

# onthehorizon

• • • Horizons International Newsletter – April 2024 • • •



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# "THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US."

1 SAMUEL 7:12

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**Horizons**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
proclaim. disciple. equip.



## FLORIAN'S TESTIMONY

### AN AGNOSTIC MUSLIM FINDS FAITH IN JESUS

I was born in Kosova, the eldest of three children, in a family with a nominal Albanian Muslim background—just like most Albanian Muslims in Kosova.

As a teenager, I sought God. I visited the mosque a few times and read the Qur'an—I was hungry to know the truth! **My hopes were in Islam, but there was an emptiness inside me.** At one point I got excited about Islam when I discovered the so-called 'Miracles of Islam' in the Qur'an. But as I studied actual science, I was disappointed to find that those "miracles" were just hoaxes and propaganda. This led me to become agnostic.

My dad was the first in our family to become a Christian. As a political prisoner, he had suffered torture during the late 90s and struggled with PTSD after the war. His transformation after accepting Christ was miraculous. He was a totally new person!

Many other miracles began occurring in our family, which led me to think, "Something about that book has changed him." At first, I challenged him with difficult questions but motivated by my curiosity, I decided to study the Bible. Previously, **I had dismissed the Bible as a fairy tale, but as I read it, I discovered an amazing logical consistency in the Scriptures.**

Later, my dad was invited to an evangelical church. I decided to go with him and found a community of families who worshiped the Lord. Soon I accepted Christ. My pastor at the Messiah Evangelical Fellowship discipled me, and **I began serving as a youth pastor and served in church planting.** I learned that Horizons had helped to plant our church, and was offered the opportunity to join them. Since joining the Horizons family, my understanding of the Great Commission has become much clearer. Getting to know my fellow Horizons staff members at our global staff summit in Lebanon last year has only deepened this understanding.

Currently, I'm involved locally with youth, church planting, and evangelism in my town, and in nearby Kosova cities. Globally, I am administering the work of our initiative of the Great Commission in the Balkan region and beyond. Horizons has played a huge role in shaping my vision for spreading the gospel beyond borders and reaching Muslim people with compassion!

## GLOBAL UPDATES

### AKRON, OHIO

Horizons staff member David John has been invited to lead his church's international student ministry. With over 25 years of serving international students, David hopes to introduce a more direct approach to sharing the gospel, shifting from a program-oriented model. David shares, **"Students need to hear the gospel from us. Nothing exciting is happening if students are not accepting Christ."**

The team currently coordinates dinner events where international students are encouraged to ask questions about Christianity. This approach has sparked lively conversations, especially for students from restrictive countries, who relish the opportunity to discuss complex topics openly. Students have also asked volunteers to pray for them and even requested bibles in their native languages.

### AUSTIN, TEXAS

Horizons' third annual Cup of Nations soccer tournament will help launch an exciting new international student ministry. Redeemer Round Rock Church has supported the event since its inception and will partner with Horizons to host May's event to mark the start of this new initiative. **This ministry aims to foster lasting friendships with international students while sharing the gospel.**

This year's Cup of Nations is expected to draw a larger crowd. Founded by Horizons staff member Kevin Clark (who attends Redeemer Round Rock Church), the event provides local churches with a platform to engage international students, immigrants, and refugees from many countries across the world.



Morocco: Providing medical aid for survivors

Morocco: Gifts bring joy to displaced children



Texas: Cup of Nations Outreach event

Ohio: Christmas service for international students

### MOROCCO

Horizons International continues to partner with Lighthouse Arab World to address the ongoing needs in the mountainous regions of Morocco, that were affected by a severe earthquake last September.

Through your support, we have provided weekly food bags and other essential supplies to rural village communities. We have also distributed tents, solar lamps, hygiene packages, warm clothes, and medicine to those in need. In addition, **we are implementing sustainable, long-term solutions** such as durable tents, public toilets and showers, and access to electricity and clean water. Numerous children have also been given toys and books, bringing them joy amid their challenging circumstances.

 **INTERESTED IN IMPACTING LIVES IN MOROCCO?**

[horizonsinternational.org/earthquakerelief](https://horizonsinternational.org/earthquakerelief)

# FROM SEED TO SALVATION

## THE REMARKABLE GROWTH OF THE GOSPEL IN KOSOVO

In 1994, a small group of believers planted the seed of the gospel in the heart of Kosovo. Today, that seed has blossomed into a network of churches that is significantly impacting the region. For over three decades, we've kept you updated on the ministry in Kosovo, and your support and prayers have been remarkable. Today, we're excited to reflect on this journey, narrated through our newsletters, and share it with you.

At the very beginning of this journey, Horizons' founder Georges Housney worked with just a handful of young Christians who, driven by their passion for the gospel, established the first small evangelical church in this predominantly Muslim country. **This humble beginning marked the start of an extraordinary story of God's faithfulness.** Through your ongoing prayers and generous support, the gospel has spread nationwide.

Today, we rejoice at how God has multiplied that small seed to 30 churches (8 of them in our 'Dardania' family of churches) in Muslim-majority Kosovo, a thriving network of home churches, the first evangelical church building, and the launch of the Balkan Institute for Missions (BIM), which serves as a missions hub for the entire Balkan region.

**Your support, prayers, and partnership have been vital to Horizons' mission to fulfill the Great Commission.** Together, the Lord is empowering us to proclaim the gospel, equip the church, and make disciples among the nations.

Newsletter Issue 9, Dec '07



Newsletter Issue 98, Dec '23



Newsletter Issue 68, June '18



Newsletter Issue 64, Oct '17



# YOUR PARTNERSHIP FUELS THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL!

This month, we're celebrating the 100th edition of the Horizons newsletter!! (Well, since we began numbering them in 2006.) For over 30 years, it has been a joy to share what God is doing around the world through newsletters, emails, social media posts, and other media.

Our communications team includes members of several nationalities who are spread across three continents. We have two goals in sharing Horizons' news; 1) to give glory to God; and 2) to keep you connected with the ministries that you support through prayer and finance.

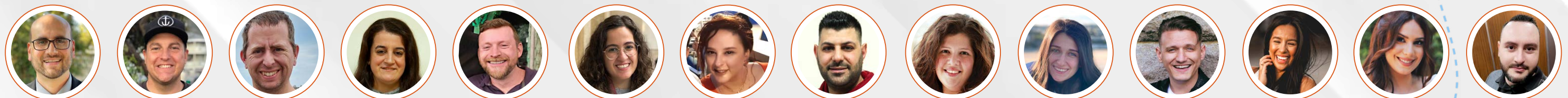
We started with humble beginnings and our newsletters shared humble results. **Together with you, we have seen the Lord grow this ministry in scale and impact.** Each time we report what the Lord has done, you and the rest of our growing community have responded generously to the needs and opportunities that God is setting before us:

- **After the Beirut blast in August 2020, you gave over \$909,000 to the Lebanon Crisis Fund, providing nearly 72,000 meals, repairing 94 homes and churches, providing 1,585 medicines, and delivering essential supplies along with the love of Jesus.**
- **Following the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, you generously provided \$646,000 within three months, providing nearly 60,000 meals to refugees, shelter for over 400 families, and spread the gospel in previously inaccessible places!**
- **You've partnered with School of Hope to sponsor 85 out of 215 Syrian refugee children, enabling them to receive a gospel-centered education!**
- **Some of you have even visited Lebanon on vision trips—opening the door for ministry partnerships and opportunities for the Kingdom!**

Thanks to your prayers and support, more and more people are coming to Christ. We are deeply thankful for you and for your commitment to making the name of Jesus known. Here are some testimonies from those of you who've been inspired by the Lord's work.

## Meet the Communications Team

[horizonsinternational.org/comms-team](https://horizonsinternational.org/comms-team)



*"We're starving for good news, but to link arms together gives us hope. I see what God is doing and I want to join Him. Horizons' media provides the bridge so that we can find a safe way to pour in funding and energy to Lebanon."*

Susanne Johnson, Board Member  
Horizons partner since 2015.



*"We love reading Grace's updates on Mahmoud's education and getting messages from him. We pray for Mahmoud every day, but the prayer calendar reminds us to pray for all the children, staff, and teachers at the School."*

June Hubbard, who sponsors Mahmoud, a School of Hope student.  
Horizons partner since 2018.

*"I was deeply moved by Laya Yamout's testimony on her work in Tyre and Syria at a roundtable. Since then, I have supported the ministry and gained a deeper understanding through emails and Zoom calls with staff."*

Don Taylor, Tyre Ministry Supporter  
Horizons partner since 2021.



Reflecting on our partnership, your continued support has been instrumental in advancing our mission. **Each story shared, each testimony heard, and each prayer lifted has played a part in God's plan.** As we strive to be faithful in making disciples, we are reminded of your generosity and commitment to the Great Commission. Thank you for being part of the Horizons family, and joining us in reaching the nations with God's message of love and salvation.

*Your feedback is invaluable! We welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.*

*Please let us know if there's anything you want to see in future editions.*

*You can reach out to us at [connect@horizonsinternational.org](mailto:connect@horizonsinternational.org).*



# CUBS TO LIONS

A DISCIPLESHIP COURSE FOR CHRISTIANS FROM MUSLIM BACKGROUNDS

## What is Cubs to Lions?

Imagine adjusting to a new spiritual community, coping with intense persecution, and learning to reshape your worldview, all at the same time. Or perhaps you've been a Christian for some time, but you're confused by church life, feel misunderstood by fellow believers, or are uncertain about God's role for you.

These are just some of the hurdles that Christians from Muslim backgrounds (CMBs) face. *Cubs to Lions* is a resource for individuals in these very circumstances. It offers teachings to help these CMBs address their unique struggles and thrive in their faith.

## Are you a Christian from a Muslim Background?

If you've come to Christ, you already know that the experience is truly exciting. However, continued transformation of our hearts, minds, and lifestyles is essential for walking as a follower of Jesus. Navigating the Christian life can be confusing and frustrating without proper discipleship and training.

We invite you to join us for a week of in-depth teaching where we'll explore biblical answers to the questions that matter most to you. Whether you're a new believer or a mature Christian from a Muslim background, you'll benefit from personal teaching from Middle Eastern teachers who will inspire your growth in Christ and equip you to become effective disciple-makers and teachers.

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**July 31 - August 4 | Denver, CO**

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Register today, or find out more:

Know a former Muslim who could benefit from this discipleship training? Share this invite. →



[horizonsinternational.org/cubs-to-lions](https://horizonsinternational.org/cubs-to-lions)

**CLICK HERE TO GIVE**