

onthehorizon

• • • Horizons International Newsletter – June 2022 • • • • •

FAITH LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

SHARING THE GOSPEL ACROSS THE WORLD



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Horizons
INTERNATIONAL
proclaim. disciple. equip.

UKRAINE: A NATION SUFFERING

Dear friend,

The entire world is shaken, tensions are rising, and the Ukraine war threatens to escalate into WWIII. Jesus warned us: "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars... Such things must happen" (Matthew 24:6).

How is the global turmoil affecting the work of the gospel? What is your role? Personally, I am a child of war. I was 9 years old when a civil war broke out in Lebanon and my family became refugees. Later in my 20s, the Lebanese Civil War destroyed my home and much of my homeland. The effects of those wars are still felt now.



Coming from that background, I have been watching news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine with a heavy heart. Millions of people are in deepest pain and suffering. I sensed God pressing on my heart to act, so in mid-April I went to Ukraine for two weeks as part of a 4-person team. We did not know what to expect or how the Lord would use us. We carried with us \$30,000 worth of medications and first aid products, as well as tens of thousands of dollars more in cash. This money was to help churches who are serving and sheltering an overflow of refugees.

Horizons first got involved in Ukraine in 2018, training Ukrainian churches and seminaries to engage the many Muslims who come to study and work. A married couple from that training team, Khalil (Lebanese) and Julia (Ukrainian), now plans to move from Lebanon to Ukraine to establish a new Horizons ministry center in Lviv.

Here are some of the things I saw in Ukraine:

1. Thousands of refugees are flooding churches and accepting Christ! Across Ukraine, the churches have transformed into makeshift hospitals, homeless kitchens, and refugee centers. Every church we visited had converted their sanctuary into an aid station for welcoming thousands of refugees. We had many opportunities to serve with these churches—loading vans with clothing, medicines, and food, praying with people, and encouraging the pastors.

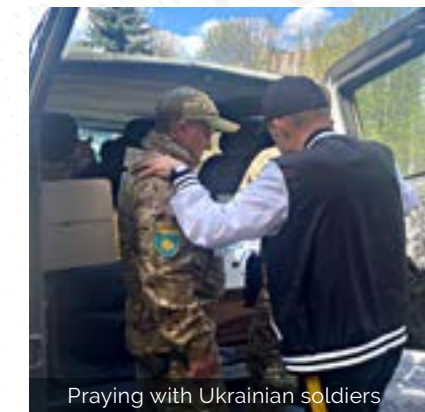
2. It was heartbreaking to hear the stories of some of these refugees who lost their homes their loved ones, their entire cities. The worst stories are of soldiers raping women, and even children. I could see pain in their faces. Churches and mission agencies are providing trauma therapy. We prayed with as many as we met. Thankfully, some are finding hope in Christ.

3. We met with city authorities, including the mayor of Lviv. They were all appreciative of us, and testified that Ukraine's churches have provided the bulk of aid to the refugees.

4. I found out that many Muslims live in Ukraine. Many of them are students. Plans are underway for Horizons to establish a center in the city of Lviv to help support churches and train Christians to minister to Muslims.

I find it hard to share in words what I experienced being inside Ukraine, talking to refugees and church leaders. If I had not personally seen what God is doing in this country, I would not believe it. Even as millions suffer and despair amidst destruction and loss of life, God is bringing thousands of converts to be transformed by the power of the cross. Churches are bursting at the seams with people seeking help and hope.

In Lebanon, Ukraine, Kosovo, and elsewhere, we help churches like these serve the tens of thousands of new believers pouring in. Your support is making a huge difference in their lives, and for that, you have my deepest gratitude. Without you, we can only dream—but with you, the dream becomes a reality. Thank you for allowing God to use you to shine His light among the nations.



Please continue to pray for refugees and churches, and for God to establish Himself as Lord—in Ukraine, and in the nations beyond.

Together for the Kingdom,

Georges Housney
President, Horizons International

REACHING A NATION FOR CHRIST

The Lebanon Crisis Fund
Lifts Up Those In Need

The world's attention may have moved on to other global issues, but the economic situation in Lebanon is only worsening. Beyond the collapse of Lebanon's basic infrastructure, the devastating war in Ukraine has further disrupted supply chains, causing gas and food prices to skyrocket. Since **Lebanon purchases nearly 80% of its grain from Ukraine**, the nationwide food shortage will continue to grow.

As the nation's instability plagues the daily lives of the Lebanese people, they find few sources of relief and even fewer reasons to hope. The government is hopelessly corrupt. Islam is the dominant religion of the region, but it fails to provide the spiritual and practical help that Lebanon so desperately needs.

Since its inception, the Lebanon Crisis Fund (LCF) has sought to address the deep spiritual needs of this hurting nation **by sharing the gospel and providing humanitarian aid** in cooperation with local Lebanese churches. As the project continues to develop and expand, its mission remains the same: to bolster the Church in Lebanon, so that it can remain strong, as salt and light amid the ongoing collapse.

Through your partnership, the LCF continues to provide help:

1. Humanitarian Aid

In 2021, the LCF's humanitarian aid efforts rapidly expanded as **we supported over 100 churches in our growing partnership network**. Lebanese churches have a continued critical

need for food portions and medical aid, which have been essential lifelines for needy members of their communities. We are continuing our efforts to provide food and medicine to partner churches, especially among the most vulnerable, such as those in regions and villages far from Beirut.

2. Evangelistic Outreaches and Multi-Church Events

The LCF is supporting local outreaches in **different areas of Lebanon**, including the areas affected by the port explosion. In the last year, we have facilitated several multi-church online prayer events and theological forums, as well as worship events through MEC Worship. Since 102 of Lebanon's 105 evangelical churches have partnered with the LCF, we continue to recruit and involve church members in evangelistic outreach events, in order to equip them and facilitate inter-church collaboration.

3. MEC Internships

Horizons is training **44 indigenous and international interns** in a wide variety of ministry skills including worship, graphic design, media production, discipleship, and web development. These paid internships help local believers develop their God-given talents in support of the Church. By continuing to invest in paid internships for believers, **the LCF provides gainful work and fruitful ministry opportunities for the next generation of servant leaders.**

We are continuing to communicate with local pastors to identify and recruit candidates for roles that align with their talents and interests.

4. Job Creation and Outsourcing

As the economy continues to put Lebanese people out of work, many believers are trying to leave the region. To address this need, **Horizons has formed partnerships with US ministries and missions-minded companies to provide training and employment opportunities for our Christian interns**, as well as for others who have accounting, marketing, and e-commerce skills. The survival of believers in the Middle East is strategically paramount for the Great Commission in the coming decades, since they will position the Church to play a key role in rebuilding the Lebanese economy, and powerfully advance the gospel in the region.

The Lebanon Crisis Fund's powerful impact in Lebanon is the result of worldwide support from churches, ministries, and individuals. **We thank God for such powerful partnerships to bring salvation to a struggling nation.**



You can be a part of the LCF too!

Lebanon needs your help—whether through vision and mission trips, financial contributions, forming sister-church relationships, or however God leads you. If Lebanon is on your heart, **you can reach out to us at connect@horizonsinternational.org.**



Learn more:

horizonsinternational.org/lebanoncrisis



HOW TO STORY THE GOSPEL TO MUSLIMS: PART 2

USING GENESIS AND REVELATION TO SHOW GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE PLAN

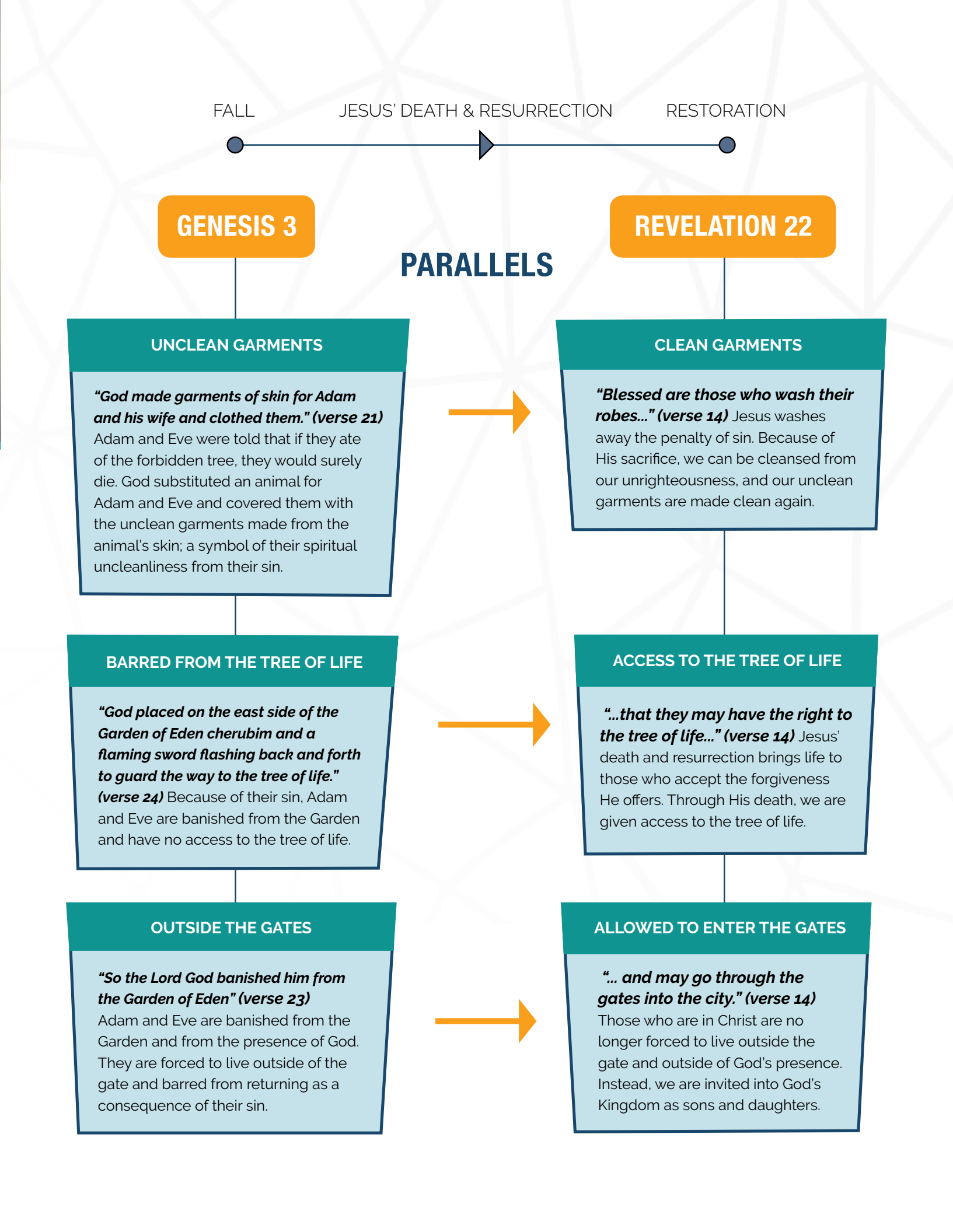
The Bible is composed of many books, written by a diverse group of authors, in different languages and historical contexts. However, recurring themes and symbols tie these individual stories into a larger narrative: **the narrative of the Cross**. The entire story of the Bible is the story of God's plan for our redemption. As we share the gospel with Muslims, we can demonstrate to them how the entire narrative of scripture forms an intricate and inspired tapestry, with Jesus at its center.

While the Bible's recurring themes may not seem like proof of the gospel to Western readers, **those from Eastern worldviews often see thematic coherence as a compelling indicator that God is the sovereign author of the Bible**. Learning about the interconnected story arc of Scripture can help Muslims recognize the Bible as a divinely inspired and authoritative text, rather than a book of stories authored and compiled by mere men. By highlighting the recurring threads throughout, **you can help Muslims recognize the Bible's internal consistency**, and lead them toward an understanding of human history that underscores the importance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

The stories that bookend the Bible (**Genesis 3 and Revelation 22**) provide a framework for sharing the gospel with Muslims that emphasizes Biblical authority. Despite being written in different languages and different time periods, these two passages contain powerful parallels to one another. **Genesis 3 introduces sin and its consequences in the Garden of Eden, while Revelation 22 shows the curse of sin reversed and humans regaining access to the Tree of Life**. When viewed together, these passages can help you demonstrate to Muslims that God's redemptive plan is the guiding force behind all of human history.

“ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. ”

REVELATION 22:13



UPCOMING JUNE ROUNDTABLE: **MINISTRIES THRIVE ACROSS LEBANON**

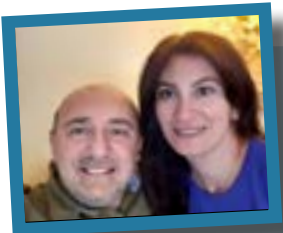
As Lebanon's economy and infrastructure are in shambles, thousands of people are seeking answers that the world cannot answer. In this time of deep need, Horizons' staff and partners are serving Lebanese communities, providing aid and services through different ministries in the name of Jesus Christ.

Join us on Wednesday, June 15, to learn how direct ministry and church partnerships are helping thousands of seekers and new believers amid Lebanon's continuing crisis. **Hear ministry reports directly from our field staff:**

Digital Roundtable:

**Online Zoom
meeting**

**Wednesday,
June 15, 4pm MT**



Tony Kaady serves through evangelistic house visits and humanitarian aid in the Douar area. He helps arrange evangelistic events with local churches to host hundreds of children and their family members.

Pastor Imad Aubrey leads the Zahle Ministry Team, which provides food, medicine, and heating fuel to those who are suffering under extreme poverty, while ministering to them through house visits and media ministry.



Pastor Ziad El Helou serves with the MEC and Beirut Bible Church. He will share about the impact of Horizons' support, and the aid and service it enables the church to provide to its community.

In this gathering to celebrate God's works, you will have the opportunity to interact with the speakers, ask questions, and pray for them. We hope to see you there as we explore how this critical gospel work can help reshape a nation.

REGISTER TODAY!

horizonsinternational.org/roundtables

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 Lebanon Crisis Fund:



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