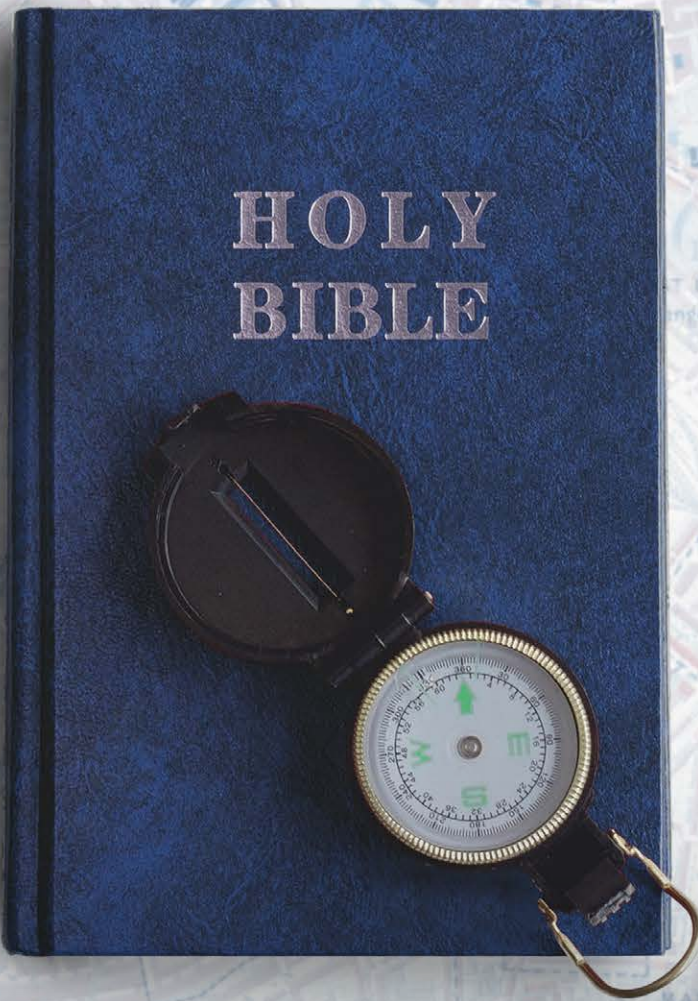


onthehorizon

..... Horizons International Newsletter – June 2023

TAKE A STEP OF FAITH



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COME TO
LEBANON



CHRISTIAN FROHWEIN

A LEAP OF FAITH — TO BEIRUT!

I traveled to Beirut for the first time in January 2023. I am from a small town in the north of the UK, but Middle Eastern culture holds a special place in my heart since I was young, having lived in Egypt for almost four years of my childhood.

My introduction to Horizons came through a relative, who had worked with Horizons in grant writing for 3 years. She felt convicted that I should look into getting involved. After connecting with Pierre Houssney, I prayerfully considered visiting. Though I felt some trepidation, I knew I needed to see this ministry with my own eyes.

After arriving, I found myself sitting in a refugee home. It was a privilege to see, first-hand, how a Horizons field team shared the gospel with local people in the midst of difficult situations. **I was profoundly challenged as I listened to these bold evangelists** faithfully offer parables and Bible passages with such confidence in the life-changing power and truth they were proclaiming.

It was tempting to just observe quietly, but Pastor Charbel wasn't going to let my first visit end without sharing something from my heart with the gentleman we were visiting! Witnessing the passionate plea for this man to come to know God, it was difficult not to become emotional. As someone who already knows Jesus, I was truly grateful to share with him (via a translator) just how much joy it gave me to hear him being offered a new life in Christ.

There were many experiences that were truly inspiring—seeing the School of Hope transform the lives of Syrian refugee children, or heading north to Tripoli to witness the phenomenal team there make disciples for Christ in an underreached area—the experiences are too many to list.

To say that Lebanon is a cultural melting pot is truly an understatement. This is part of why **Lebanon is truly unique in its opportunities for evangelism.**

If you are contemplating a trip to Lebanon, I can wholeheartedly recommend it. It will be challenging—and at times overwhelming—but will open your eyes to the transforming work of our great God through the work of Horizons.

Christian Frohwein

GLOBAL UPDATES

BOULDER, CO



Horizons is under contract to sell its building in Boulder, CO. The 777 Broadway building was instrumental in growing Horizons from a small family-based ministry to a larger global organization. This facility was where Horizons' Engaging Islam and Cubs to Lions training programs were written and launched, and **where interns and staff ministered to thousands of international students** who lived there since the year 2000. In recent years, Horizons has largely virtualized our administration and many of our ministry programs, using technology to improve efficiency across our international operations.

Our leadership team and board have agreed that we no longer need our large facility in Boulder, and that its resources would be better invested in building the Middle East Center for World Missions (MEC) in Beirut, Lebanon. The MEC is already serving as a hub for missions and training worldwide, but in order to fulfill its vision, it needs a major upgrade to its facilities. In Boulder, Horizons is looking for a new home for our operations, to continue serving international students and growing our nationwide training programs.

US FIELD MINISTRY — ALBANY, NY

International Crossroads Albany (ICA) has had a great spring semester, with record levels of student engagement! After a successful welcome event in January, **one of the best in over 30 years** of ministry, and attended by over 60 international students, engagement has remained consistently high throughout this year. Events such as ski trips, rock climbing, and a game and movie night have proven extremely popular, with most events fully booked within hours of the invitations.

Over 20 students have been placed into Friendship Partner relationships, which connects them to volunteers from local churches through one-on-one relationships, and enables those serving to share their faith and stir spiritual discussions. Pray that the Lord would use these relationships to draw students to faith in Christ!





EARTHQUAKE RELIEF UPDATE

Your generous support of the Earthquake Relief Fund (ERF) is enabling vital humanitarian aid to flow into earthquake-devastated regions of Syria and Turkey, and impacting thousands of refugees with the love of Christ!

- 15 people gave their lives to Christ at church-based evangelistic services
- A woman accepted Christ after being freed from 18 years of demonic oppression!

Plans are underway to expand the Kurdish church building from 250 to 450 people, while a new container school in Shahbaa will allow 400 refugee children to receive an education. This project will enable even more refugees to hear the gospel.

Turkey

In southeastern Turkey, Horizons staff members and partner ministries are reaching earthquake survivors with clothes, shelter, and other supplies. **The team traveled over 9,800 kilometers**, reaching Iskenderun, Diyarbakir, Mardin, Hatay, Adiyaman, and Antakya, to provide the following aid:

- Winter clothing, mattresses, flashlights, diapers, food, and hygiene products were distributed to hundreds of women and families
- 10,000 bottles of water and 300 food boxes were given to earthquake survivors
- 42 tents were provided to families in Adiyaman and Iskenderun

The earthquake recovery phase will be long and difficult—but the Lord has strategically positioned Horizons to serve those affected by war and natural disaster, and continues to open doors for the gospel in Syria and Turkey.



Syria

Two teams deployed from Lebanon to Syria in the aftermath of the earthquake. Both teams served in Aleppo, while the second team continued on to reach the Kurdish refugees at the Shahbaa camp in northern Syria.

- Over 800 refugee families received food, water, clothing, mattresses, blankets, and medicine in Aleppo and Shahbaa
- 23 houses were repaired in Damascus
- Heating fuel was provided to 100 families at Shahbaa



BEDIG TOROSSIAN

A DIVINE APPOINTMENT IN ALEPPO

I was traveling back from Dubai to Lebanon on my birthday, but because of paperwork issues, I had to go to my home country of Syria instead. After spending 12 hours stuck at the airport, I went to Damascus, where I had to catch a bus to Aleppo. While I was waiting for the bus to leave, I borrowed a man's phone to call my parents. This man, named Hamza, stood near me and started telling me about himself.

Despite being exhausted, I continued listening to Hamza's story and prayed, "Lord, open a door." This Muslim man suddenly started telling me, "I'm a sinner!" To which I replied, "But why are you telling me this?"

He replied, "I don't know, but I sensed that you are different from other people." **He told me that Islam is all lies—but that he believed in the existence of God.** So I shared with him about Jesus and how He died for him. He was staring at me like a child the whole time. While I continued talking to him, I heard the Lord saying, "Tell him that I love him."

I stopped and told him, "Hamza, Jesus loves you! Jesus loves you!" He said, "What did you just say?" And he knelt on the ground weeping. **We were surrounded by 500 people, but I felt like we were in a different world!**

While he was weeping, he was saying, "**Forgive me, forgive me.**" I kept repeating, "Hamza, Jesus loves you!" I prayed with him and he left crying. After he left, I prayed to God, "Lord, I now know why you let me go through this whole journey—Hamza was here, just waiting to hear the words 'I love you!'"

Yalla! *Let's go* **يالا**

COME EXPLORE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN LEBANON

Do you feel called to reach Muslims with the gospel? Are you curious about how to get started in international missions? Or is your church exploring opportunities for ministry partnerships?

Then come to Lebanon! As God has expanded Horizons' work over the years, there are now many opportunities for you to serve in the land **where Jesus once walked**. Each year, hundreds of believers visit Lebanon to take part in ministry, explore new church partnerships, train for missions, or make connections and be inspired. Below are just a few of the opportunities you can explore.

Mission Trips

At Horizons, we believe that Lebanon is a strategic location for ministry and **the key to unlocking missions to the rest of the Middle East**. Mission trips are opportunities to come and serve the people of Lebanon with your skills and talents, and Horizons hosts dozens of mission teams and missionaries each year. Strategic short-term trips are also a great introduction for those considering long-term missions to Muslims.

Starting with orientation at the Middle East Center for World Missions, you will gain cultural insights and guidance to help prepare you for your time in Lebanon. Activities on your mission trip might include food distribution in the Beqaa

One medical team of 40 individuals visited and served nearly 200 patients daily!

Valley, street evangelism in Tyre, leading worship with children at School of Hope, Bible distribution in Beirut, or mountain village outreach! There are also opportunities to enjoy the cultural sights of Lebanon, before returning home to share your experiences with your local church community.



Medical Ministry

Medical ministry is a powerful way to share the love of Christ with families in Lebanon who face the overwhelming challenge of accessing healthcare and medicines. Opportunities abound for those with medical skills, and teams can serve patients at our ministry centers by providing basic medicines, treating chronic conditions, delivering essential immunizations, providing dental clinics, and more.

As patients wait for treatment or medicine, other team members can befriend them and take the

opportunity to pray with patients and share the gospel message! If you would like to learn more about serving in a medical capacity, connect with the team at:

medicalministry@horizonsinternational.org

Internships/Externships

If you want to go deeper in your training and ministry, then an internship or externship is a perfect place to start! Externships last between one and three months, while internships last between three months and two years. Both are focused on serving the people of Lebanon at our ministry centers or field opportunities, and **will equip you for serving on the international mission field**.

Internships/externships are hands-on learning experiences for people of all ages, with opportunities to serve through house visits,



working with refugee children at School of Hope, and supporting discipleship classes, while learning Arabic.

The Combat Team is a powerful example of bringing your gift to Lebanon! Brian Bryan equipped our local team to start a martial arts ministry to share the love of Christ with children.

Bring your gift!

Do you or your church have other gifts, talents, or strengths in areas such as technology, trade work, music, medicine, or sports?

The opportunities to serve the people of Lebanon and beyond are endless.

- Teach courses at the Middle East Center for World Missions, the Language Academy of Beirut, School of Hope, and other locations
- Lead a Vacation Bible School for children in Beqaa, Tyre, Tripoli, Beirut, and elsewhere
- Train a soccer class, and use your sports ministry as an opportunity to present the gospel
- Partner with a local church in Lebanon and bring a team to support their ministry

We invite you and your church to **take some time and consider your skills and talents. How could you use these on the mission field?** If you want to explore how you can make an impact in the Middle East, start the conversation today!

• • • trips@horizonsinternational.org • • •

TAKE A VISION TRIP!

Come and catch the vision for ministry in Lebanon and beyond. These exciting trips provide you—and your church—the chance to explore mission opportunities, connect with staff members, and experience first-hand how ministry is transforming lives for the gospel.

If you are considering partnering with Horizons or looking for a place to send ministry teams, **a vision trip can inspire you toward new adventures and help you decide on your long-term ministry goals.** Typically lasting between one and two weeks, a vision trip can be tailored to meet your needs.

Learn more about vision trips by emailing trips@horizonsinternational.org.



Virtual Vision Trips

Not ready to travel? The Virtual Vision Trip is a unique opportunity to learn about Horizons' ministry from the comfort of your own home!

Connect with staff members in Lebanon via a series of online meetings, be inspired by powerful testimonies of transformation, and learn first-hand about on-the-ground ministry to Muslims. Take a virtual "step" inside our ministry centers and gain your own vision for serving in the Middle East!



Here is just some of what you can expect from a vision trip:

- Land in Beirut, where our team will welcome you, get you settled in, and lead you through orientation
- Take a tour of Horizons' ministry operations in Beirut
- Meet staff members and hear powerful testimonies of transformation
- Visit our ministry centers across Lebanon and see field ministry in action
- Develop action steps for growing in partnership and ministry opportunities



Explore more opportunities at:

horizonsinternational.org/join-a-vision-trip

CLICK HERE TO GIVE