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MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

MATTHEW 28:19

Discipleship is the heart of the Great Commission. That's what it's all about! All of our efforts and activities as a ministry go toward this one goal - to make disciples who make disciples!

This edition is packed with encouraging stories and experiences of discipleship, especially among converts from Islam, and also contains information that we hope will help you to make disciples as well!

Discipleship is about raising spiritual children and helping them to grow up into full maturity in Christ.

It's incredible to see a new generation of converts from Islam who are fully committed to

Christ and are walking the path of discipleship along with Horizons staff, interns, and volunteers around the world.

We hope you are blessed to glimpse part of this discipleship movement in this newsletter, and we pray that God will guide you as to how you can get involved!

Pierre Rashad Housney
Executive Director

in this edition



STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH



KOSOVO HOUSE CHURCHES



CUBS TO LIONS BEIRUT 2017



DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGES



DISCIPLESHIP: SHARE YOUR LIFE



Two Disciples at Cubs to Lions Beirut, December 2017

talmaze.org/cubs-to-lions-english

videos



STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..." 1 Peter 2:2

As a baby is 100% dependent on it's mother, new Christians are dependent on those who led them to Christ.

New converts need spiritual mentors to help them grow. You can't force them to grow, but you can model growth and pray they'll do likewise.



FED BY OTHERS

2

"...though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!" Hebrews 5:12

Spiritual dependence should progressively develop into greater independence as new believers learn how to feed themselves, and take responsibility for their own spiritual growth.



FEEDING SELF

3

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." John 21:15

Those who are spiritually mature maintain their own spiritual strength and also lead others to Christ, helping them grow into maturity. This is the fruitful life God calls us to.



FEEDING OTHERS

KOSOVO - DISCIPLING IN HOUSE CHURCHES

Our church has always been organized in home groups, but because of amazing growth, we are now turning these groups into House Churches. Praise God! The transformation from home groups to a House Church is a radical one. Home groups meet to pray, study the Bible or a book, fellowship, and evangelize to others. House Churches still do those things, but they also elect elders, serve the Lord's Supper, baptize, do humanitarian work in our community, and form new home groups to be built up into House Churches. **Our vision is to establish a network of believers who are supported by our church.**

One home groups visits the local town of Viti, where there is not a single believer. They pray, give books and bibles, and talk to people—and other home groups can join them and help with their efforts. In this way, new believers see us minister to others, and grow their faith as they see in practice what they learn each week. Right now all 3 elders from BUM have their own home groups, and members who are mature in their faith are offered the chance to start their own home groups as well. I also lead a **home group consisting of 5 families—22 people** in all! Regonda, a member of our home group since October, shared with us how she now, for the first time in her life and after 10 years of knowing Jesus, has started reading the Bible from the beginning and has begun telling her friends about Jesus.

All of our groups have to meet in homes. Some don't meet regularly or are not as strong, but this is the process. As we work toward the Glory of the Lord, all his sons and daughters will be called and led to Him.

– Pastor Femi



Ribbon Cutting at the New Facility!



Dedication Ceremony, Dec 23, 2017



Home Group with Elder Blend Zyrapi

COMPONENTS OF THE KOSOVO CHURCH

Vision for the Future

To see the church multiply into generations of churches full of believers from Muslim backgrounds.



Main Building

The Church meets as a large group in the new main building

Home Groups

The Church has planted 5 home groups with multiple families

Developing House Churches

Two of these home groups are becoming House Churches, and others are still developing.



Street Outreaches



The Largest CTL in History - December 2017

CUBS TO LIONS - BEIRUT, 2017

On December 9th and 10th, over 180 people received Christian mentorship and teaching at the Cubs to Lions Conference in the heart of Beirut—including 70 kids! The theme was “Who is Jesus, and who am I in Jesus?” It was our first CTL training with so many attendees.

Toward the end of the training, the students split into several groups so staff members could pray with them. Afterward, they said they were encouraged by topics so applicable to their lives, by Pastor Georges' talk about Christian parenting and conflict resolution in marriage, and also by the prayer time we had at the end of the retreat. The men complimented their wives, and many wives made commitments not to take their anger and frustration out on their kids.

During prayer, many miracles happened as they opened their hearts and felt heard by God.

Among the subjects discussed during CTL:

Jesus - the Son of God

Jesus - the Son of Man

The Path of Transformation - Deepening your discipleship

Christian Morality - How to live out your faith

Faithfulness - Enduring hardships and persecution

Christ in the Family - Marriage and parenting



TESTIMONIALS:

Rania: “I was very blessed by this conference. Family should be a tight team. I was very blessed by pastor Georges' teaching—it's the first time I have heard about the Trinity as an example of how the family should be. The session about raising children was especially impactful.”

Hasna Mansur loved the retreat. She said, “Pastor Georges is a real dad. What he shared about family really touched my heart, especially the part where he talked about how to raise our children.” She has had problems with her son, and she decided to pray for him, that God will give him guidance in his life. She also prayed for herself, that she would learn to let go of her nervousness and behave better with her son.

Anonymous Woman: “I learned who Jesus is and I believe now that the Holy Spirit lives in us and alerts us. Lying, unfaithfulness, swearing... we didn't know these are considered wrong. Even our relationships with our husbands, children, we didn't know anything. I didn't know how to pray, I didn't know what to say, but now I do. Even during the prayer groups, I enjoyed it a lot and was uplifted, because people benefit from listening to the happiness and sorrows of others. It relieves us just to have an opportunity to discuss with others, to pray for others”.

Anonymous Man: “I want to thank the Horizons staff for the retreat. I'm thankful for the prayer session—I was blessed by it. Thank you, Georges, for teaching me how to pray. After the prayer teaching, I prayed to God that He'd bless me with a job—and God did!”





OVERCOMING DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGES IN LEBANON

At Horizons, our vision is accomplished in three ways: proclaim the gospel, disciple the nations, and equip the church. When people accept the message of the gospel, we invite them to Bible studies to strengthen their faith. When they become spiritually developed enough to begin serving, we train them in how to disciple and mentor others.

Yet many people in our discipleship classes are not yet believers. We call this teaching “**evangelistic discipleship**”, as it’s basically

the same content we use in discipleship, but communicated for those who haven’t yet believed. Evangelistic

discipleship programs lead many people to believe in Jesus and help them to overcome their problems in order to benefit from their relationship with God.

We have now **450+ converts who we are discipling on a weekly basis!** We partner with many local churches in discipleship, so we use many programs and curricula that they use, and also have our own **curriculum designed for converts from Islam** – Cubs to Lions, written by Georges Houssey.

We have **13 video episodes of Cubs to Lions filmed in Arabic** in front of a live studio audience of converts, and use them with small groups.

We also conduct an annual Cubs to Lions event in Beirut, with **100-150 converts in attendance each year.** Our **special trauma counseling programs** help people who have been traumatized during the war and ensuing refugee crises. We conduct healing groups that provide a safe atmosphere for them to share their experiences and walk together through the process of deep inner healing found in the power of Christ and in the light of his Word.



– Ibrahim Albrahim, Director of Discipleship, Lebanon



ALBANY, NY “SHARE YOUR LIFE!”

In Philippians 4:9, Paul said,

“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with **yoŕh** you.”

Discipleship is not just a course—but we do like to start the relationship with a **7-week New Believers’ class.** It consists of Understanding Your Relationship with God, Staying in Fellowship with God, Prayer, The Word of God, Fellowship, Experiencing God Working in You and Experiencing God Working Through You. **We have Two Bible Studies each semester** – one at UAlbany and one at RPI. Over the summer we combine our Bible Studies and meet in our home. Last summer we watched Christian movies and discussed their meaning for our lives. **We hosted anywhere from 2-15 people with an average of 5-6.**

We attempt to share our lives with those we disciple. In addition to guiding them spiritually, we also eat together, fill Christmas boxes together, laugh together, do fun things together, go to church together and talk about the future together.

For those who are with us longer, we go deeper. We provide more practical instruction on the cycle of Christian life. We teach them to reproduce Christ in others by sharing, serving and instructing. **Practical volunteer service opportunities are provided,** such as volunteering on a weekend camping trip, driving and sharing for a local activity, sharing the Gospel with roommates and friends, and even conducting their own Bible Studies. We follow up with encouragement and pray for their growth.

– Danny and Susan Forte Intenational Student Ministry Staff, Albany, NY



QUOTE

“Thank you so much for giving me great relief and hope. I have still kept everything you have shared with me, because they are the foundations of my new life. I appreciate the hard work that you do to help others in a hidden but powerful way, I think it’s the best work for the world.”

– An anonymous Chinese scholar who recently accepted Jesus Christ

Is God calling you to partner with this ministry? Visit: horizonsinternational.org/give

CUBS TO LIONS

2018

A transformative week of hands-on training for converts from Islam. Receive practical teaching on living the Christian life, reading and understanding the Bible, and growing deeper in your faith!
Attend, or send a friend!

CTL USA: July 9-13th, 2018

CTL CANADA: August 13-17th, 2018

CTL BEIRUT: September 2018

CTL AUSTRALIA: October 23-27, 2018



Find out more: engagingislam.org

SPONSOR A CONVERT

Help a Former Muslim Attend Cubs to Lions

Funds Needed: \$1,000/Student
(For Airfare, Room, Board, materials, and Tuition)

Each year during this event, 8-12 students come forward to receive Christ for the first time. I have watched numerous others come forward to re-dedicate their lives to the Lord. Lives are transformed, and deep wounds are healed. CTL attendees are also connected with other believers who share in their experience. Cubs to Lions not only transforms lives through discipleship and training, but also creates family and community amongst its members. Many go on to lead others to Christ, serve in their churches, or join ministries.

**VISIT WWW.HORIZONSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/GIVE
& SELECT "TRAINING - CUBS TO LIONS"**



Yes! I want to reach the world for Christ!

Enclosed is my one-time gift monthly gift of:

\$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 Other: \$_____

To support: (Select missionary/project) _____

Plus: **Where most needed** \$_____ **CTL Scholarships:** One-time \$_____ Monthly \$_____

Refugee Ministry \$_____ School of Hope \$_____ Biblical Missiology \$_____

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Exp. (MM/YY) _____ CSC/CVV Code _____

