

onthehorizon

•••• Horizons International Newsletter – June 2021 •••••

PARTNERSHIP

IN THE GREAT COMMISSION



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THE GOSPEL
EFFECTIVELY

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THOSE IN NEED

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BIBLE TRANSLATION
ROUNDTABLE!


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INTERNATIONAL
proclaim. disciple. equip.



MICHAEL

A MISSIONARY'S TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Michael, I'm 23 years old, and I'm from Missouri. My sending church, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, is located in Hannibal, MO. I spent two years serving as the Pastor of Outreach, but for the last 1.5 years **I have been serving as an intern with Horizons International in Beirut**, conducting house visits with refugee families.

I was 12 when God revealed Himself to me at a church camp, and 15 when He told me I would spend my life bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth, all for His glory. After college, **He showed me that I would serve in the "10/40 Window,"** specifically the Middle East and Central Asia.

When I found Horizons, I applied to serve overseas with them because of their effectiveness in reaching Muslims. I was off to Lebanon in no time—and in the first month of my internship, I led a missions team from my home church that participated in construction work, house visits, and a few other ministries. Since then, **I have been visiting refugee families in the Beqaa Valley with a team of local Horizons ministers.** We spend most of our day in people's homes, drinking coffee and talking about Jesus. I also take three Arabic lessons per week, which is fun but challenging!

Serving abroad isn't always easy. It's difficult to leave your family and friends. It's a challenge to leave your comfort and your culture. When I first got here, I had no idea how to connect with people in such a foreign culture. I had to accept the fact that I don't know what people are thinking. Even easy tasks like going to the grocery store are hard. **However, there is an abundance of beauty that comes from hardships.** Through every new trial, I have found my relationship with Christ to be more enriching than ever. In every area of need, He meets me.

I pray for more workers in Lebanon from every nation, to serve together in unity for the glory of God.

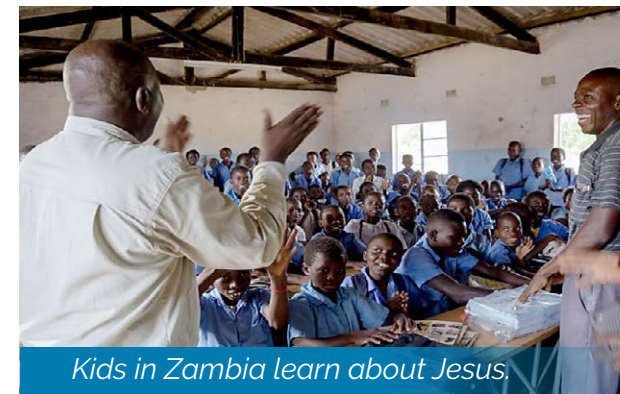
God bless you,
Michael

GLOBAL UPDATES

ZAMBIA

World Outreach Team Action (WOTA) has launched two new initiatives to make a Kingdom impact in Zambia and beyond. Through **Ignite Christian Service**, WOTA aims to distribute 10,000 Bibles to schools across the North-Western Province. This project will impact over 300,000 students and teachers with gospel values—and if successful, this government-approved pilot may be expanded nationwide.

Another initiative, **Core Training Service**, launched online service training in April, preparing believers to minister to the large Muslim population in Zambia's Eastern Province, and to serve in the Middle East and North African region. The project will also provide capacity building for Zambian churches while reducing attrition for missionaries.



Kids in Zambia learn about Jesus.

MEC CREATIVE

Horizons' Lebanon Middle East Center (MEC) has launched the MEC Creative, a **virtual team of 23 staff members** who design and produce evangelistic video and social media content. The team has produced several impactful projects.

MEC Creative has started a Pure Heart of the Middle East page sharing gospel media and live

events, which has **gained 1,000 followers in only three months!** The team has also produced a series of short evangelistic videos sharing the stories of women in the Bible, and they are currently developing scripts and preparing to expand their video production team.

ALBANY ISM

Staff members at Horizons' Albany international student ministry (ISM) are connecting with students despite facing significant challenges. Schools are less willing to collaborate with faith-based organizations, employee turnover has disrupted established relationships at universities, and pandemic-related gathering restrictions have reduced access to student contact. Additionally, fewer international students are currently studying in the US.

Undeterred, the team has focused on deepening existing student relationships by **providing outdoor events, connecting them to local churches, and offering online Bible studies and language lessons.** Encouragingly, Albany ISM has increased its volunteer base through local churches, while inviting some former students to serve in leadership roles.



A day of sledding for students in Albany.

READ A FULL INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL ONLINE:

www.horizonsinternational.blog

#thisisevangelism

Horizons International's Instagram page recently posted a series on effective evangelism, drawing from real-world examples, sound theological thinking, and tips for practical application. #thisisevangelism was adapted from Georges Houssney's book, *Engaging Islam*, which will soon be available in audiobook format, narrated by Georges himself!

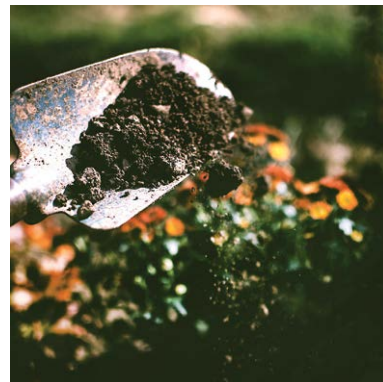


Love is the heart of evangelism and discipleship. Without it our words mean nothing. We are not called to be Pharisees, outwardly pious only and instructive in the law—we are called to be good Samaritans, who show the love of God in our words and actions. In a selfish and hopeless world, agape love testifies to the truth of the gospel we preach.

1 Corinthians 13, 16:14 | John 13:35 | 1 Timothy 1:5

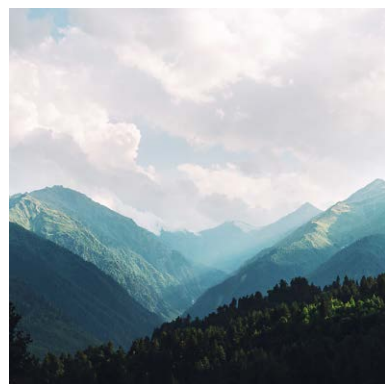
When evangelizing, know that there are different types of soils. This can be the hardest part. We so desire to see people come to Christ, and can become easily discouraged when our discourse does not result in that. But the truth is, we cannot convince anyone into the Kingdom. Be wise, faithful, and clear—and remember that only God knows where his seeds will produce fruit.

2 Corinthians 2:15-17 | Romans 9:16 | Matthew 22:14



Excel in listening. When we listen to others, we glorify our God, who Himself listens to us. In fact, deep, focused listening can be more important than talking. Staying quiet and listening allows us to ask pointed questions, which often leads people to the realization that they don't have all the answers. People are also more likely to receive from you once they feel fully heard. Don't just wait for your turn to talk!

Psalms 34:6 | James 1:19 | Psalm 34:17

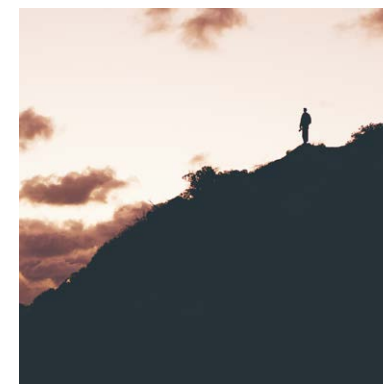
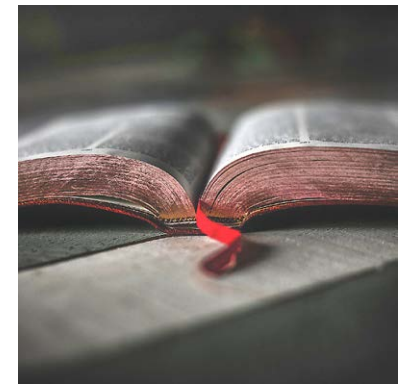


Prioritize matters of the heart: People need more than intellectual debate. While there is certainly a place for showing the reason and logic of our faith, the beauty of the Gospel lies in the fact that God loved us so much, and demonstrates that love in the cross of Christ. The love of God appeals to the deepest desires of every heart, reaching where words cannot.

Titus 3:9 | 2 Timothy 2:23 | 1 Timothy 1:13

Don't hesitate to use scripture with an unbeliever. God's Word is powerful, whether the person hearing it knows it or not. They may brush it off in front of you, but God can use the scriptures you share with them to convict and draw them unto Himself. Scripture is authoritative and doesn't need the opinion of man to approve or validate it; use it prayerfully and watch it work!

Hebrews 4:12 | Romans 3:4, 10:17 | 2 Timothy 3:16-17



Let the Gospel do the offending, not you. God's word is inherently offensive; when shared faithfully, it will already present many stumbling blocks for the unbeliever to surmount. Your own behavior should not add to them! Your conversations, patience, understanding and compassion ought to reflect the attributes of the Lord you represent.

1 Corinthians 1:18, 23 | Colossians 4:6 | 1 Peter 3:15

Finally, live a life of integrity. We are called to live a life worthy of the Gospel we share. If you have all the right words, but your life denies their truth, you are taking the name of God in vain and it is time to repent. No, you don't have to be perfect. You don't have to hide your failures and weaknesses. But if you are living in continuous outright contradiction to the Gospel, how will that be seen by outsiders?

Romans 2:22-23 | 1 Peter 3:16 | Ephesians 4:1

SEE MORE OF THIS CAMPAIGN AND STAY UP-TO-DATE BY FOLLOWING HORIZONS' INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT!



@HorizonsPDE





JOINING HANDS TO SERVE

Over 2,400 years ago, during the reign of Artaxerxes, God commanded the prophet Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem and rebuild its 2.5-mile wall. Faced with a task no man could do alone, Nehemiah assigned each Judean family to rebuild a section of the wall. Working together, they accomplished the task in only 52 days!

When Georges Houssney started serving international students in Boulder, the Lord gave him the story of Nehemiah as an inspiration for what would become one of Horizons' core values: Kingdom Collaboration. To reach as many students as possible, Georges conceived of the **Nehemiah Network**, a plan to distribute the work of student outreach and discipleship among many local churches and ministries.

Today, Horizons connects hundreds of churches worldwide in the Great Commission. Partner churches participate according to their strengths and weaknesses, their talents and resources—some as supporters, some as implementers.

Since churches are Christ's witnesses "in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8), Horizons supports every partner church to be its own Jerusalem.

This is especially evident in the **Lebanon Crisis Fund**, which Horizons launched to respond to Lebanon's unprecedented political, economic, and health crises. The project currently brings

Core Value #6: Kingdom Collaboration

Missions is all about the Kingdom of God. We strive to be Kingdom-minded, setting aside a competitive spirit to work alongside other people of the Kingdom – individuals, churches, and organizations – to promote God's global agenda, which is the gospel.

horizonsinternational.org/core-values

together over **100 churches, ministries, and foundations to bring gospel-centered aid to Lebanese and refugee families in need**, through mobilizing and resourcing Lebanese churches.

These capable but under-resourced churches cannot accomplish this amazing work without the significant contributions Horizons receives from supporting organizations and individuals around the world. These gifts and resources enable our **78 Lebanese partner churches and 90 staff members** to bring food portions, medical supplies, home renovation, and counseling support to families and individuals in need. Through this project, Horizons is honored to help unify the Body toward practical and spiritual impact.

In the US, **International Student Ministry (ISM)** represents a unique missions opportunity that brings internationals to our very doorstep, and Horizons' ISM projects help churches organize to impact their local campuses. **Over one million international students come to the US each year, yet 80 percent of them never set foot in an American home.** Horizons supports local churches to meet this need through providing on-campus events, friendship

dinners, discipleship and Bible study groups, language lessons, and building effective relationships. Today, many students have found faith in Christ and been integrated into local church communities.

Each partnership is highly relational and unique, according to the needs, resources, vision, and people in every church. And just as in the time of Nehemiah, **the will of God is accomplished when the Body works together**, each part according to its gifts.

We welcome you to **reach out to our team and share your ideas or tell us how we can best serve your church's needs**. You can also find training courses, internships, missions trips, virtual opportunities, and more—visit us online and start the conversation today!

How can your church partner with Horizons?

horizonsinternational.org/partner



...BUT MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY

MATT. 24:35

UPCOMING DIGITAL ROUNDTABLE: *ISSUES IN BIBLE TRANSLATION*

In keeping with our commitment to faithful Bible translation, we are honored to announce that Horizons' upcoming digital roundtable will feature an expert panel discussion on translation issues that prompted the Arlington Statement on Bible Translation.

You can join this discussion via Zoom, ask questions, and learn how translators and translation agencies are joining together to address problematic issues in Bible translation today, especially within Muslim contexts. Panelists will include prominent leaders in Bible translation and missions:

- **Bill Barrick**, ESV and NET Bible translator
- **Troy Manning**, Chief Translation Consultant for Bibles International
- **Rich Mattocks**, Director of Tyndale Bible Translators
- **Georges Housney**, Lead Translator of the "Book of Life" Arabic Bible translation
- **Fred Farrokh**, Muslim-background missionary with Elim Fellowship

Digital Roundtable: Issues in Bible Translation
Online Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Register: horizonsinternational.org/roundtables

arlingtonstatement.org

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:



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