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# onthehorizon

..... Horizons International Newsletter – February 2021 .....



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ENGAGING ISLAM



UNASHAMED Legacy2021

دراسة الرجاء  
School of Hope



## ANNIE

### A MISSIONARY'S TESTIMONY

I grew up in a Christian family in Grand Rapids, MI. In college, the Lord started nudging me toward something more, to explore overseas missions through different missions conferences and the Perspectives course. Eventually, I attended Horizons International's Engage Course for ministry to Muslims, and I was hooked! **God was showing me his heart for Muslims**—and when Georges Houssney invited me to come to Lebanon, I packed my bags!

In 2014 I spent two months serving with Horizons, as their first Western intern in Lebanon! I loved it so much that two years later, **I moved to Beirut to serve for 4.5 years as a long-term missionary.** My service started at the School of Hope, pairing sponsors with Syrian refugee children. After that, I transitioned to focusing more on house visits with the Horizons' evangelism and discipleship teams. On the Beqaa Valley outreach team, together we ministered to families in the refugee camps.

Serving abroad has opened my eyes to see how God is at work in the Middle East. **My favorite part is watching the transformation happening in the lives of the new believers: marriages restored, addictions broken, hope and joy renewed!** It is amazing to see how Christ gives them new life, and I love their excitement to share the good news with their family and friends.

Although Lebanon has been my home for the last 4.5 years, I recently transitioned to the US for a season of mobilizing and equipping churches for missions. **My heart is to see Kingdom multiplication, and I think mobilizing churches is key to making that happen!** I am excited to help churches empower the unique giftings of their congregations, to reach the world for the glory of Jesus Christ.

**Annie Ostrander**  
Mobilizer & Missionary to the Middle East



[horizonsinternational.org/mobilization](https://horizonsinternational.org/mobilization)

# EVERY WORD

## THE ARLINGTON STATEMENT ON BIBLE TRANSLATION

The call of the Great Commission demands faithful translation of God's Word. The Arlington Statement was carefully crafted by scholars and skilled Bible translators from organizations around the globe, all of whom have a passion for biblically sound translation principles. The statement has already been **signed by more than 1,245 individuals, churches, and ministries**—and more are signing every day. Horizons played a key role in the drafting and publication of the statement, and we encourage you to read it, sign it, and share it with others.



Learn more and sign at [arlingtonstatement.org](https://arlingtonstatement.org)

# of GOD is FLAWLESS.

PROV. 30:5

[horizonsinternational.org/mobilization](https://horizonsinternational.org/mobilization)

# GLOBAL MINISTRY

How Horizons staff are reaching those in need

**How can we best serve a world in strife? In several international locations, Horizons is creatively expanding amid widespread instability and turmoil.**

## ZAMBIA

Pastor Barry Illunga, national partner and president of WOTA Ministries in Zambia, is passionate about **engaging local**

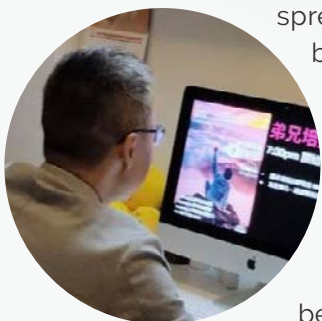


**Zambian churches with a vision for missions.** Amid in-person restrictions and safety measures, WOTA Ministries is developing online training courses to equip believers and increase the capacity of local churches for missions.

Pastor Barry is equipping these churches to reach Muslims in Southern-African Muslim-majority areas, and also to **send missionaries to the MENA region and beyond.** International travel restrictions have impeded plans to send missionaries to Lebanon. Please pray for the visa process to resume.

## HONG KONG

Horizons International Asia staff continue to see fruit from their ministry as they spread the gospel and disciple believers. **In the last two**



**years, this team has seen 23 Muslims come to Christ!** Edward and Sandy Chau, who lead HI Asia, have also led several training courses equipping believers for evangelism.

**More than 120 people** recently attended *Engaging Islam 1.0*, the first of a series of online courses that provides insight into Islamic culture and gives Christians the skills and outreach experience needed to reach Muslims with the gospel.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Horizons staff members Allain and Nicole Ravelo-Hoerson face increasing pressure in their ministry to Muslims in Cape



Town, due to the impact on their community caused by the coronavirus and lockdowns, as well as continued opposition from Muslim leaders.

Nicole often participates in discussions about faith on radio shows. **Twice, Muslim producers**

**refused to let her go on air,** while Muslim leaders aggressively promote Islam.

Despite the challenges, there have been small but important victories, with one former Muslim taking a big step to be more open about her Christian faith. With so many people struggling with fear and stress arising from the pandemic, **Allain and Nicole have been counseling both Christians and Muslims.** Allain is also leading a trauma healing workshop to support people's mental and emotional health.

## KOSOVO

In the midst of COVID restrictions, Horizons' partner Messiah Evangelical Church is continuing to grow and strengthen its fruitful spiritual community.



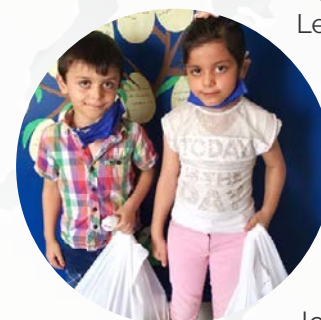
**MEF's congregation of over 300 Christians from Muslim backgrounds** is investing in community outreach, theological education, and church planting. This year, four families from Kosovo and two from the USA have

branched out to serve in existing church plants and develop new plants in strategic locations. In Pristina, Kosovo's capital city, ten church members are taking doctoral

or masters-level theological studies to build their ministry capacity. Additionally, the church is developing a number of innovative ministries, such as Albanian-language Christian media and publishing resources, trauma counseling services, vocational projects, Bible translation, and food and clothing distribution for families in extreme poverty.

## ZAHLE, LEBANON MINISTRY (NEW)

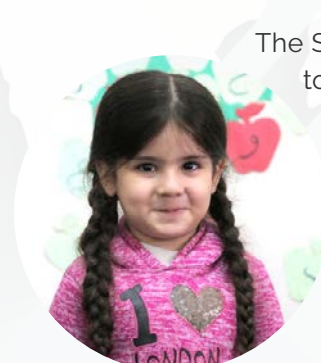
Pastor Imad Aubrey, a Horizons staff member in Lebanon, has recently established a new ministry in his hometown of Zahle, Lebanon. Inspired by Horizons'



reports of Muslims coming to Christ, the testimony of a former ISIS member, and encouragement from friends and churches, he is now serving to equip, mobilize, and plant local churches to impact the surrounding community.

In early 2020, **Pastor Imad started an online church service that now regularly serves up to 1,800 attendees.** With economic struggles and food shortages in Lebanon worsening after the August 4th explosion, Zahle Ministry launched a mercy ministry to provide food, medicine, and heating fuel to those who are suffering under extreme poverty. Staff members are developing strong relationships with the **74 families** they currently serve, as they take time to share the gospel and pray with them on each visit.

## SCHOOL OF HOPE



The School of Hope has continued to provide education for K-5 Syrian refugee children by adapting classroom schedules to fit national pandemic restrictions. Each day, **half of the school's 140 students meet in person** with social distancing, while the other half joins virtually

from home. Many of the Muslim parents have expressed awe and deep gratitude for the level of care shown by School of Hope teachers and staff members for their children's education, and observed a stark contrast with nearby public schools. An unexpected blessing is that, because they are helping their children learn to study online, **Muslim parents have now been reading and memorizing Bible verses along with their children!**

## TURKISH WORLD MINISTRIES

In November 2018, under the leadership of Yüksel and Dijle Kurada, Horizons launched Turkish World Ministries (TWM), with the mission to reach



Turkish-speaking people across the world for Christ. Just over two years later, **TWM now serves over 2,500 Turkish speakers worldwide—and over 250 people have come to faith!**

After months of delayed plans due to coronavirus, Yüksel and Dijle are now actively fundraising for TWM, and offering training and counseling services.

With teams already being developed in Turkey, and a new team starting in Bulgaria, Yüksel and Dijle are actively seeking more people to **establish training centers** in Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Poland, Britain, and Turkey. These new leaders, many from Muslim backgrounds, will be trained to disciple and equip others.

**Stay up-to-date on ministry reports from around the globe:**

**@HorizonsPDE**  
on Facebook and Instagram!





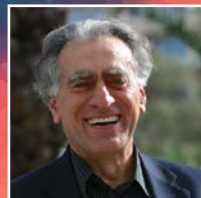
# UNASHAMED Legacy2021



## LEGACY 2021 — A CONFERENCE ABOUT MISSIONS, MUSLIMS, AND THE HEART OF GOD

Legacy is a national that brings together global believers ministering to Muslims. The idea of the conference was first conceived in 2004, during a historic revival among students at Hope College. Founder Barbara Yandell, now a Horizons associate staff member, launched the Legacy Conference to provide practical training and networking for churches, individuals, and missionary organizations. In 2012, Barbara began partnering with Horizons International to expand Legacy—and today, the conference is known and respected internationally.

**Legacy 2021 will take place in-person at Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, MI, from June 17-19.** It will also be livestreamed online, and recorded talks will be viewable on a flexible schedule. Speakers including Abdu Murray, Georges Houssney, and Fred Farrokh will share how God is working in the Middle East, as well as other practical topics such as sharing the gospel in a post-truth era, ministering to Muslim women, and contextualizing the gospel.



## Legacy2021

June 17-19 | Grand Rapids, MI

Register today:  
[legacyconference.org](http://legacyconference.org)

## EQUIPPING THE CHURCH FOR MINISTRY TO MUSLIMS

### TRAINING MINISTRY GOES VIRTUAL

*Christians around the world pray that an eventual end to COVID restrictions will allow ministry life to "return to normal," with in-person meetings and events. However, in this difficult and isolating season, many are using the opportunity to prepare themselves for even greater fruitfulness. To come alongside them, Horizons is launching our previously in-person training events in online formats, to bring them to everyone, anywhere, anytime.*

Legacy Conference Coordinator Linda Raymond has witnessed how Legacy transforms lives: "When I attended my first Legacy conference seven years ago, it was an experience that never left me, and it emboldened me to share the gospel. Legacy inspired me to join Horizons, and **witnessing firsthand countless Muslims coming to the Lord gave me a passion to spread this fruitfulness.** I believe Legacy Conference will light that fire in others."

## ENGAGE COURSE

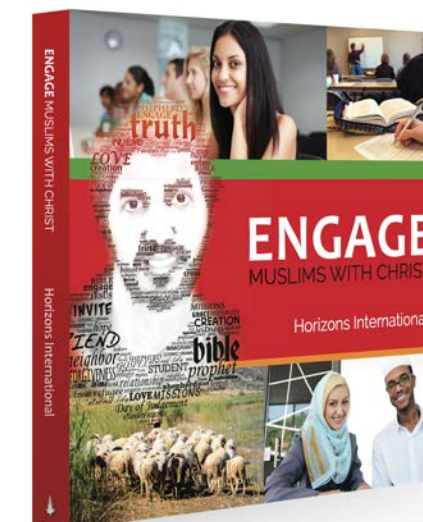
For those looking for more in-depth training in ministry to Muslims, Horizons International has partnered with Rocky Mountain Bible College to offer the Engage Course on their world-class online platform. **Over 500 church groups have completed the in-person Engage Course**, and many have testified how it has prepared them for fruitful ministry among Muslims.

This 10-module course is taught by experienced missionaries and Christians from Muslim backgrounds. Topics include culture issues and contextualization, tenets of Islam, apologetics, and practical how-tos on reaching Muslims. **Horizons and Rocky Mountain Bible College** are excited to offer the same quality training through this new platform, allowing the course to be self-led, flexible, and accessible from anywhere in the world.



SCAN ME

[Engagecourse.org/take-engage-course-online](http://Engagecourse.org/take-engage-course-online)

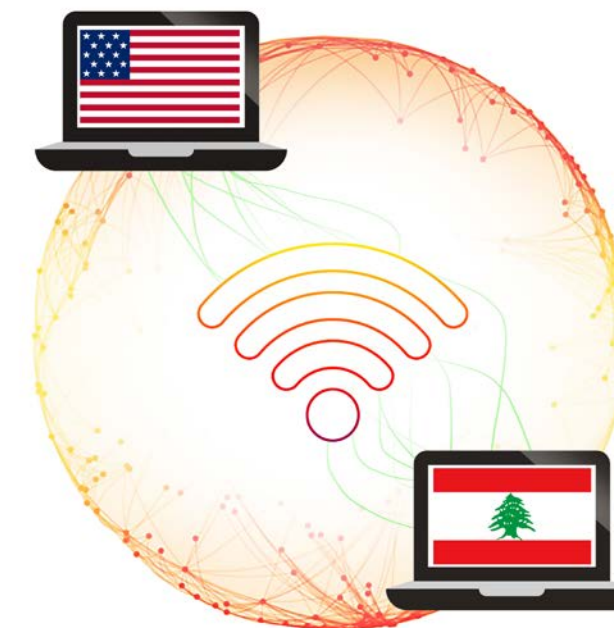


## VIRTUAL VISION TRIPS

Virtual vision trips open up the door for churches and individuals to "go" on a vision trip to Beirut, without leaving the country. They provide an opportunity to **connect personally with on-the-ground ministry in the Middle East**—and are definitely the most affordable vision trip available today!

Designed to give attendees an intimate look into Middle East ministry, virtual vision trips are composed of a series of hour-long online meetings with our Lebanese staff in Beirut. So far, **38 people from six churches** have taken virtual vision trips to interact with our Lebanese staff, hear testimonies, watch videos from the field, and develop their knowledge and interest around ministry to Muslims and refugees.

Learn more and register today:  
[horizonsinternational.org/virtual-vision-trip](http://horizonsinternational.org/virtual-vision-trip)



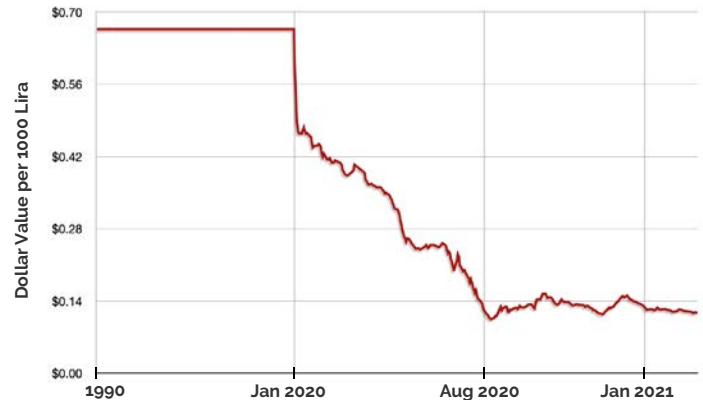
# WHAT IF YOUR SALARY WAS CUT TO 5%?



Imagine having to decide whether to pay for rent or food this month. Do you keep a roof over your head, or feed your family? This is even before you consider utilities, medical care, household items, car costs, and more... That's the desperate struggle faced by so many refugees and Lebanese citizens today.



*The Lebanon Crisis Fund opens the door to reach and disciple Muslim women and families.*



Between a 50% paycut, an 80% reduction of the value of the Lebanese lira, and a 100% increase in price for many basic goods, hundreds of thousands of people have seen their buying power reduced to 5% of what it was just a year ago. **The income that once lasted a month, now lasts barely two days.**

But there is hope. Through your prayerful support, **our 2020 Matching Grant raised over \$340,000**, all of which directly supports gospel-centered relief efforts in Lebanon. Since the Beirut blast, Horizons has provided critical support:

- **166,964** meals distributed
- **1,039** medicinal items disbursed
- **731** infant care/medical aid kits provided
- **780** windows and doors replaced in homes and local churches
- **225** homes served through gospel visits
- **197,605** people in the MENA region reached with the gospel via social media

In addition to the immediate disaster response, Horizons is also launching the **Agricultural Development Project** to establish a missional community that provides long-term sustainable employment, food, and gospel impact. We are seeing God use these projects to help bring about a gospel revival in Lebanon and beyond!

Join the conversation with our ministry leaders in Lebanon and elsewhere at Horizons' upcoming digital roundtables:

**MEC Expansion Roundtable**  
February 17, 4pm MT

**Agricultural Development Roundtable**  
April 7, 4pm MT

[horizonsinternational.org/roundtables](https://horizonsinternational.org/roundtables)



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# 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 Lebanon Crisis Fund:



**CLICK HERE TO GIVE**