Dear partners, friends, and supporters,

When God called me to preach the gospel to the world of Islam, I knew I was entering a battlefield. That was over forty years ago.

At that time, most Muslim countries were labeled “closed.” Very few people heard the gospel all across the Muslim world. When one Muslim came to Christ, it was big news.

Now the scene has changed. Muslims are flooding into the kingdom. I never even imagined that the day will come when thousands of Muslims around the world are leaving Islam and entering the church on a daily basis!

Frankly, I can’t keep track of my own work, let alone all of our staff in the Middle East, North Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America.

In this prayer letter, you will get a glimpse of what God is doing through Horizons. You will see the faces of real people who are being impacted by the ministry.

Each one of you is a vital part of this work. Thank you for your active partnership – I invite you to stay engaged in these ways:

1. **Pray:** Ministry to Muslims, though rewarding, is tough. Our staff members face threats, dangers, and discouragement. They work hard and need your prayer for strength and encouragement. Sign up for our daily or weekly prayer updates for convenient reminders to pray!

   Visit: horizonsinternational.org/prayer-letters

2. **Give a raise to your missionary:** If you have not given your missionary a raise lately, please do so now. Many of our missionaries are under-supported. They continue to faithfully serve the Lord regardless, but are relying on you to make their work possible. Check out our new recurring gift options!

   Visit: horizonsinternational.org/give

3. **Give to special projects that advance God’s Kingdom:**
   - Support one convert from Islam to attend a Cubs to Lions Discipleship conference - $500
   - Support one Saudi Convert to attend the Gulf Arab Retreat - $500
   - Sponsor one Syrian refugee child at our School of Hope in Beirut - $55/month
   - Give a gift toward Conference Centers in Kosovo or Tyre, Lebanon - Any Amount

   Visit: horizonsinternational.org/give

4. **Attend a training event to get equipped to reach Muslims:**

   Visit: engagingislam.org

Bad news hits us every day from around the world. It’s time to respond by making good news!

Every day we hear of destruction in Syria, Yemen, Libya, Iraq, and many other nations. Millions of refugees are fleeing for their lives and many of them will never return. Yet God is reaching out to them through His Church, that they might return to Him, their loving heavenly Father!

Thank you for being a vital part of the good news in a world full of turmoil.

Georges Houssney
Founder and President
Horizons International
Discipling new believers in Jesus Christ is key to equipping and strengthening the Church of North America, and all the more when our new believers are coming from a Muslim background. How can the Church unite this people group that has very diverse and personal relationships into the Muslim world?

In Calgary, Georges Houssney’s Cubs to Lions Discipleship Week has done just that. At last year’s CTL Calgary, Muslim background believers from all over the country came to be encouraged and strengthened. One year later, seven of them continue together in a weekly Bible study and have grown to twenty strong.

Greetings from Lebanon where Joy and I have been for three weeks ministering to the Syrian refugees and the team that works with them. Last weekend we concluded a ‘Cubs to Lions’ conference with 150 in attendance at a retreat center in the mountains. It was a time of refreshment, fellowship and teaching. After a clear presentation of the gospel, twelve Muslims entered into a saving knowledge of Jesus and of them exhibited a visible transformation in their lives and how they see the world. It was awesome. Additionally several testified to the Lord’s healing. Some shared how the Lord has changed them in ways they never thought possible.

The theme of the conference was “God’s plan and purpose for the family.” The most significant part of the conference was a night of reconciliation. I had met with the children without the parents and asked them to share how their parents treat them and if they feel hurt by their parents. Many of the children shared horrible abuse by parents verbally, emotionally and physically.

I spoke to the parents about what their children had said and gave them a teaching on how to treat the children with care and respect. The parents were very responsive and thankful for the teaching because they never heard this kind of teaching as Muslims.

That evening, we decided to have a reconciliation service. I asked all the families to stand together in a semi-circle and to come forward one family at a time to ask each other for forgiveness and to forgive each other. It was quite a moving time. The Lord healed wounds between husbands and wives and parents and children.

This is what it is all about, reconciling to God and to each other. Thank you for playing a role in making this ministry possible.

Georges Houssney

Photography by: Georges Houssney

Transforming Families

Sponsor a Student for $500

HORIZONSINTERNATIONAL.Org/GIVE
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - FINDING HOME IN THE USA

Horizons’ International Student Ministries are transforming the lives of students from around the world in seven states on 14 different campuses. Our International Student Ministry staff continues to have transformational interactions with students. Some of these students have shown curiosity towards the life-giving message of Jesus Christ, while others have started reading the Bible! Last year Rebecca started coming to the Friendship Friday dinners at Horizons in Boulder. She became increasingly interested in the Bible and Jesus as the year went on! She continued to ask questions, become more involved, and read scripture. *Rebecca is just one small example of the impact Horizons’ International Student Ministries are having around the country. Many international students are looking for a community in a foreign country. We provide incredible opportunities to foster community with international students and to talk to them about Christ. We always need more volunteers from churches to get involved with the international students on nearby campuses!“

Boulder’s Friday night dinners are a huge hit for international students attending the University of Colorado and the International English School in Boulder. If you would like to get involved in International Student ministry in Boulder, or elsewhere, please email main@horizonsinternational.org. If you would like to support this ministry, consider bringing your church to sponsor a dinner, or donate at horizonsinternational.org/give to help support the dinners! The Lord has blessed us by bringing the nations to our doorsteps. Our ISM staff members have done great work to minister to these international students. That has produced fruit, and we are confident that more international students will come to faith in the coming years. We pray each student/scholar/family member will see Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We encourage family members to come for social/recreational activities.

Our programs include weekly Bible studies on campuses, English classes, and many other social/recreational activities. We pray each student/scholar/family member will see Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We encourage family members to come for social/recreational activities.

ALBANY

Finding Jesus in New York

Two Stories of Salvation

Albany, NY and its surrounding cities receive thousands of international students every year. Horizons International, Albany has been serving and loving international students and scholars for over 25 years. Our programs include weekly Bible studies on campuses, English classes, and many other social/recreational activities.

We pray each student/scholar/family member will see Jesus in us, and desire to know more about Him. Each year we see individuals come to know Jesus, so we are excited to see who the Lord will bring to Himself in the coming year! We are so humbled that the Lord allows us to be part of His wonderful plan of salvation for students from around the world!

This past semester we were privileged to see a Chinese woman come to Christ after a Bible Study in January. In the cold and windy campus parking lot, through her tears, she asked Jesus to be Lord of her life. Her heart had been hard towards Him but God had other plans for her. Through class trips and relationships with staff and volunteers, her heart softened. Now in our discipleship program, she is maturing and preparing to be baptized in the church!

A week later we had the privilege of seeing a small part of “J” coming to the Lord at an Albany Bible Study. “J” had been around for 3 years and been coming to events, attending church, living with 2 Christian roommates and spending many holidays with Christians. He began asking questions after he began attending our Bible Study. When given an invitation, he asked Jesus to be Lord of his life. He gave his testimony at the Horizons Spring Dinner and has also asked to be baptized! Praise God!

ZAMBIA

André Houssney is Horizons’ Lead Trainer for North America. He also runs a missionary agricultural business in Zambia, called Sambah Naturals. They have a network of missional businesses that create profits to fund Zambian missionary efforts. They are a fair trade company that exports high-quality, all-natural soap, lip balm, and honey to the US for sale. This money supports farmers and missions activities. While in Zambia this spring, André and his team met a boy at the market. He was insulting them, yelling, and demanding money. When they left the market the boy followed them and continued to pester them. André stopped to talk to him and the boy said his name was demon, and that he had 72 demons. The team asked him if he would like to be released and he eventually let them pray for him. Afterwards they walked home and shared a meal together. Bernard is pictured below walking with André and son, Elias. The Lord is using Sambah Naturals to send missionaries into the Muslim world, and we believe we will continue to meet more people like Bernard and lead them to Christ!

Sambah is actively engaged in doing missions in the Muslim world and the organization’s vision is ever expanding! They want to reach Muslims along the Swahili coast starting in Tanzania and gradually moving north through Kenya and up to Somalia and Sudan. By 2020 they hope to be supporting 100 teams of missionaries.

HOW TO SUPPORT SAMBAH NATURALS:

1. PRAY FAITHFULLY FOR THIS COMPANY, ITS FARMERS, AND THE ZAMBIAN MISSIONARIES IT SUPPORTS.

2. GIVE A GIFT TO SUPPORT THE ZAMBIAN CHURCH TO REACH MUSLIMS IN AFRICA:
   HORZONSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE

3. BUY ZAMBEEZI LIP BALM AND SOAP: SAMBHANATURALS.COM
KOSOVO – A HISTORIC TIME FOR THE CHURCH

Prayers are being answered in Kosovo and we are seeing great fruit from our labors! For the first time in the church’s 200-year history, the government of Kosovo has given land to the evangelical church! In 2015, in the Muslim city of Drenas, Perseverance Church was planted by Horizons’ staff member Pastor Femi, and currently has had over 60 Muslims come to Christ and 30 baptized within the first 6 months! Now in 2016, the church was given 2 and a half acres of land for ministry purposes!

Horizons’ President Georges Houssney was there in April, giving discipleship training to these brand new believers, when a meeting was called between city officials and the church. This historic meeting was seen as recognition of the church’s right to exist in the city, which led to the land donation! An unfinished 5,000 ft² hotel building is already on the land, and all the church needs to do to assume full ownership is reimburse the builder for construction costs. We have already raised $47,000 of the $200,000 needed! The Lord has graciously answered our prayers for land and a building, so we are now praying with great faith, for the remaining funds to purchase and finish it, so it can be used as a conference and retreat center!

The Lord is continually going great work through the church in Kosovo! In September, twenty former Muslims found new life in Christ and were baptized! One of the new believers is a prominent painter, poet, and politician in Kosovo, was baptized by Pastor Femi! This 83 year-old man was imprisoned for 26 years for political reasons. The Lord has worked in incredible ways in this man’s life and redeemed him! Horizons’ Kosovo staff had been supporting and encouraging him along his new spiritual journey.

We trust the Lord that he will continue to be faithful as the Kosovo team pursues their vision to reach Albanian Muslims in South Serbia!

NORTH AFRICA

How the Lord is Working through Horizons’ Language Academy

Several years ago, Horizons sent two families to open an English school in North Africa. The Lord has continually provided for this ministry throughout these years. Many English students have come to Christ and the academy continues to grow. In 2016, many exciting things happened. Three nationals in the city were baptized in the past year! We are so excited about their new life in Christ and their opportunity for growth! Around 300 participated in the school in the past year. All of these students have seen the love of Christ through our staff and volunteers and many of them have heard the gospel! We are prayerful that seeds are being planted and that the students will continue to ask questions and seek the Lord. God is working powerfully in North Africa and we believe he will continue to grow the academy and draw more people to salvation in Christ.

TURKEY

Turkey has received the largest amount of Syrian refugees since the Syrian crisis began, now with over 2.7 million refugees registered by the UN. In August 2016, Horizons began responding by sending teams to serve in different regions of Turkey, in order to provide relief and share the gospel with refugees, and to assist Turkish churches in reaching out to the refugees. So far, our teams have traveled to Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Orfa, Suruç (bordering Kobani, Syria) and Antakya. Our teams have been privileged to serve with people from many different ethnicities, such as Turks, Kurds, Armenians, Iraqis, Iranians, and Arab Syrians. We send teams to Turkey almost every month, for 5-15 days. The teams minister by visiting refugee homes, evangelizing on the streets, and preaching in local churches, individually discipling new believers, and encouraging local believers to evangelize boldly.

"Turkey desperately needs Arabic speakers because there are so many refugees, yet most missionaries and local believers don’t know the language. Turkey thirsts for the Truth! Local believers need to be equipped, encouraged to speak boldly in churches and on the streets, and to have hope."

-Pauline Shamigian, Turkey Missions Coordinator
LEBANON EXPANSION

Syrian refugees have flooded the little country of Lebanon in the last five years, giving it the highest percentage of refugees per capita in the world. Many of them have moved to Beirut and other main cities. But there are hundreds of thousands scattered throughout the country. We have found it necessary to expand our work to reach as many as possible, and train and empower local churches to do the same.

This is part of Horizons’ broader strategy to develop outreach infrastructure throughout the Middle East and North Africa. In Lebanon, the short to mid-term opportunity of reaching huge numbers of Syrian refugees provides an impetus that feeds into the long-term strategy of developing and strengthening churches in their outreach among Lebanese people throughout the country, and mobilizing believers for the Great Commission, locally and globally.

Currently we have centers in these cities:

Beirut Center, School, Café/Bookstore, 6 Guest Houses, & Media Studio
Tripoli, North Lebanon (1 Center)
Tyre, Southwest Lebanon (Center, Café/Bookstore, 3 Guest Houses, & Media Studio)

BEIRUT CENTER Purchase and Renovation

In March 2016, we finally purchased the building that we’d been renting part of for the past 4 years. We now have all four floors available to use for ministry activities! This extra space has been much needed as we serve hundreds of refugees each month. The School of Hope is now able to expand, to educate up to 220 students per semester, and we now have more space for discipleship classes, children’s ministry, and will have a guest house on the top floor! Owning the building has been a huge answer to prayer! However, the building needs a lot of work - new plumbing and electrical systems, lots of plaster and paint, and much more. But we are excited to start fixing it up and maximizing it, so that thousands more Muslims might meet Christ and be discipled in this place!

COME JOIN THE VOLUNTEERS
EMAIL LOUISLISS@HORIZONSINTERNATIONAL.ORG

HELP HORIZONS EXPAND IN LEBANON
HORIZONSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE

TYRE CENTER Reaching the Masses

Tyre is a predominately Shiite Muslim area in South Lebanon where Horizons staff member Mohammad Yamout established a ministry center in 2009. The Horizons ministry in Tyre has grown enormously. When the ministry started there were only 20-30 people attending, but now there are more than 300 people involved. Because of this growth, two evangelistic services are offered every week. Along with these services, we are providing medical care, English classes, and discipleship classes for the refugees. Horizons Tyre also provides a way for refugees to make an income through its sewing shop, which employs refugees to make blankets, sport suits, pajamas, purses, and other products. While providing an income to these refugees, Horizons also distributes these products for free to the needy.

The team is intent on discipling new believers one-on-one and encouraging them in their faith. We are excited to see the center in Tyre continue to expand and to see even more Muslims come to Christ!

Currently, volunteers and staff from the Beirut team go to Tyre once a week to assist by preaching, leading worship, helping with youth ministry, and building relationships with the refugees.

Below Charkhel giving an audio Bible to an alternate refugee woman in the Tripoli Center.

HELP HORIZONS PURCHASE THE PROPERTY
HORIZONSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE

TYRE CONFERENCE CENTER Land Purchased!

In September 2016, thanks to a generous gift, Horizons paid a significant downpayment on a 6 acre property in South Lebanon. We plan to develop this property in the coming years in order to use it as a conference center, training center, and orphanage. We believe this property is a strategic beachhead for the kingdom of God in South Lebanon, and will be a launching point for evangelistic teams throughout the area. $580,000 is needed to complete the purchase of the property.

Below: A panoramic view of the 6 acre property.

TRIPOLI CENTER Breaking Strongholds

Horizons has established a new ministry center in Tripoli, a predominately Sunni Muslim city in North Lebanon. Although there is some persecution from extremists and restrictions from the governing authorities there, God has been using the Tripoli center to spread the good news of the Bible, in partnership with two local churches. Currently, there are more than 200 people coming to the services, and 90 of these are consistently attending.

The ministry consists of two main evangelistic services, food portion distribution, medical care, discipleship classes, and children’s activities. There are also 15 kids we support financially to enroll in schools. The vision of Horizons in Tripoli is to expand this beachhead for the gospel in order to reach out more extensively throughout North Lebanon by preaching the gospel boldly. We have a strong emphasis on public preaching and worship services, and follow up on interested seekers through one-to-one discipleship. We also are working to encourage the local churches to join us in carrying out this vision.

PRAY FOR THE TRIPOLI CENTER!
INTERNS MAKING AN IMPACT

This summer Horizons had a team of interns from American Universities serve alongside our Lebanese and Syrian staff in Beirut. After spending time at the School of Hope, Caleb Scott, from Pepperdine University, was compelled to put together a number of short videos chronicling the refugee student’s story. When asked about the experience he said:

“...I was so touched by the joy and energy these smiling 7 and 8 year olds had despite the traumatic experiences they have lived through. It is incredible to see first hand the restoring power of Jesus and how He is able to change the hearts of these kids. It was especially amazing how the School of Hope presented the gospel to these students entire family by lovingly teaching their kids, providing them with food distributions, and even inviting us to our church services every night. The impact on the kids is so large that even parents have come to Christ because of how their children’s lives have changed at the School of Hope.”

Caleb Scott

Because of experiences like these, Caleb is excited to join Horizons staff after graduation next year and serve full time among ministries like School of Hope. Please follow Horizons International’s Facebook page to hear stories first hand and then share them with your friends.

CALEB

HONG KONG TEAM IN BEIRUT

Horizons International Asia, based in Hong Kong, exists to proclaim the gospel to the 300,000 Muslims in the city as well as train and equip long-term cross-cultural workers to engage the Muslim world for Jesus Christ.

This year the team has begun sending young adults to the Middle East for intense training in Muslim Evangelism and Discipleship. One new college graduate will return to Lebanon for a full internship immersion as he prepares for long-term work on the field. Horizons-Hong Kong also sent another short-term team to Horizons Lebanon, this time to work with women, children, and receive training in Muslim outreach. The Hong Kong office is developing handbooks for local churches to help prepare their congregations to become sending parishes focused on reaching the lost. This year, Horizons International Asia will begin setting up another branch in Taiwan in order to expand their sphere of missional influence. As this is the newest branch of Horizons, please be praying for them as they develop sustainable systems for growth. Pray that more churches will engage with the growing Muslim population in Hong Kong and throughout Asia, and proclaim the good news of Jesus with bold faith.

ANNE

In September 2014, I interned at Horizons’ Hope of the Nations Center in Beirut and quickly fell in love with the ministry. In July 2016, I returned to Lebanon as a staff member to work alongside the national team long-term, ministering to the Syrian refugees. Every year, people from all over the world come to intern with Horizons International in Beirut. International Teams Coordinator Louis Liss states that the purpose of the internship is to train people in becoming cross-cultural proclaimers of the gospel, and advocates for global missions.

This summer, eight interns came from the US and Hong Kong. Now, five of them are in preparation for long-term fieldwork. “The refugees’ hearts are open for the gospel because of tragedies. It motivates me to serve them in the very near future,” says former intern Kay Wan. One intern returned home and immediately applied her training to work with refugees in the United States. Another intern has begun developing microfinance solutions for the socio-economic issues facing refugees in the Middle East.

Another intern, who has a passion for the poor and marginalized, cared daily for the street beggars by giving them food and money. She sought counsel on how to further her ministry with them, and was encouraged to develop long-term relationships with the people and to connect them with local staff. After this, her relationship with the people deepened and they began attending meetings with her at the Hope of the Nations Center.

Though navigating practical living and cultural differences proves to be a challenge for short-term interns, they report that the opportunities to share the gospel and communicate God’s love far outweigh the trials. The interns leave a lasting mark on the national team in Lebanon as well, says Louis Liss. They help foster an interdependent community and demonstrate how to minister and disciple through cultural differences.

Annie D’strander

SCHOOL OF HOPE

The UN has estimated that roughly 300,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are uneducated and/or not currently receiving education. Horizons International’s School of Hope is more than education for a struggling community; it is a tool for evangelism and, for many kids in this greatly underprivileged generation their only chance to hear the gospel. The school teaches the Syrian public school curriculum and Bible classes. Fifty-five children in 3 classes attended during the Spring 2016 semester, and we now are operating 5 classes, serving over 80 children. Since fleeing their home country to come to Lebanon, the vast majority of refugees only receive informal education from their mothers or close female relatives who also have little education. However, where life seems hopeless and broken, God is faithful in preserving and multiplying hope.

This year, the team has been sending young adults to the Middle East for intense training in Muslim Evangelism and Discipleship. One new college graduate will return to Lebanon for a full internship immersion as he prepares for long-term work on the field. Horizons-Hong Kong also sent another short-term team to Horizons Lebanon, this time to work with women, children, and receive training in Muslim outreach. The Hong Kong office is developing handbooks for local churches to help prepare their congregations to become sending parishes focused on reaching the lost. This year, Horizons International Asia will begin setting up another branch in Taiwan in order to expand their sphere of missional influence. As this is the newest branch of Horizons, please be praying for them as they develop sustainable systems for growth. Pray that more churches will engage with the growing Muslim population in Hong Kong and throughout Asia, and proclaim the good news of Jesus with bold faith.

YOU CAN HELP!

Take part in expanding School of Hope! Sponsor a child by giving $5/month, or give a gift of any amount. Write to: SchoolofHope@horizonsinternational.org
Horizons’ passion is to train up the next wave of missionaries and lay people and equip them with knowledge, faith, and boldness. As Christians, we know that God wants the nations to know Christ, so we must believe that He has brought them to our doorstep to fulfill his purposes. Statistically, we know that more Muslims have come to Christ in the last decade than since the birth of Islam. So why are we afraid to reach out to them?

Horizons is uniquely positioned to fill this great need for training as it has equipped over 1,000 missionaries and thousands of other Christians for ministry among Muslims during its 26 years of ministry through multiple renowned programs, such as Cubs to Lions, Engaging Islam Intensives, and The Engage Course.

How can you get involved in what God is doing among Muslims?

1. Host an Engage course at your church: a dynamic and interactive 10-session course that will empower your witness to Muslims. Learn under some of the most experienced evangelists and experts working with Muslims in America and around the world today and be coached to engage in life-transforming conversations with Muslims living, working, and studying in your community.

2. Attend Engaging Islam Training: an interactive and exciting 2-week course on evangelism and discipleship that will help you go deeper in your understanding of ministry to Muslims locally, nationally, and globally.

3. Bring a Christian from a Muslim background to be discipled at our Cubs to Lions training and learn how to work with them in your community!

“The church in general is greatly unprepared for the global upheaval caused by the refugee crisis and large number of Muslims coming to their communities. It’s time to get trained to respond to the current vast opportunities to bring Muslims to Christ!”

Linda Raymond

Don’t just take our word for it. Hear what people are saying:

“The Engage class gave us practical tools and ways of how to reach out to Muslims. The speakers are dynamic and knowledgeable, and it was a blessing to be taught by men and women who have made ministry to Muslims their life’s work. We can’t wait to offer this class again!” - Crossroads Bible Church, Grand Rapids, MI

“Thank you for guiding those who desire to work in the Muslim world. I know many people are trying to find a way to Engage Islam—you guys have the answer” - Attendee

“I thank God for your training which has made all the difference. We’ve had fewer teammates leave from discouragement and we’ve seen more fruit from our ministry.” - Attendee

horizonsinternational.org/engaging-islam

WILL YOU ENGAGE THE MUSLIMS WITH CHRIST?

God wants the nations to know Christ – so He has brought them to your doorstep.

Engage is a dynamic and interactive learning experience that will empower your witness to Muslims.