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JULIANA: A REFUGEE'S TESTIMONY

My name is Juliana, and I am a Syrian refugee. I serve with Horizons in the café bookstore of the Middle East Center for World Missions (MEC).

I came to Lebanon in 2014 because everyone in my family died during the civil war in Syria. My father was ill and died without access to medical care. Then my brother was killed in the war, and my heartbroken mother died of a stroke shortly after. I came alone into an foreign country, and I had no one to understand me. Devastated, I finally prayed "God, if you are real—if you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life—then show yourself to me."

After I prayed, a friend told me about Horizons' MEC. I took some classes there, and ended up working there! A friend also took me to a church, where Jesus truly met me. In my heart I repented of my sins and accepted him as Lord, and he tore down the wall of bitterness in my heart.

Before serving with Horizons, I didn't understand that God loved Muslims and wanted them to know Him. But after working alongside my team and watching their love for spreading the gospel to Muslims, I learned that all people can meet Him as I have — and I want them to!

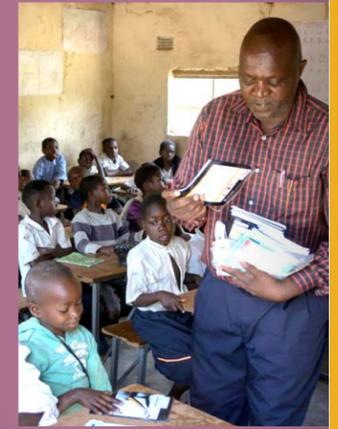
When I was lost and alone, God found me. He gave me a family full of brothers and sisters, with whom I joyfully serve and share the love of Christ. God has given me freedom and a full heart. I want everyone around me to know Him as well!

Juliana Aloian,
MEC Café Staff, Beirut

Even as the coronavirus has taken its toll, Horizons' global field workers have been #PressingOn to share the gospel. Stay posted with the latest updates by following @HorizonsPDE on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Zambia's Passion for Jesus

Horizons' ministry partners in Zambia have received permission from the Zambian Ministry of General Education to launch Christian clubs throughout the country's public school system. Through mentorship and life skills training, these clubs aim to leverage over 9,000 educators to share the gospel with 300,000 students. Clubs have already begun in two of the eleven North Western Province districts, and plans are being made to bring Bibles to every school in the region. Additionally, the first three Zambian candidates for long-term missions work with Horizons in Lebanon have been selected and trained. Their visa applications are being processed, and the missionaries plan to begin serving as soon as coronavirus travel restrictions ease.



Kosovars for Christ

In the capital city of Kosovo, B.U.M. Church is still reaching out to Muslims. Recently the Mayor of Pristina gave the church a small shop through which to distribute Christian books and other literature. B.U.M. just released two books through its publishing ministry: one focused on proof that the Bible has not changed, and a Christian fiction book.

This year's Easter Service was televised nationally, reaching an audience of 20,000 people, and local and international donations enabled B.U.M. to prepare 300 food packages for families and individuals in need in the nearby city of Viti.



Ministry in Hong Kong

HI Asia's team, led by Edward and Sandy, has launched flourishing online courses. Two Engaging Islam courses have reached over 200 participants, and several more courses are being launched from Hong Kong in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin languages. And even amidst government restrictions on gathering, HI Asia staff members have continued to conduct legal street outreach and visit Muslim families in their homes.

In another exciting development, HIA has published a Chinese translation of Mark Durie's book "Which God"—an exciting book comparing and contrasting Yahweh and Allah. Another book, "Understanding the Quran," is also in development, and the team has ordered publications of Hindi and Nepali Bibles to pass out during street outreach.



e-vangelism:

Online Outreach in the Middle East

In the midst of an unprecedented global health crisis, ministries worldwide have been impacted by government-mandated travel bans and social distancing regulations. In Lebanon and the greater Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Horizons Lebanon has temporarily closed ministry centers and greatly reduced in-person outreach and discipleship.

Faced with this unique challenge, dozens of MENA staff members have redefined their roles to "virtualize" our ministry. Adapting to new responsibilities and teams, our staff members have launched several online initiatives, including:

Curriculum Development Team

Meeting daily, a 31-member team is redeveloping our popular Cubs to Lions (CTL) discipleship course, working on a new CTL: Kids Edition curriculum, improving course structure, and optimizing the material for printing and global distribution. The team has created new templates and finalized class outlines, and more are in development. The streamlined and updated versions will contain exciting new material.



Juliana Aloian - MEC Reception Staff



Christine Soukiassian - International Teams Coordinator



Rezan Bilal - International Teams Assistant



Mireille Aoun - Education Coordinator

Online Evangelistic Video Team

A team of 22 staff members has been recording evangelistic videos for Facebook distribution through our Pure Heart of the Middle East page. Team members are learning new skills as they script, film, and edit audio and video messages. After being finalized by our media production team, these messages are posted to an audience of over 200,000 followers. Those who like and comment often enter into discipleship relationships with our online follow-up team.



Charbel Chamoun - MENA Field Staff

Kids' Evangelistic Video Team

On April 1st, our children's ministry team members began applying their talents to media production, to produce a new series of evangelistic videos for Arabic-speaking Muslim children around the world. While in quarantine, this team is recording these programs on mobile phones in their homes, using puppets as the presenters and characters.



Dilshan Maho - Children's Ministry Staff



Diana Hamo - Children's Ministry Staff

MEC Online Prayer Team

The MEC prayer team has converted previously in-person prayer activities into an online format, as team members coordinate with dozens of Whatsapp prayer groups consisting of members from numerous other ministries and churches. These groups also share and distribute evangelistic and promotional videos that our video teams produce.



Promotional Video Team

A team of 35 staff members is creating promotional videos for our social media platforms, inviting Christians around the world to pray, support, or otherwise partner with Horizons Lebanon. These videos feature stories of lives transformed through the gospel, and staff testimonials of how the Lord has shaped them in ministry among Muslims during their time with Horizons.



Ibrahim Resho - Social Media Operator



Rebecca Henderson - Field Staff

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The significant needs arising from the upheaval are also great opportunities for you to make a Kingdom impact.



We encourage you to pray for peace and protection in Lebanon, and for Christians to lead the way in spreading hope through bold acts of kindness and love.



Send financial support to the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (see back page), which allows Horizons' Lebanon team to continue serving at-risk Muslim communities.



Stay in touch about developing opportunities to help by following @HorizonsPDE on Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter.

Email us at connect@horizonsinternational.org



Reaching the Nations Under Lockdown:

An Interview with Jim Rairick

As the leader of International Crossroads (IC), Horizons' international student ministry (ISM), Jim Rairick has adapted our ISM team to serve through nationwide coronavirus quarantines and lockdowns.

Here, Jim takes a moment to share his insight on how increased isolation and uncertainty can bring new ISM opportunities to light. Interviewed by staff member Noah Karp.



International Crossroads

Noah Karp: Jim, how is international student ministry going in the season of novel coronavirus?

Jim Rairick: Well, honestly it's been a pretty stark transition, with group events being unsafe and church meetings being closed down. Things are very different now. However, we've been able to transfer one-to-one mentorship meetings and Bible study groups to online video platforms. It's definitely a step up from phone calls, since we can still see students and feel a more natural, "normal" connection.

NK: I would imagine that face-to-face connection is really important during self-isolation.

JR: It absolutely is. Internationals need relationship more than ever these days. At heart, the foundation of effective ISM is personal relationships. When we base our ministry efforts on fun gatherings, we meet lots of people, but we don't develop strong connections that can sustain under more difficult circumstances like these. But when we invest our time and effort into internationals, they seek us out for intimacy and hope in times of trial.

NK: With the number of international students we hope to reach, wouldn't such an approach be difficult on a larger scale?

JR: Not necessarily. At IC, we don't try to keep students to ourselves; we actually focus on connecting students to local churches. We believe that God has established the church as his primary resource and means of witness. With that in mind, we help healthy local churches develop sustained campus outreach and friendship partner programs. Their heart for serving opens up so many resources for international students from all faith backgrounds. Nearby congregations are able to leverage so many more people, resources, and community network opportunities than any parachurch organization.

“We believe that God has established the church as his primary resource and means of witness.”



“God wants to transform us through trial! He doesn't want us to return to 'normal' after coronavirus...”

NK: That makes a lot of sense. Are local churches generally receptive to developing ISM programs?

JR: It's different from church to church. Some are very missions-minded, and others need to catch the vision. After all, missions isn't just "sending"—these students represent all the nations of the world, and they are right here with us! As they face significant stress adapting to an alien culture, the love of Christ can impact them in deep ways. And they bring that transformation back to their home countries, as respected and educated Christian members of their families and communities.

NK: So in essence, THEY become missionaries too!

JR: Yes—missionaries who already speak the language and know the people! ISM encourages us to move beyond the idea that missions is only about "going" or "sending." Instead, we can all serve the nations where we are. We disciple international students with the gospel, and empower them for missions so they can share Christ and make disciples wherever they go next.

NK: That makes a lot of sense. I'm glad we can continue to minister to these students, even amidst social isolation.

JR: Amen to that. God wants to transform us through trial! He doesn't want us to return to "normal" after coronavirus—he is seeking to deepen and transform our personal ministries. As we all grapple to some degree with the concept of death, how does this cause us to value our time, our relationships, our ministry in Christ? When the restrictions are lifted, hopefully this time has birthed in us a greater urgency and clarity around what really matters.

“...these students represent all the nations of the world, and they are right here with us!”



Jim Rairick, National Director of International Student Ministry



SUPPORT

CORONAVIRUS RELIEF WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

In the two months since Horizons first announced the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund, we have been praising God for your enthusiastic response. So far, Horizons supporters have given over \$86,000 to bless Lebanon's impoverished and Syrian refugee families with gospel outreach and humanitarian aid! Over the coming months, these funds will provide the following aid:

- **20,000 emergency bread packages for needy families.**
- **2,750 food and hygiene packages for distribution through Horizons centers and partner churches in Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, and Egypt.**
- **1,000 infant care packages including diapers and formula for the babies of poor families.**
- **\$4,000 to support Horizons field staff who are sacrificially serving and ministering to refugees.**



As Lebanon faces increasing health and economic challenges, Horizons is expanding our coronavirus relief work to address a growing array of issues impoverished families face. Through house visits and coordination with churches, we are reaching believers and seekers with a tangible demonstration of the free love of Christ.

Support gospel work and humanitarian aid through the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund:

horizonsinternational.org/coronavirus



Horizons Lebanon staff and partner church members distribute aid to families in need.

YES! I WANT TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST!

Enclosed is my one-time monthly gift of \$ _____ to support missionary/project: _____

Plus a one-time

monthly gift to the Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund:



CLICK HERE TO GIVE