. As a result, 27 English teachers committed to go serve the Lord in the MENA region.

André in Zambia:

André Houssney led a trip to Zambia to train both Americans and Zambians in the philosophy of missional business with an emphasis on agriculture. It is exciting that he took with him his oldest son Elias, who is 8 years old.

MENA, Middle East and North Africa:

The region continues to struggle with terror and the refugee crisis. It is estimated that 9 million Syrians have been displaced in the last five years. Half of them are inside Syria and the rest are scattered into the neighboring countries and Europe. In 2013, Pierre Houssney shared the vision of establishing five centers by 2020. Already we have 7 centers in Beirut, Tyre, Tripoli, Amman, Jordan, and Izmir, Turkey, and we are hoping to establish one in Tunisia this year.



On April 19th we launched our Lebanese Church Engagement Project, which kicked off with a dinner event for pastors and their wives. We had 65 come to learn about Horizons' vision for helping them increase their capacity to fulfill the Great Commission. Pierre is pictured above on the right, introducing our five Lebanon directors and explaining how they can each serve the churches through this project. It was an historic occasion that marks a new level of collaboration with Lebanese churches!

School of Hope:

This spring we had 56 refugee children complete the school year! The stories of transformation are overwhelming, as we have seen rough street kids turn into loving, well-behaved students who know the Bible and how to apply it to their lives! Now that we have purchased the main building, we now have room for 120 students in the new school year! Already 50 pupils at \$55 a month each have been sponsored and we still need 70 sponsors for the new year.



Engaging Islam book:

My book in Korean, Chinese and French are all doing very well and are being used by God to motive the churches in those countries to reach out to Muslims in their neighborhoods and abroad.

Media:

We are growing rapidly in this area. Every time I am in Lebanon our media team films me teaching and they use the videos on TV, YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, and other social media.



In Boulder, Bill and his team are editing footage of our training programs and posting it on the internet.

Thousands are watching, and our staff and interns answer their questions and respond to their comments.

Arabic Church:

Two years ago, the Lord put it on my heart to start an Arabic church in Denver. It is estimated that 50,000 Arabs or more live in Aurora and the Denver metro area. We began with 10 people and though it was a struggle, we now average 40 people and on special occasions we have had close to a hundred. They come from countries including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Tunisia.

We give thanks to the Lord for his goodness to us for giving us the privilege of serving him. We also want to thank you for joining us through your prayer, financial support, and volunteer efforts!

For the Glory of God,

Georges Housney,
President, Horizons International