

# onthehorizon

..... Horizons International Newsletter – October 2025 .....

# LET EVERY TONGUE CONFESS

— PHILIPPIANS 2:11



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# From Seeking to Serving

## IBRAHIM'S TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Ibrahim. I come from a Sunni Muslim background. I was far from God—there was no relationship between me and Him. I used to pray, fast, and “do everything right,” but I never felt God’s presence in my life.

My real faith journey began when I was invited to church in Tyre. It took me some time to adjust to the love I saw, the feeling of being one big family, the forgiveness I witnessed there—but **I kept coming back**. Witnessing such joy, I kept thinking, “Who is this Jesus Christ?”

One day, Pastor Joseph preached the sermon that touched my heart. It spoke of how deep our sin is, **how corrupt we are, and how flawed, yet God still loves us**. This opened my eyes to see that God gave His Son to allow us to return to Him, and restore our relationship with Him.

This is when I made the best decision of my life: I went to Pastor Joseph and told him **I was ready to surrender my life to Jesus**. He encouraged me and connected me with Sister Laya and Brother Jeremy. We sat together and prayed the prayer of salvation.

After that, I truly felt the overwhelming love of God and the transformation that took place in my life—it became personal. **I couldn’t help sharing it with my friends and family**, and He has been faithful to listen to them and help transform them, just as He changed me and made me a new creation. It is as God says in a verse that I love: “You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

In the new believers’ group I am leading, four people have come to Christ! Please pray for me, that I may pass on what I received to disciple them, and continue building God’s Kingdom in Tyre. God bless you!

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# GLOBAL UPDATES

## UKRAINE

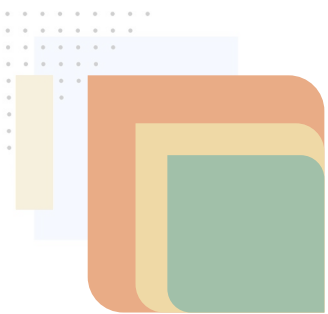
In Ukraine, the team continues to reach a diverse group of people through evangelistic events like summer camps and gospel-centered aid distribution. In collaboration with Church of Grace Obukhiv, Horizons organized a children’s summer camp that brought together 75 children for fun activities and gospel conversations. **One young man, Yegor, gave his life to Christ after the camp and was baptized** in front of the whole church. The team continues to disciple him and engage in conversations with his family.

At ministry events in various villages throughout Western Ukraine, 1,300 people heard the gospel at evangelistic services held over five days this summer. These ministry events were a great encouragement and blessing for the churches that were involved. Pray for all those who heard the gospel at these events, and pray that Yegor would grow in his newfound faith.

## TYRE, LEBANON

A two-year internship program at Horizons’ South Lebanon Ministry Center in Tyre is equipping six national interns with evangelism and discipleship skills to reach Muslims with the gospel. One of the most unreached areas in Lebanon, Tyre is a strategic ministry location, and the interns all intend to remain there after completing their training.

Over the past few months, the interns have shared the gospel with 617 people on the streets of Tyre—and **as a result, 51 people have accepted Christ!** Eighteen of these new believers have been publicly baptized. Over the next few months, the interns will focus on evangelism training, and also on leading their own groups of new believers through Bible studies and discipleship.



Evangelism training in Tyre.



Yegor gave his life to Christ in Ukraine.



Street evangelism in Bulgaria.

## BULGARIA

A new partnership is bringing Horizons’ *Engage Muslims with Christ* training to Bulgaria’s largely unreached southern region, home to many Turkish Muslims. From October 8–10, Georges Houssney **will equip 60 national believers to share the gospel with Muslims**, in collaboration with iWater Ministries, Rhodope Mountain Missions, and Balkan Institute for Missions.

The training will also bolster ongoing outreach in the Rhodope Mountains, where a Bulgarian missionary named Hari has built trust with people in many Muslim-majority villages, with some even turning to faith in Christ. This partnership will bring together many evangelists and disciplers like Hari, to strengthen missions partnerships and work across Bulgaria.







# MORE THAN JUST A CLASSROOM: IT'S A SCHOOL OF HOPE

Since School of Hope's founding 10 years ago, it has never experienced a school year like 2024-2025: one that began amid war and significant practical challenges, but ended with children graduating in peace and faith.

In Lebanon, over 300,000 Syrian refugee children cannot attend school due to their circumstances. School of Hope (SOH) provides the opportunity to stay current with their educational curriculum in a **safe environment that promotes hope in Jesus**. Following the Syrian curriculum, SOH teaches all students courses in Arabic, English, Math, and Bible. Older children also take classes in Science, History, Geography, Physics, and Chemistry. The morning starts with the children singing, praying, and listening to stories from the Bible during chapel. This past year, as with everywhere in Lebanon, more hearts are open to Jesus.

During last year's war in Lebanon, multiple cities were bombed, causing over a million displaced people to seek shelter and basic necessities in Beirut. School of Hope delayed the start of the school year by four weeks in order to **shelter 82 people displaced by bombings and conflict**. For 21 days, SOH classrooms and offices were filled with mattresses and cots, and Horizons staff members **provided food and care while sharing the gospel with temporary residents**. When the school semester could not be delayed any longer, Horizons helped these families move to various places that offered longer-term shelter.



In addition, the school semester started with some turnover of teachers and administrative staff. Thankfully, existing teachers and administrators went above and beyond to cover absences and teach extra classes so that the children's education was not disrupted. Praise God that before the end of the semester, all teaching and administrative roles were filled with qualified individuals!

As always, we celebrated our students' small victories throughout the year. A student starts to read. A challenging class sits quietly for an entire period. A student prays for the first time. A teacher improves their classroom skills. These moments of hope and progress are the joys that sustain our commitment to the often painful labors of caring for these children.



One day, a Bible teacher asked 4th-grade students if they wanted to hear God speak to them, and the students prayed to hear God's voice. Two days later, a girl shared that after praying, **she had a dream in which a strong light appeared in front of her, and she heard someone saying, "I am with you."** When she woke up, she felt a deep sense of peace, and feelings of anger she had carried for a long time were gone. She boldly told her whole class **that it was Jesus who appeared to her**, and that she wanted to put her faith in him.

At the end of May 2025, SOH closed out the school year with its first-ever exhibition of student



projects, which included creative fashion designs, artwork made from recycled materials, scientific experiments, educational models, a recreation of the Book of Life, games, and sweet treats. The event gathered families, teachers, and students to **celebrate the incredible creativity and academic achievement of students** from all seven grade levels.

While we thank God for an amazing year, the school still faces significant challenges. **The 2024-2025 year ended with a \$25,000 shortfall, and the loss of a major donor will make the coming year even more difficult.** Your prayers and gifts help keep the doors open, giving these children an education, the hope of a brighter future, and the life-changing message of Jesus.

Give the gift of a gospel-centered education today:



[horizonsinternational.org/school-of-hope](https://horizonsinternational.org/school-of-hope)



# EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE, AND TONGUE

## BIBLE TRANSLATION BLESSES SAINTS ACROSS THE WORLD

In 1973, as a young man, Georges Houssey traveled to Egypt to lead a 120-person team tasked with translating the Bible into five languages, including modern Arabic. Fifty years later, the *Ketab el Hayat* (or New Arabic Version – NAV) remains **the world's most popular Arabic Bible, with tens of millions of copies in circulation.**

Horizons International funds Bible translation projects and contributes thought leadership. In the work of the Great Commission, we believe that **all people groups must have access to faithful Bible translations** in their own languages.

Today Horizons' staff includes a number of Bible translators actively working on translation projects around the world:

- **Seth Vitrano-Wilson** serves in Thailand, along with his wife Lauren, and specializes in helping language groups in Southeast Asia to develop ways of writing their language for the first time, a key step in launching Bible translation projects. He is currently helping to review Horizons' Lebanese Arabic Bible translation. A primary author of the Arlington Statement, Seth also writes on translation for Biblical Missiology.
- **Jim Smith** serves in Aramaic Bible Translation as a Project Manager, working with mother tongue translators to produce accurate translations in three modern dialects of Aramaic that have

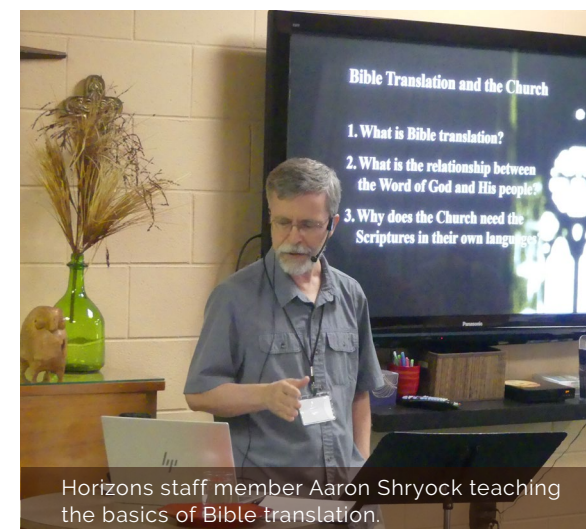


Bible translators collaborate to provide resources for unreached peoples.

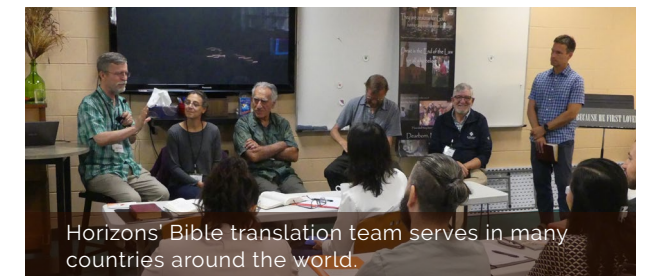
previously only been spoken and not written. The team has completed the New Testament in all three dialects, and are currently working on translating the Old Testament in each.

- **Aaron Shryock** is leading a team of Bible translators, working remotely and meeting together in person twice a year, to create a Chadian Arabic translation for the predominantly Muslim Kotoko people group living along the border of Cameroon and Chad in Africa. When not in Africa, Aaron has taught at several colleges and seminaries.

- **Arkan Al Amin** is working on a Bible translation in the spoken Lebanese language (North-Levantine) with Seth Vitrano-Wilson, Rita Reslan, and Georges Houssey. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark have been translated and are in the review process, and the team is now translating the Gospel of Luke. Arkan is also working on recording the Nativity and Easter stories, to be released this Christmas and next Easter.
- **Georges Houssey** recently obtained the rights to revise his groundbreaking NAV translation, and is currently working through the gospels. As Georges says, "When I first developed the New Arabic Version, I was a young man. I still believe that the NAV is a faithful and useful translation, but in the last 50 years I have come to understand so much more about the Bible, its languages, and the nature of God—and I believe that this revised version will reveal deeper nuances of the biblical text in modern language."



Horizons staff member Aaron Shryock teaching the basics of Bible translation.



Horizons' Bible translation team serves in many countries around the world.

In December 2023, B&H Publishing released *Islam and the Bible*, a book examining and critiquing Muslim Idiom Translation practices. Edited by Ant Greenham and Ayman Ibrahim, the book contains chapters written by Horizons staff members Georges Houssey, Seth Vitrano-Wilson, and Aaron Shryock.

Donations to Horizons partly support our Bible translation initiatives, and funding is a key part of continuing the work. However, we also pray for reviewers who can help to **ensure accuracy in translated languages**, as well as pastors and church congregations who can use translations and offer feedback. May the Lord bless his Word to reach all people!

### Want to learn more about Bible translation?

- Visit [BiblicalMissiology.org](https://BiblicalMissiology.org) to stay current with Bible translation news and perspectives
- Visit and sign the Arlington Statement at [arlingtonstatement.org](https://arlingtonstatement.org)
- Look out for Horizons' forthcoming Bible Translation Podcast



# ENGAGING THE DIASPORA FOR CHRIST

Millions of Lebanese and Syrian people fleeing war and economic collapse have emigrated to destinations across Europe and North America in search of greater opportunities. Many are Christians, but as they resettle, they face deep loneliness, culture shock, and isolation from the close-knit communities they left behind.

In response to the growing need, Horizons launched its Diaspora Ministry in 2022. Our staff walk alongside displaced believers through **online Bible studies, discipleship classes, and in-person visits**. They also host discipleship conferences to strengthen and encourage believers in their faith, and connect them to local churches where they can flourish in Christian community.

In Canada, an online group of 30 believers meets regularly for Bible study and discipleship. Last year, a *Cubs to Lions* conference, based on the *Family by God's Design* curriculum, **brought together 55 believers to grow in their faith**. In Germany, Horizons' Pastor Nihad visits regularly to organize discipleship conferences, while a ministry partner leads an online Bible study for 20 Kurdish believers.



Dolly Deeb (right) with fellow believers in Belgium.



The diaspora team take part in street evangelism together.



Conferences bring believers together to connect and enjoy fellowship.

In France, where local churches are few and often lack cultural understanding, a group of **12 women from Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, and Egypt** has found **much-needed fellowship online**. Launched two years ago by Horizons staff Dolly Deeb and Annie Hamilton, this Arabic-speaking group of Christians from Muslim Backgrounds (CMBs) has already completed the *Cubs to Lions* course and is now studying the gospels together.

The newest member, an Egyptian woman who had been living in France for over a year in loneliness and isolation, **found encouragement through the group**, and even saw a marked improvement in her eyesight after the other women prayed for her.

This is just one example of how the Diaspora Ministry is serving people who might otherwise be isolated and marginalized to find healing and genuine community with other like-minded believers, both online and in-person.

**Discover more about the impact of Diaspora Ministry:**

**[horizonsinternational.org/diaspora-ministry](https://horizonsinternational.org/diaspora-ministry)**

**CLICK HERE TO GIVE**