



THE HARVEST IS RIPE



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"THE PEOPLE LIVING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT" *Mat. 4:16 A*

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REZAN: A KURDISH REFUGEE'S TESTIMONY

My name is Rezan. I am a Kurdish Syrian refugee serving with Horizons Lebanon, in the International Teams department. I came to Beirut, in 2012 after the Syrian civil war forced my family to leave our home.

Though we were Muslim, I had not been raised to understand "God" or why people went to a mosque or church. My mother was the first in my family to become Christian, after Christ spoke to her in a dream. Then at 13, I went with my mother to the Horizons Nabaa Center, where brother Charbel invited me to their youth meetings. I was busy, working to support my family financially, but something was telling me to go. When I did, I felt a deep calling to be there, and I never wanted to leave.

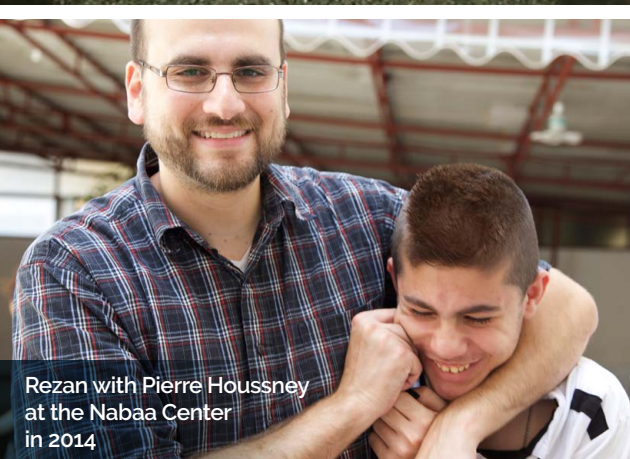
Almost every day at the center, Charbel mentored me about God, and helped me build an image of Jesus as the perfect man. I wanted to follow in his steps. In mid-2013, I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior at the Horizons Nabaa Center. I felt a passion to serve and know God, and I read the Bible every single day at my job, at home, and on the bus.

I started volunteering with Horizons in 2013 before starting full-time in 2015, distributing humanitarian aid to refugees. I did whatever was asked—cleaning the center, distributing food packages, preparing chairs for meetings. Eventually I began my current role, serving international teams as they minister in Lebanon.

At Horizons, it has been my privilege to serve with a strong community of believers whose only desire is to do what God wants, even if that means leaving their family, job, or home. They have helped me build my faith theologically and spiritually, and shared with me the passion to serve and reach out to others.

One of the most important lessons I have learned is to be humble and not self-centered so I can love, care for, and help my neighbor. I have not just heard about miracles—I have seen them with my own eyes. My faith is not in some idea of God, but in someone who truly exists, because I have seen him at work through Horizons over the years.

God bless you, and I hope you will come see the miracles for yourself!



Rezan with Pierre Houssney at the Nabaa Center in 2014

The Arlington Statement

ON BIBLE TRANSLATION



Horizons International is proud to be an initial signer of the Arlington Statement on Bible Translation, which will be launched shortly! Outlining crucial principles of accurate and faithful translation, the Arlington Statement is the result of collaboration between many bible translators and translation organizations who are dedicated to preserving the integrity of essential biblical terms.

We pray that this statement will help ensure that the purity and completeness of the gospel can reach everyone, everywhere, in every language—and we pray that many believers will hear its message. Join us by signing the statement and sharing it with others:

arlingtonstatement.org



Hong Kong security forces - photo by an HIA team member

Prayer Request from Hong Kong

Our Hong Kong-based Horizons International Asia team needs prayer on how to proceed in the face of newly-enacted Chinese national security laws in Hong Kong. Widely seen as infringement upon Hong Kong's legal independence, these laws subject the region's citizens to legal penalties for "subversive behavior" as defined by mainland China.

China's communist government views Christian belief as a Western and pro-democratic subversion of Chinese control. The well-known persecution of mainland Christians, including church closures and imprisonment, leads many to fear that Hong Kong's religious practices and connections to foreign organizations such as ministries might soon suffer a similar fate.

Pray that the Lord will protect our team at Horizons International Asia, and give them wisdom about how to respond to the changes and remain resolute in their faith during this period of uncertainty.

Cape Town Coming to Christ

Ministry staff Allain and Nicole Ravelo-Hoerson in Cape Town have remained focused on reaching Muslims. After recent threats and even thieves at their home, they have been forced to exercise caution—but they have still found ways to engage Muslims with the gospel.

Right up until national lockdown, Allain and Nicole continued to provide training sessions and conduct ministry trips to Réunion Island and Germany, holding meetings and engaging students. Nicole also helped launch The Sanneh Institute, a research center in Ghana focused on improving relations between Christianity and Islam. In the coming year, the Ravelo-Hoersons plan to develop effective strategies for equipping believers among the Himba and Vimba peoples located near South Africa, in spite of lower education within the tribes.

Allain and Nicole continue to provide one-on-one online discipleship and training, and preparations have begun for teaching an annual course online through the Bible Institute of South Africa.



Cultivating Biblical Missions

Biblical Missiology is a global network of pastors, missionaries, academics, church leaders, and laypeople, as well as an online journal committed to restoring the gospel to missions and missions to the church. Founded upon the belief that the Bible is the only authority on missions, Biblical Missiology publishes new articles weekly covering the latest missions trends, Bible translation issues, and practical questions missionaries face. Check out these highlights from our most recent articles.

REDEEMING MISSIOLOGY – GEORGES HOUSSNEY on April 27, 2020

Missions begins with the mandate that Jesus gave to his disciples known as the Great Commission: to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Missiology is concerned with how to practically fulfill the Great Commission in culturally relevant and effective ways. This requires understanding different cultures for the purpose of designing strategies and methods for communicating Christ's message to the world's thousands of unique people groups. As such, missiology can be called "applied theology," for it is the hands and feet of theology; it is the practical application of biblical theory.

Unfortunately, modern missionaries have allowed themselves to be influenced by the social sciences without realizing it, and have drifted away from focusing on the Bible as the final authority. Since the social sciences are man-centered and man-serving, many missions strategies have become exactly that: man-centered and man-serving. Missionaries strive to "preserve culture" by protecting indigenous cultural and religious practices, even more than they strive to promote or effect spiritual transformation of cultures.

Yet theology is God-centered. All knowledge must start from God and his Word. Man serves God, rather than the other way around! Even as we strive not to force our cultural presuppositions on other cultures, we must still accept that spiritual transformation in the lives of individuals, societies, and cultures is at the heart of a biblical view of missions. *More to come—this excerpt is part of an ongoing series!*

“ALL knowledge must start from God and His Word.”

WHEN YOUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS HEARTBEAT HAS FLATTENED – GREG HANDLEY on June 22, 2020

All church leaders feel the tension. No matter how passionately we plea for our church members to be committed to the Great Commission, it seems to fall flat. The greatness of the Great Commission seems to be lost in the sea of a million other responsibilities we have in our busy age. Sound familiar? Has your church's missions heartbeat flatlined? If so, you are not alone.



“Missiology is concerned with how to practically fulfill the Great Commission in culturally relevant and effective ways.”

MUSLIM INSIDER ECCLESIOLOGY ARTICLE PART 1 – MATTHEW BENNETT on July 13, 2020

Sitting across from us eating a Big Mac and fries was a bearded man who introduced himself as Sheikh Ahmad. He wore the traditional attire of one who had taken the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, and he informed us that he was a regular Friday preacher in a local mosque. However, Sheikh Ahmad also told us that he was a Muslim follower of 'Isa—the Qur'an's name for its Jesus character—and that when he preached, he only focused on the parts of the Qur'an that taught about 'Isa. While we had studied theoretical missiological strategies that have come to be known as the Insider Movement (IM), Sheikh Ahmed provided us with our first encounter with an actual Insider.

Sheikh Ahmed also provoked a number of questions from our team. How does one preach Jesus from the Qur'an? How does one avoid syncretism when leading people to worship in Islamic fashion while internally hoping to lead them to Christ? And finally, how much of the practice of Islam can be reconfigured and reimagined so as to provide a suitable cultural vehicle for Christ-centered worship while remaining identifiably Islamic?

Check out these additional articles and more at [Biblical Missiology.org](https://biblicalmissiology.org):

CLICK TO READ
FULL ARTICLES



- [What's Wrong With Western Missionaries](#) – Nik Ripken
- [Why Campus Revivals Spark Missionary Advance](#) – J. Edwin Orr
- [Inside the World of Christians from Muslim Backgrounds \(Series\)](#) – Fred Farrokh

Biblical Missiology is growing! In the last year, we have hired new editorial staff to boost content and awareness, and we are also completely redesigning the website. Later this year, you can expect to find all the same content and more on the new site: *Journal of Biblical Missiology!*

biblicalmissiology.org



HORIZONS LEBANON –

SERVING IN HOLISTIC MINISTRY

Horizons founded its first ministry center in Lebanon in Beirut in 2012, as refugees poured over the border due to the Syrian civil war. Horizons began seeing huge numbers of Muslims coming to faith, and began partnering with churches to disciple hundreds of converts from Islam and train believers from all backgrounds to boldly proclaim, disciple, and equip others for the Great Commission in Lebanon, the Middle East, and beyond.

Through a holistic approach to identifying opportunities to serve communities alongside local churches, Horizons Lebanon has developed into an integral hub of gospel proclamation, discipleship, media production, and training events. The chart below illustrates how Horizons Lebanon's gospel initiatives have grown to serve communities throughout the MENA region.



NEW STRATEGIES FOR UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

You may already know that Lebanon is undergoing a nationwide economic and health crisis. To address the changing circumstances, our initiatives are rapidly evolving to share the gospel through humanitarian work like the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund, and through increasing online evangelism and discipleship.

In a historic time when more Muslims are accepting Christ than ever before, you can join hands with us in the Great Commission. Learn how you can partner with us today at horizonsinternational.org/lebanon.

CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELIEF UPDATE!

Lebanon is suffering from an unprecedented economic, political, and health crisis. Through the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund, Horizons has been able to provide desperately needed food and hygiene supplies to the poor and refugee families who are least able to endure the continuing impact of inflation, unemployment, and the COVID-19 crisis. So far, over 200 supporters have given more than \$134,000—but the need is still great! In this time, your gifts translate into a real and tangible representation of Christ's freely given love. One pastor whose church has partnered with Horizons in coronavirus relief work said, "You might ask what a bag of bread is really worth—but here they are taking them as fast as they can, and the water too. I just want to say God bless you and your family, God bless Horizons, and may the Lord use you!"

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, THIS PROJECT IS PROVIDING:

- **35,000 emergency bread packages**
- **4,295 food portions to needy families**
- **1,200 infant care packages**
- **\$8,000 of support for staff in Lebanon ministering to refugees.**



THE CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY RELIEF ROUNDTABLE IN JULY!

In early August, many of you joined us for our online Coronavirus Emergency Relief Roundtable, which allowed our partners and supporters to connect with Horizons' Director of Field Ministries in Lebanon, Boutros Wehbe, who is leading our coronavirus response initiatives. It was a time of mutual encouragement and inspiration through powerful testimonies of what God is doing, and a chance to gain a more detailed understanding of the unique gospel opportunities provided by this project. You can watch a recording of the roundtable at horizonsinternational.org/roundtables.

Support the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund at

horizonsinternational.org/coronavirus



Horizons Lebanon staff and partner church members distribute aid to families in need.

YES! I WANT TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST!

Enclosed is my one-time monthly gift of \$ _____ to support missionary/project: _____

Plus a one-time

monthly gift to the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund:



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