

on the horizon

•••• Horizons International Newsletter – October 2021 •••••

And sow fields and plant vineyards, and

GATHER A FRUITFUL HARVEST

Psalm 107:37



Note:

For best results, right-click on links and select "open in new window". This will save your place in the newsletter and not require reloading the PDF.

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Horizons
INTERNATIONAL
proclaim. disciple. equip.



FATIMA

A FORMER MUSLIM'S TESTIMONY

My name is Fatima, and I serve as lead teacher at Horizons' School of Hope. I was a primary school teacher in Syria. I had grown up in a **strict Islamic family**, never knowing I could have an intimate relationship with God. I was selfish, lacking compassion for others, and I followed Islamic rules to impress people. **I didn't know how to love or trust those around me.**

In 2012, I arrived in Lebanon with my husband and my two children, as refugees. Life was difficult. We had lost everything because of the war in Syria: our house, work, money, safety, and belongings. Mourning our old life, **I asked, "Who is God? Why did he create me? Why should I follow him?"** I hated God for allowing these things to happen to us. But one day, I happened across a worship service at a Horizons center, where I heard someone teaching how Jesus could make us into a new creation. I wondered if Jesus could give me hope, and help me to trust again.

I continued to visit Horizons, and I made great friends who taught me and supported me spiritually, financially, and emotionally. We spent many hours praying together, and deep within my soul, **I realized that Jesus could change me, heal me, and show me the truth.** My husband and kids noticed the change in me, and it wasn't long before our whole family gave our lives to Christ!

I began serving the Lord by helping with a women's literacy program. This led me to minister to Syrian refugee children as the **first teacher at Horizons' School of Hope.** We started with only one classroom and 19 students—but each year, by God's grace, the number of students has increased, and **now we have 8 classes and 150 students!**

It is a joy to help the children academically while also delivering the message of Jesus to every home through the kids. **We teachers regularly see and hear testimonies of miracles and healings in our daily lives.** I thank God for this ministry and that he has entrusted me with serving children from my own country, despite all that I was before knowing him. His love has completely transformed my life.

Fatima Mustafa
Lead Teacher, School of Hope



FEED MY SHEEP

A LETTER FROM PIERRE HOUSSNEY

Dear friend,

How is your faith progressing through the crazy blur of 2021? Do you see God at work around you? Personally, this year has brought so many blessings even amidst so much chaos. As my country, Lebanon, has increasingly collapsed, it really has challenged my sense of normalcy. Have you also lost that sense of familiarity, because of changes in your situation, routine, and community?



For so many of us, this has caused a sense of lostness and confusion that leaves us searching for purpose and stability. In Lebanon, we have seen such an increase in openness to the gospel as people are grasping for hope and finding it in Christ. For me, this uncertainty has caused me to spend a lot more time examining my own life and ministry, seeking to figure out how I can use my time to make my biggest impact.

In my personal devotions recently I have been reading and thinking about Jesus as the Good Shepherd, who seeks the lost sheep and brings them back to the flock, where they have safety and nourishment. In studying several related passages, I've been deeply challenged to imitate Jesus as a shepherd. This means caring for other believers, while also pursuing those who don't know the Lord and bringing them into the flock.

It is easy in times like these to withdraw and start to focus on ourselves, but that calling that Jesus gave to Peter (John 21:15-17) to "feed my sheep" should never leave our hearts. Any sense of lostness we feel should inspire us to go out there and seek the truly lost.

Though we may be hard-pressed on every side and perplexed by our circumstances (2 Cor. 4:8), may God give us the strength to push through and in spite of it all, reach outside our comfort zones, in our communities and around the world, to care for the desperate and pursue the lost. As we serve together, I trust the Lord will continue to bless our efforts with much growth.

Yours in Christ,

Pierre Rashad Houssney
Executive Director, Horizons International

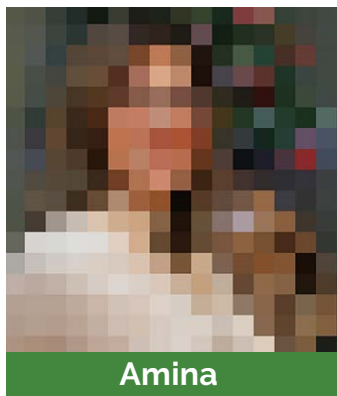
TESTIMONIES OF GROWTH

Though one plants, and another waters, it is God who causes the growth. And across the globe, this growth is happening every day! Horizons team members and those they serve share about the work God has done in and through them.

My journey of faith began six years ago when I first came to know Christ. As soon as I met the Lord, I found myself longing to serve Him in any way possible. I was part of a home group ministry at the time, where I heard about an opportunity to serve at the Horizons café (now the Middle East Center). Although I didn't think I had any special talents, I still wanted to offer myself fully to God as a vessel that He could use to bless others. I knew almost nothing about practical service, but God taught and guided me along the way. He equipped me with the skills and opportunities I needed to grow in my faith and become a servant leader. Today, I am responsible for the Language Academy of Beirut, where I serve with nine other teachers to equip believers with new language skills!



Mireille Aoun



Amina

Coming from a Muslim background, I knew very little about what it means to follow Christ. But seven years ago, when I learned how Jesus humbled himself to become a man and die for my sins, I gave him my heart. As a new believer, I received guidance and support from the community of Christians at a Horizons ministry center. God used their investment in my life to strengthen my faith and prepare me to extend the same love to others. My journey has been full of growth and learning to serve God with my life. I now disciple, lead, and train other women to grow into mature believers, so that they can disciple others and continue multiplying the Kingdom!

MORE TESTIMONIES ON HORIZONS' BLOG:

Lena: My house was severely damaged by the explosion in Beirut last August, and it's by the grace of God that I was not seriously injured or killed. God revealed his faithfulness to me...

Antonella: I joined the Horizons family through a temporary children's ministry internship in December 2018, not knowing where it would lead me...

Maram: Before coming to the Horizons' ministry center and connecting with a community of believers, I tried to read the Bible on my own...



READ ALL THESE AND MORE ONLINE!

blog.horizonsinternational.org

BEQAA FARMLAND



WE PRAYED, AND GOD PROVIDED!

God has enabled Horizons to purchase 5.27 acres of farmland in the Beqaa Valley, realizing the first step of our long-standing vision to **establish a permanent missional community in Lebanon's most fertile agricultural region.** By providing fresh food for local churches to distribute, creating jobs for believers and refugees, and developing a strong partnership network of Christians in the Beqaa Valley, this agricultural development project promises to bring the region both practical support and spiritual renewal. As we transition the Lebanon Crisis Fund toward sustained recovery, **this initiative will focus on providing long-term solutions to the region's most pressing needs.** Within the next year, we plan to accomplish the following goals:

- Begin construction of a ministry center
- Hire local believers to oversee the farm and provide jobs for refugees as we plant crops and build greenhouses
- Add 1-2 local discipleship interns to lead groups of converts from Islam
- Provide humanitarian aid for at least **300 refugee families per month** with food produced on the land
- Maintain and grow our church network to include at least four local churches closely connected with the farm's agricultural and discipleship programs



Horizons Lebanon staff members gathered for worship and prayer to dedicate the new farmland to the Lord.

This practical infrastructure is the first piece of a larger missional initiative to sustain and **strengthen the local Christian community.** Stay tuned for updates on social media, future newsletters, and digital roundtables. Our continued prayer is that God will use the new farmland to bring hope and renewal to Lebanon.

GLOBAL UPDATES

News from Horizons staff around the world

EL SALVADOR/ HONDURAS

In July 2021, Georges spoke at seven churches and several conferences in Honduras and El Salvador, training over 400 in-person and 3,000 virtual attendees from across Latin America to evangelize the rapidly increasing Muslim population. This resulted in several teaching invitations across Latin America. Knowing he couldn't fulfill the demand physically, Georges planned a four-week virtual training. A total of 45 pastors, leaders, and missionaries from 15 countries were equipped via Zoom to reach Muslims.

DOUAR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

On Aug 21st, Horizons held a children's event to prepare the ground for a new ministry in Douar, Lebanon, led by Horizons staff member Tony Kaady. Staff from a partner church, Karantina Alliance Church, joined together with several staff members to provide food, recruit youth to help with the event, and enlist a youth leader to preach the gospel message through drama to over 250 children. The event included games, worship, food, the message of salvation, and a gift for each child.

ZAHLÉ

Zahlé ministry, led by Pastor Imad Aubrey, is pursuing the vision of planting house churches across the Beqaa Valley region. Two small missions-focused house churches have already been established in Zahlé and Beirut, and future leaders are being gradually raised up and trained. The team is also ministering to the poor through food aid and medicine.

ZAMBIA

This September, Horizons' partner ministry World Outreach Team Action (WOTA) resumed its Core Training Service, which is designed to equip believers to evangelize Muslim communities in Zambia's Eastern Province and abroad. It resumed in September with 50 people attending the training so far via Zoom and learning cross-cultural communication skills for missions.

KOSOVO

Mission Evangelical Fellowship hosted their annual Network Retreat in September, with over 130 people in attendance. The retreat, led by Pastor Femi Çakolli, provided much-needed fellowship as well as teaching times, small group discussions, times of worship and prayer, and games.

The Dardania Network of churches, led by Pastor Femi, is also planning a new initiative to launch a training institute to equip Balkan believers to effectively reach Muslims for Christ.

HONG KONG

The team at Horizons International Asia, overseen by Pastor Edward, has faithfully led weekly outreach events, engaging Muslims through conversation, prayer, and distributing gospel literature. A total of 47 people recently attended a full-day training for missionaries.

These missionaries are trained to reach Muslims in Hong Kong and beyond. Outreach teams have faced increasing pressure from Muslim groups trying to prevent local Muslims from receiving the gospel, but are standing firm in bold and radical faith.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

WITH GEORGES AND PIERRE HOUSSNEY

Join us next month for a digital roundtable hosted by Horizons International, featuring Founder and President Georges Housney and his son, Executive Director Pierre Housney.

This is a special opportunity to connect with Horizons leadership. For over three decades, God has blessed Georges and Pierre to lead our ministry in serving and ministering to Muslims and others around the world. In that time, Horizons has grown through many challenges and opportunities. Recently, Horizons' staff members adapted in innovative ways to minister during the COVID pandemic, and reoriented projects and teams to address changing needs amid the ongoing economic crisis in Lebanon.

The format of this meeting will be open and conversational. As many of us currently face unique ministry challenges, Georges and Pierre desire to connect with you and other Horizons partners as co-laborers in the Great Commission. This is your opportunity to share thoughts, ask questions, and join together in prayer.

Digital Roundtable:

Conversation with
Georges and Pierre

**Online Zoom
meeting**

**Wednesday,
Nov. 10
4pm MT**

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:



CLICK HERE TO GIVE