

onthehorizon

• • • • Horizons International Newsletter – August 2023 • • • •

TOGETHER FOR THE KINGDOM



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Horizons
INTERNATIONAL
proclaim. disciple. equip.



MURRAY CRAWFORD

FINDING BELONGING IN HORIZONS

I moved to the USA with Candace, my American wife, in 2014—after we met serving together with Mercy Ships in West Africa. We moved full of excitement and anticipation for what the Lord would do!

But as a South African living in rural Indiana, I never felt as if I belonged. Living in a culture so different from my own was challenging, and despite trying to fit into many roles, I struggled to find my shape. That was when my friend Dan Maley connected me with Horizons International, where he serves as Director of Communications. Dan shared from his heart how the Lord was transforming him through his work with Horizons. **His passion sparked something in me** and I decided to join a ministry trip to Chicago to spend time with Afghan refugees. That was a turning point in my walk with the Lord. God shifted my perspective and instead of being inwardly-focused, my focus readjusted to reaching others in desperate situations with God's love.

A month or two later, the Lord opened up a position for me to serve with Horizons International, in the role of Content Manager. It stirs my heart tracking down stories, seeing amazing photos, and reading life-changing testimonies, and then sharing them with the world!

I love the unique make-up of Horizons. So many different nationalities united under one banner, serving the Lord and reaching Muslims and refugees with the love of Christ. I am reminded of the motto on South Africa's coat of arms, "Unity in Diversity", and that's what inspires me about serving with Horizons. And now, **God is opening doors for my family and I to move to Michigan**—where we will be missionaries to the multicultural people in the Dearborn area. In Isaiah 56, God gives foreigners a home and a place of honor, and this resonates deeply with me. No longer do I not belong—I have a home in the Kingdom! I can now use my story to point others to Christ.

We are called to go into ALL the nations and make disciples of ALL men—foreigner or otherwise—and show them God's transformative love. And that is what Candace and I are going to do!

GLOBAL UPDATES

FRANCE

Horizons Lebanon staff member Dolly Deeb, during a three-week visit to France, partnered with local volunteers to boldly share the gospel with hundreds of people. Although the main purpose of the trip was to visit her daughter, the Lord had more opportunities in store for her. God led her to meet a lady who was equally passionate to spread the gospel in France.



Together, the Lord led them throughout France—from Carcassonne to Toulouse, Nice to Auron Metz, and from Paris to Montpellier. **Hundreds of people, including homeless individuals, atheists, and Muslims, heard the gospel through door-to-door evangelism and street outreach.** Dozens of Bibles and tracts were distributed to these spiritually-hungry people—many of whom accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior!

UNITED KINGDOM

Horizons is exploring opportunities for ministry in the United Kingdom (UK). In June, staff member Dan Maley visited the UK. **He connected with churches and individuals who are actively engaging Muslims,** international students, and refugees, in

the hope of developing ministry partnerships. With more than 3.9 million Muslims making up 6.7% of the population, as well as hundreds of thousands of refugees, there are many opportunities to reach people with the gospel throughout the UK.

Additionally, Horizons has brought on a new staff member in the UK as Field Ministry Liaison. Christian Frohwein spends his time working between the UK and Lebanon to help develop ministry partnerships that will increase Horizons' gospel impact.

FERZOL BEQAA VALLEY AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

In the Beqaa Valley, Horizons Lebanon is installing prefabricated houses to serve as homes for up to eleven refugee families. Some of these Kurdish families fled Syria in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes, while others fled the country due to the instability of the Syrian war. In the village of Ferzol, these families will be able to practice sustainable agriculture—and grow crops, such as tomatoes and potatoes.

The produce from the farm will allow refugees to feed their families, while also providing income to increase the sustainability and long-term impact of the ministry. We are also constructing a worship hall where we plan to establish a Kurdish church, so that refugees will have a safe place to worship and serve together in ministry.





THE JOY OF UNITY:

THE 2023 HORIZONS GLOBAL SUMMIT

In June, Horizons held its triennial Global Staff Summit in Beirut, Lebanon. 138 people gathered from around the world to take part in the five-day event—the **largest-ever Horizons' staff summit!** The goal for the summit was to see the entire Horizons family united together in Christ, refreshed in their relationships with God and with each other.

Staff members, ministry partners—and for the first time, board members—traveled from the USA, UK, Zambia, South Africa, Kosovo, Turkey, Hong Kong, and all corners of Lebanon. For many staff members, it was the first time meeting their colleagues in person, while others were able to reconnect after several years.

The whole event was characterized by a feeling of family and fellowship. **There were many precious moments:** worshipping together in many languages; powerful testimonies of how the Lord is transforming lives; joy and tears as people shared challenges in ministry and prayed for one another.

"God inspired me through the summit in many ways—I gained boldness, a clearer vision of my ministry, and a closer connection with the Horizons staff." - Florian

There were also three key times of teaching:

- Founder and President Georges Housney led a meaningful devotional on glorifying God by bearing fruit in our ministry.

"After the summit was over, I felt like my roots in the organization were planted more firmly into the ground..." - Timy

- Ashley Dykstra, Director of Member Care, provided an overview of Horizons' global ministry including reports from those serving in the field, and a sneak preview of short videos designed to help share Horizons' heart and vision.
- Executive Director Pierre Housney shared the vision for Horizons' future ministry and how it should reflect the tamarisk tree that Abraham had planted for his son, leaving a legacy for future generations.



"The unity was beautiful. The worship was priceless. It felt like heaven!" - Antonella

A particularly special moment took place during a day of recreation and relationship-building in a picturesque mountain location. As everyone gathered for lunch, a short devotional sparked an impromptu time of worship. Georges Housney started singing "How Great Thou Art" in Arabic. After that, we sang it in English, and then one after another, staff members began adding a refrain in their own language: Armenian, Turkish, Cantonese, Albanian, Kurdish, French, and Spanish.

It was a beautiful reflection of the harmony and unity among the many people groups represented within God's family. By the end of it, Turks, Armenians, and Kurds, who have historically been enemies, began hugging each other and speaking words of forgiveness, reconciliation, and unity.

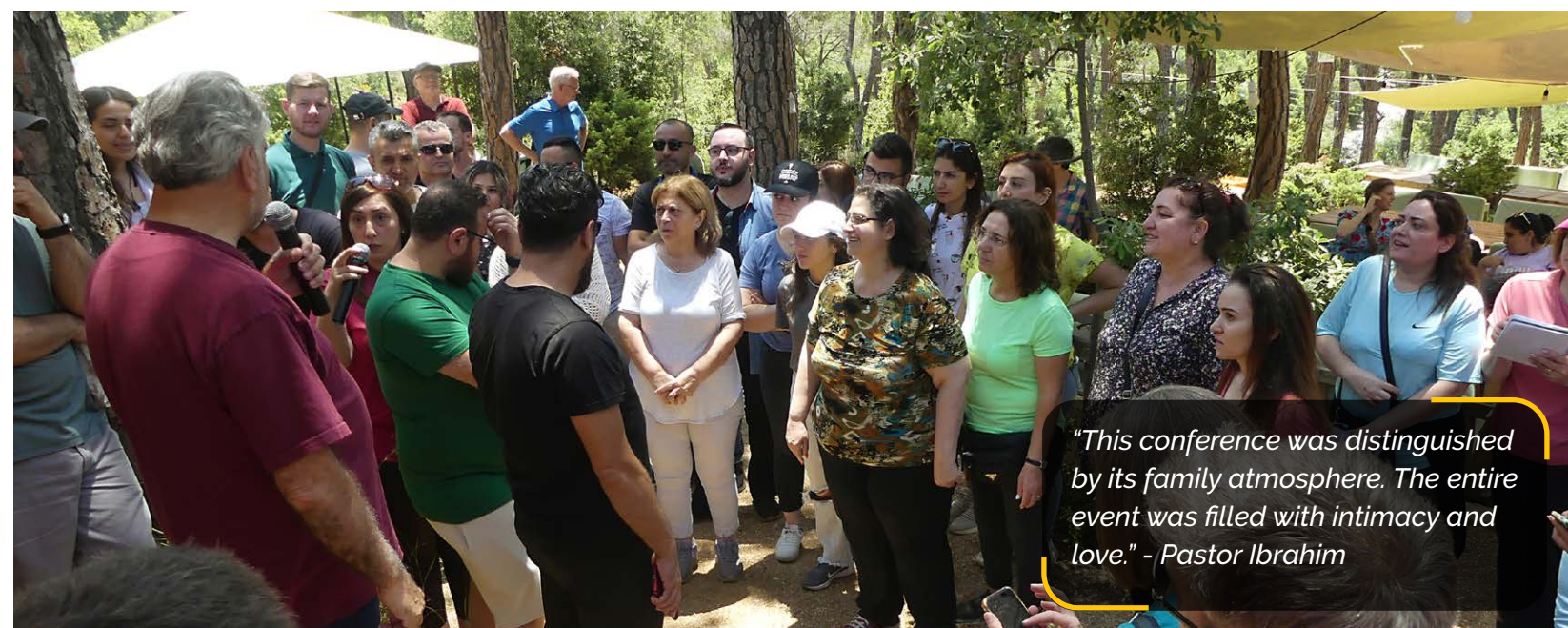
Later in the week, international visitors also joined local staff for tours of ministry sites and took part

in house visits around Beirut and in Tyre. They **witnessed firsthand how God is transforming lives** through Horizons and also encouraged and prayed with the people they visited.

Our time together at the summit was powerful, inspiring, and had a strong sense of unity. New friendships were made and old ones deepened. Staff and board members left feeling energized and encouraged in the Lord, more knowledgeable about Horizons' global ministry, and joyful from serving the Lord in a common mission and purpose.



"What amazed me most was to see how many people there are working with Horizons from all over the world, in all different countries and languages." - Ibrahim T



"This conference was distinguished by its family atmosphere. The entire event was filled with intimacy and love." - Pastor Ibrahim

MEC ARTS

ARTISTIC AVENUES FOR EVANGELISM

From music lessons to graphic design, and from worship services to art classes, the Middle East Center for World Missions (MEC) is helping Christian artists from all over Lebanon to reach others with the love of Christ! Believers are discovering exciting new ways to serve the Lord with their creative skills and talents—and make a difference in their communities.

The MEC's Visual Arts program promotes Christian art by helping believers nurture their skills in drawing and painting while incorporating solid biblical messages and prayerful inspirations. Currently, ten students are enrolled in the MEC Arts program and are provided opportunities to display their work at art exhibitions, impacting hundreds of people through their artwork.

In February, the MEC hosted His Touch—an exhibition that brought together artists to display spiritually-inspired paintings in order to spark gospel conversations. The theme verse for the exhibition was:

"The heavens display the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."

- Psalms 19:1

Eleven local Lebanese Christian artists and seven MEC Art students declared God's message to their own communities and beyond through inspiring artwork!

One staff member, a Christian from a Druze Muslim background, displayed one of his paintings at the exhibition. When he first came to faith in the Lord, he was fearful that his family would disown him. Now, for the first time since becoming a believer, he invited his parents to a Christian event, and afterward shared this testimony:



"They decided to visit the exhibition and I shared with them the concept and spiritual aspect of my painting, and they saw other paintings as well. This was special to me because they had never wanted to talk about faith and had never been supportive of me doing anything that has to do with faith whatsoever."

One lady attending the event was mesmerized by a piece titled Unaware, created by Eve Bazarbashian. The oil on canvas painting depicts a young woman who is tired and defeated, with a diamond-filled scar on her back. The artist began a conversation with the lady about why she was so intensely drawn to this piece.

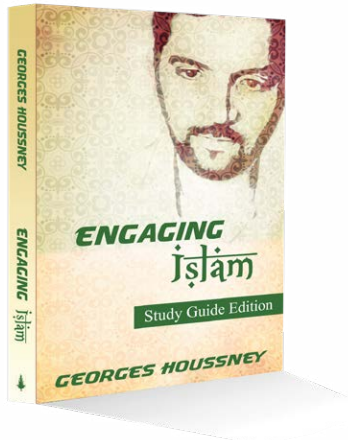
Everything—even the words in the description—had touched the woman's heart. She even had a scar on her back in the same area, serving as a reminder of her own story. Just the previous day, leaders from the woman's church had given encouragement that her value and worth come from God—and not her circumstances.

These are just some of the many stories emerging from the His Touch exhibition—and indeed the whole MEC Arts program. The Lord is transforming lives through people's God-given creativity. When art is combined with the beauty and depth of the gospel, God creates divine opportunities for viewers to be impacted by the love and person of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Engaging Islam Audiobook

Georges Housney's book *Engaging Islam* is finally available in audiobook format—narrated by Georges himself! Since its publication in 2010, *Engaging Islam* has sold more than 22,000 copies, and has equipped thousands of Christians for effective ministry to Muslims.



Featuring unique insights—drawn from decades of Georges' fruitful witness to Muslims in the Middle East and worldwide—the book is now widely revered among the evangelical community. It has even been selected as a key textbook for courses on Islam at several Bible schools! Now in a new digital format, we pray it will engage an even greater audience and inspire a new generation of believers to reach Muslims through effective evangelism and discipleship.



Listen to *Engaging Islam* on Amazon today!



engagingislam.org/audiobook



MEC Merch:

Spread the Word, from the Middle East to the World

The MEC Creative team in Beirut is creating unique items that spread the word about the MEC and give believers the chance to spread God's Word. These inspired gifts are adorned with Bible verses, encouraging words, and original modern designs. They are now online and ready to be shipped worldwide!

Help spread the word by picking some items you like, and don't forget to get some for friends and family!



Want to see more?

Check out the link below!

middleeastcenter.org/onlineshop

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