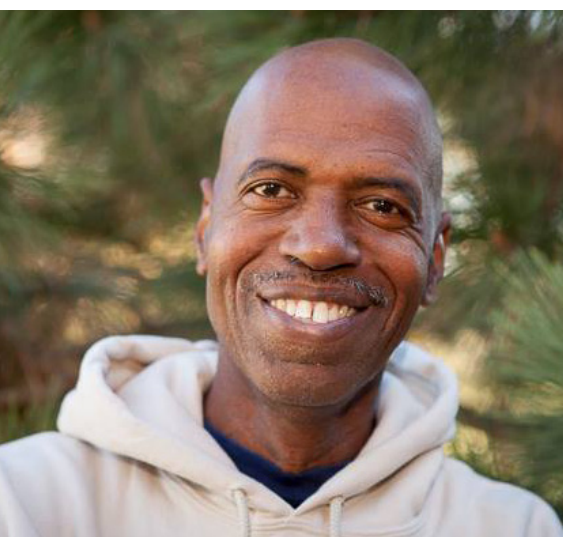




FOCUS ON: SCHOOL OF HOPE *Ministry Field Report - Beirut*

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the "School of Hope" in our Hope of the Nations Center in Beirut, Lebanon this spring. 18 refugee students and their mothers (pictured above with staff) came to the parents' day orientation in March. This school is designed to meet the desperate and growing need of refugee children in Beirut who are unable to attend school. These precious children are desperate to learn and, PRAISE GOD - some have **already received Christ** and are **now witnessing to their families**. But they need YOU. Books and supplies are not cheap. Would you prayerfully consider sponsoring one of these children? For only \$100 you can provide a backpack full of supplies and books for one child. Call us at 303.442.3333 or visit Pray4MENA.org to give securely online.



WE ARE HORIZONS

Meet Dwain Upton, Horizons International ISM staff member in Boulder, CO. Dwayne joined Horizons in July of 2014. As a live-in resident assistant, (and "dorm dad") Dwain coordinates dinners, events, and trips, and is heavily involved in mentoring the 50 international and US students in residence at our student center. When he's not working with students, Dwain loves photography, traveling, cooking, and wood working. His favorite thing about working for Horizons? "I love that I get to live, build relationships, and share my faith with university students from the US and around the world. I also get to work with amazing fellow staff members!"

Want to know more? email dwain@horizonsinternational.org

want to do more?

PRAY: use our prayer calendar to guide your prayers

GIVE: to sponsor a convert for training or child for school - call 303.442.3333

GO: Find out more about hosting an informationa event in your church!

in this edition



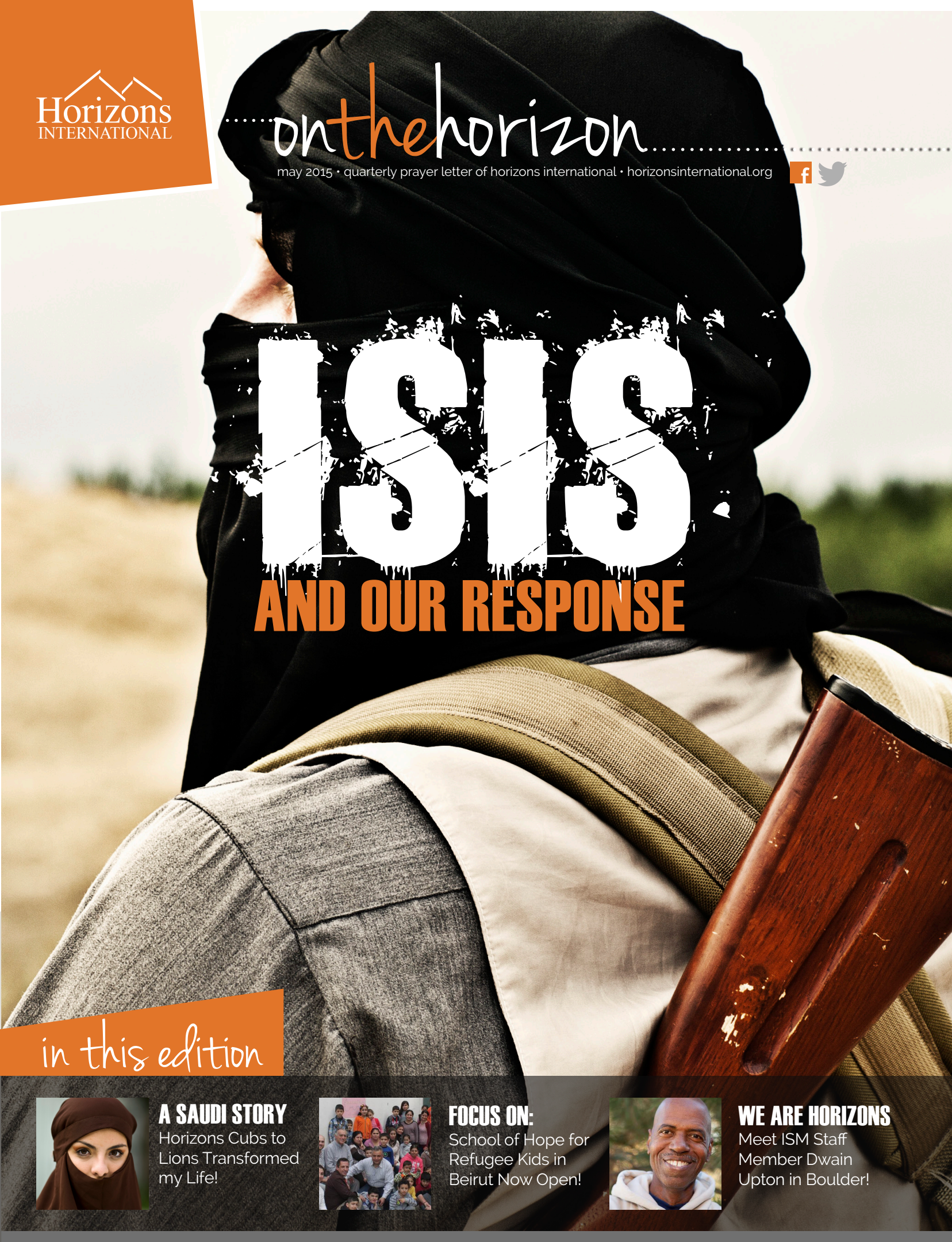
A SAUDI STORY
Horizons Cubs to Lions Transformed my Life!



FOCUS ON:
School of Hope for Refugee Kids in Beirut Now Open!



WE ARE HORIZONS
Meet ISM Staff Member Dwain Upton in Boulder!



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." - Eph 6:12

Dear friends, last month I shared briefly about the Islamic State -and how even in the midst of terrible tragedy, God's light is shining bright and changing lives throughout the Middle East. In this prayer letter I want to continue to challenge you on your response to ISIS and to Islam, and show you some ways God is moving in hearts and lives around the world, from a Saudi convert who attended Horizons training and had her life transformed, to a new school for refugee children in Beirut. We continue to be humbled and blessed by how God is using YOU and Horizons to reach the nations with His love.

So what should be our response to ISIS? In our Engaging Islam training, my son André talks about three common responses to Islam: Fascination, Fear, and Fury. With fresh atrocities every day in the news, it's little wonder that Fear and Fury are two of the most common responses we see in the Christian world. But would **SHOULD** it be? Let's take a minute to look at who ISIS is, the effect they've had, and what Christ commands us to do about it!



the **ISIS** effect

In 2014, nearly **1.2 million people were displaced** by the violence in Iraq, with millions more now living in constant fear and despair. Burning deaths, beheadings, massacres, sexual crimes, and abductions, happen nearly every day. The Islamic State has targeted and attempted to wipe out entire Christian communities. As many as **eight million people** are believed to now live under at least partial control of ISIS.

The Islamic State has not only impacted Iraq and Syria, but the entire world, with over **11,000 people abroad joining the 30-50,000 current Islamic State militants**. Teaching an extreme version of Sunni Islam, they hold that they are the only true believers and they view the rest of the world as their enemy. Using violence to accomplish their goals, their desire is the creation of an Islamic caliphate ruled by a single political and religious leader, overseeing Muslim communities around the world.

Despite the gruesome realities of ISIS, "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Eph 6:12. Make no mistake, this is a spiritual battle.

We hate the darkness and underlying evil, and we mourn the resulting bloodshed and pain. Yet Jesus says, "**love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you**" Matt 5:44 God's love reaches **not only those suffering under this oppression**, but it reaches even to the members of ISIS. Just as God changed Saul into Paul through an encounter with Jesus, so too, can He transform today's persecutors into tomorrow's evangelists.

*statistics courtesy of PrayerCast

WANT TO HEAR MORE?

Find out more about attending or hosting an informational event with Georges on ISIS and Our Response at your church or in your community. Call 303.442.3333 or email main@horizonsinternational.org to let us know!



A SAUDI STORY *of saving grace*

I was born a Muslim, but my life was changed after I saw Jesus in a dream. He told me, "I'm the way, follow me!" When I awoke from that dream I prayed the salvation prayer and accepted Jesus into my life. Later when I started reading my bible everyday, I noticed that Jesus said in John 14:6, "**I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**" I knew then that God was confirming my decision and becoming more real in my life.

I kept my faith secret from my family in the beginning. I feared that they would reject me and that it would greatly affect my studies. After I graduated from college, I was initially disappointed, as God closed the doors that I was hoping he would open.

But then I met Georges Housney at the Horizons' discipleship course for Christians from Muslim backgrounds, called **Cubs**

To Lions. This program helped set me on a path to walking more closely with the Lord. It was there that I learned how to pray, fellowship with other believers, the difference between studying the bible and just reading it, and many other important things. Cubs to Lions was a crucial part of my Christian life, as that's where I learned how to be a true follower of Jesus, and because I met so many believers who came from the same beliefs that I had. Those believers became my friends and "brothers and sisters" in the Lord.

“ I learned how to pray, and the difference between studying the bible and just reading it.”

God then gave me an amazing opportunity to be an intern at Horizons International, and to be discipled by Georges Housney. That environment was perfect for me, as I was surrounded by strong Christians who knew The Lord, His word, and were serving Him. That environment was essential for my Christian growth and my personal walk with Jesus, especially after I shared my faith with my family.

The Horizons staff, Georges, and the Christians living there, were a great support to me during that time. They prayed with me, for me, and surrounded me with love and the Word. These Christians were living their faith, discipling and

ministering, everyday. For me it was the "correcting in love" that impacted me the most. Every time I would do something wrong, they would be so loving and kind in correcting me. For someone from a Muslim background, that was unheard of.

When I was discipled by Georges I learned the Bible more thoroughly, experienced what it meant to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus, and to love as Christ loves us. George is a very humble man who knows how to teach and win people for God's glory. He taught me how to share my faith with other people and about being bold.

I am thankful to the Lord and thankful for Horizons International, for ministering to me and for helping me grow in my walk with Christ.

*A Saudi Believer**

*name and photo withheld by request

want to change a life? sponsor a convert @
CUBS TO LIONS 2015

JUNE 8-12 - CALGARY
JUNE 15-18 - LOS ANGELOS
303.442.3333