



# SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE GOSPEL

## The Time Is Now

The Muslim world is huge. How do we make the greatest impact? This edition focuses on proclamation – sowing the seeds of God's love. These days, sharing the good news is rewarding because multi-millions of Muslims are now disillusioned with Islam and their political leaders. Many are turning to Christ! All over the world, Asia, Africa, Middle East, Europe and America, we are seeing Muslims come to Christ in unprecedented numbers. Several factors have made this possible: When you hear testimonies of hundreds of Muslims, it's clear that media has played a major role in bringing the gospel via the internet, Christian TV Channels, and social media.

In this issue you will read stories from around the world that should both encourage and challenge you to take action. **The time is now – the door is wide open.** We cannot wait until it is too late. We need your help. The harvest is still plentiful and the laborers are still few. We are doing our best to plant the seeds of God's love by all means we can.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and finances.

- Georges Houssney,  
President, Horizons International

in this edition



CUBS TO LIONS



SUMMER SNAPSHOTS



WOMEN OF GOD



CONSTRUCTION  
IN KOSOVO



ADVENTURES  
IN LEBANON

# CUBS TO LIONS - 2017



Photo: Cubs to Lions 2017

At our most recent Cubs to Lions conference in Toronto, we hosted 27 people from diverse nations such as Sudan, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Egypt. In the Cubs to Lions training, which is designed to teach the gospel to both new and mature believers from Muslim backgrounds, Middle Eastern teachers offer solid instruction that helps new believers grow into steady, mature Christians and train other believers to become disciple-makers and teachers.

These conferences have drawn groups of all faith levels. This group was just beginning in their faith, and some did not know where to find most books of the Bible—but each passing day saw encouragement and growth. As Georges and André Houssney led the sessions, attendees began to ask tough questions, and they received answers that were encouraging and challenging.

Some shared their struggles to understand the Trinity, and others learned for the first time that Christianity is not a Western religion. On Tuesday night, after Georges explained the way of salvation, **five people came forward to receive Christ. Praise God!**

Overall, this class was a good experience for everyone. Please join us in continuing to pray for those who attended, as they now walk forward with what they have learned at Cubs to Lions. Many believers worldwide have left Islam for Christianity, yet they have not been discipled and trained in the Word. It is people like these that Horizons International strives to proclaim, disciple and equip. Please continue to pray for all of our future attendees and their bright futures as disciples of Christ Jesus.

- Georges Houssney,  
President, Horizons International



## SUMMER SNAPSHOTS: REACHING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN NEW YORK

Horizons has a team of staff and volunteers in the Albany area who reach out to International students through English classes, Bible studies, and social activities! Here are a couple stories from staff members Danny and Susan Forte:

L from China is a newlywed and her husband is a visiting scholar. She was bored during her days until she began joining the Horizons English classes and walking club. She had told Danny and Susan that she is a Christian, and when she joined them on the camping trip they spent one evening sitting on a rock by the water learning more about what she understood of Christianity. They discovered that although she called herself a Christian, she really didn't have a relationship with the Lord. Throughout the summer as they continued to include her in Bible study and church she asked for help in becoming a "good Christian". So they explained salvation and what it means to have a relationship with Christ. A couple of weeks later she told the Bible study group that her husband (who is not a believer) noticed a change in her and that their marriage was even getting better. **Pray for L's continued growth, and that her husband would accept Christ!**

Five Egyptian girls joined Danny and Susan Forte and Horizons volunteers for a camping and canoe trip in the Adirondack Mountains. Although these girls were fasting for Ramadan they enjoyed the beauty of nature and adventure of tents and campfires. **The girls got more adventure than they bargained for when their canoe tipped over**, but all was well since they were wearing life jackets. During this special trip, these young Muslim women heard the gospel and even participated in reading scripture and singing worship songs during the devotions the group did together. Pray for more opportunities to share the gospel with these girls during the next school year!



L and Danny Forte



L from China



Evangelistic camping trip with 5 Egyptian Muslim girls



Streets of Tyre in Lebanon

# LEBANON: FERTILE SOIL

I attended a service at Horizons' main center in Beirut one evening and watched as large numbers of refugees filled the room and took their seats. Behind me I heard the call to prayer echoing from a nearby mosque and realized that the Muslims at our center not paying attention to it. Many of the refugee children ran to greet me, threw their arms around my waist, smiling up at me. You could see the ravages of war in their dear faces. Many displayed decayed teeth and dark circles under their eyes, but it was apparent that the center was a place of refuge for them. During another evening service, I noticed a young man frantically pacing back and forth, waiting for the service to start. When Horizons President **Georges Housney gave the altar call, he practically ran to the front of the room.** He had made his decision and couldn't wait to go forward and give his heart to the Lord. He was just one of many that night, but his enthusiasm touched something deep in my heart. At two other services, **I wept as I watched 40-50 more Muslims come forward to receive Christ.** I was struck with such wonder of what God was doing in Lebanon through Horizons International.

I had the opportunity to visit our other ministry centers located in Tyre and Tripoli and wondered what these experiences would be like, coming from a country like Canada. Given that I was observing how God was moving in the hearts of the refugees, I realized that this feeling of safety was not just a feeling I was experiencing, but the hand of God on Lebanon.

Many of us were awestruck by the striking beauty of Lebanon and how warm and friendly the people are. The slums are surprisingly safe, with small children playing in the streets, and businesses open late into the night. Friend and family gatherings are commonplace and their tiny apartments are filled with children, yet they are always open to offers of tea. It struck me that there is such a contrast between what is reported in the Western news and what the actual experience is on the ground. A tightening began to grip my heart; the more I explored this beautiful country, I realized that I was falling in love with Lebanon.

I honestly do not know how to completely describe my experience, but I believe more than ever that it is something that we need to experience first-hand, to understand the sheer scope of our ministry in Lebanon, and how we are uniquely positioned to partner with what the Lord is doing. There are so many ways we are ministering to the refugees there. It is amazing to be able to do something, anything, to help those ravaged by the war. From providing opportunities for refugee children to attend school, adult sewing classes, language classes, medical clinics, and food portions, there is no doubt that we are meeting the physical needs of many. But it is the **bold sharing of the gospel** at each connection point that brings glory to God and tremendous meaning to the work we are doing.

It is hard for us to fully understand Gods ways, or why He allows things like the war in Syria, but it became even more apparent as the days rolled on that **He is redeeming these events for His purposes – to draw the refugees to Himself.** God is alive and thriving in Lebanon!

**That is something I love being part of!**

Linda Raymond,  
Director of Marketing,  
Cubs to Lions Coordinator North America,  
Horizons International



Photo: Linda with a group of refugee kids on the streets of Tripoli, Lebanon  
Donate @ [horizonsinternational.org/give](https://horizonsinternational.org/give) Designation: "Lebanon"



Legacy  
CONFERENCE  
2018

Liberty to the  
**CAPTIVES**  
May 31 - June 2 | Dearborn, MI

Horizons  
INTERNATIONAL  
proclaim. disciple. equip.

legacyconference.org  
**REGISTER NOW**

# AWAKENING THE WOMEN OF GOD



A former Muslim woman giving her testimony

"We want to produce life-changing media that will encourage and inspire, and will proclaim the power of the gospel that sets the captives free."

These words from Horizons Lebanon's Director of Media Production, Charbel Msallem, represent a powerful vision that our Media department works hard to realize. One current project through which this seed is germinating to bear fruit is an upcoming 16-episode series called "Women of God." This series, which sheds light on the horrific lives and raw experiences of numerous Muslim women, also reveals their **incredible stories of transformation** through encountering Jesus Christ, each in their own unique way.

In this series, many of these women boldly come face-to-face with the camera, to expose the extreme hardships their families and societies imposed on them. Their experiences and traumatic moments are also being re-enacted by actors in dramatic docudrama sequences, so that viewers can step into their stories and more fully grasp the severity and injustices these Muslim women endured—and the priceless freedom they discovered in Christ alone.

"Women of God" aims to reveal the life-changing power found in the gospel to all Muslim women in the Middle East, and even worldwide, while simultaneously encouraging many others to come forward to expose, testify, and proclaim!

## "IS ALL I KNEW A LIE?"

Media has an immense power to impact its audience. This fact is clearly established in our media department; it is what motivates them to put in hundreds of hours of strenuous work in each project they endeavor – all with the expectation of what the fruit will be upon its completion! However, every now and again, our Media team is pleasantly surprised and motivated at the impact their projects are exhibiting even while still in their infant phases in the studio!

Various resources are needed in order to complete each project, which include actors, voice actors, translators, transcribers, editors... Many of these are hired on a project basis. One of these cases is a man named Rody, who was a friend of one of our staff members, and hired to be a voice actor in one of the docudramas. As he was preparing and reading the content he was about to record in the studio, **our staff members found him in tears!!** When they approached him and asked what was the matter, he replied: "Is all this real? Is all I knew a lie?" Our staff then ministered to this man, and showed him the way of salvation.

Rody is just one example of a new trend our media team is experiencing, which is a huge encouragement to them, testifying to the hope held within each testimony and the power within each proclamation.

## BREAKING GROUND IN KOSOVO



Construction has begun on a church building for Horizons' first church-plant in Kosovo, established 22 years ago! After 10 years of resistance from the local government, the church has received permission to break ground. This milestone represents **a big victory** in establishing the legitimacy of protestant churches in Muslim-dominated Kosovo. Up until now, the churches have only been able to rent small spaces for worship. The door to begin construction has opened, but the church is keenly aware this is not just about a building: it is about continuing to **build God's Kingdom in Kosovo**. This facility will be a central location for training, discipleship, and preparing believers to serve the Lord.

Georges Houssney and Horizons have walked alongside Messiah Evangelical Church from its inception **in 1994, when Georges gathered a handful of believers to form the nucleus of the church**.

Georges originally began taking trips to Kosovo several times per year to organize, shepherd, encourage, and train the small group of young leaders. **He now returns every 1-2 years to train over 80 Christian leaders that have emerged since then.** It's been amazing to see God's work blossom and reproduce, and culminate in the construction of this church building!

Although the church has grown in Kosovo, many other cities still lack a Christian presence, so training and sending out church planters is a vital part of the ministry.

**Construction Has Begun!**  
**Help us provide the remaining 315,000 euros needed to complete this project.**

Donate @ [horizonsinternational.org/give](https://horizonsinternational.org/give)  
Designation: "Kosovo Church Building Project"

Kosovo Church building construction site

Is God calling you to partner with this ministry? Visit: [horizonsinternational.org/give](https://horizonsinternational.org/give)

# HELP EXPAND THE SCHOOL OF HOPE

## Sponsor a Child!

Help us expand from 76 to 120 students with your gift of \$55/month per child

For more information, contact Annie Ostrander, School of Hope Sponsorship Coordinator: [schoolofhope@horizonsinternational.org](mailto:schoolofhope@horizonsinternational.org)

## "WHAT HAPPENED TO MY CHILD?"

"What happened to my child?" complained one parent to the Lead Teacher of the School of Hope. "He isn't praying like we pray and **he only wants to pray to Jesus!** If this continues, we'll need to pull him out of school." This isn't the first time Lead Teacher Fatima has received this complaint. The School of Hope, Horizons International's school for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, does more than educate the children. The teachers openly share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their students have become familiar with many Bible stories and have **memorized many verses from the Bible.** They sing along and dance to worship music. Not all parents complain, and many of them actually encourage their kids to

put **their faith in Jesus.** The students, who mainly come from Muslim homes, are **taught in school that Jesus loves them** and wants a relationship with them. They are taught how to pray and what fasting is according to the Bible. These students are so impacted, in fact, that parents have told us of the **huge changes in their behavior.** The children are impacted by the message of love and they enjoy the stories of Jesus. At the End of the Year Party, students and their families gathered to celebrate graduation. Students boldly shared with the audience what they had learned about the love of Jesus - **being loved by him and loving others.**

Want to do more?

**PRAY:** sign up for daily or weekly prayer updates! [main@horizonsinternational.org](mailto:main@horizonsinternational.org)

**GIVE:** help Horizons proclaim, disciple, and equip! [horizonsinternational.org/give](http://horizonsinternational.org/give)

**GO:** attend or host a training event! [Engagingislam.org](http://Engagingislam.org)

