

onthehorizon

••• Horizons International Newsletter – October 2022 •••

DO NOT
DESPISE THESE

SMALL BEGINNINGS

FOR THE LORD REJOICES TO SEE THE WORK BEGIN

ZECH 4:10

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AN INTERVIEW WITH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PIERRE HOUSSNEY

INFRASTRUCTURE
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LEBANON

HOUSE DISCIPLESHIP
VISITS ARE BEARING
GOOD FRUIT

Photo by Horizons staff member Peter Yamout



Note:

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in the newsletter
and not require
reloading
the PDF.

As We Unite, We Grow:



An Interview with Pierre Housney

Interviewed by Dan Maley

How are things in the Horizons world today?

Things are really interesting right now—I think a lot of people are seeing how very fractured our world is, and are being shaken up by political and economic changes. At Horizons, we have so many different projects going on simultaneously, and we're seeing synergy grow in many areas. But the chaos we are dealing with in the world, and particularly in Lebanon and Ukraine, is really taxing on our staff, resources, and our families.

For me it underscores the importance of getting back to the basics of our faith and values, and working toward unity in the Body of Christ, to counter the fractures that are widening in our societies and around the world.

So how do we work toward that unity in the Body?

Well, first of all, I think unity starts at the heart level. As we each try to find our own calling within the Church, it's important to realize that my personal calling is not about me; it's about how God can use me to impact others. We also have to cultivate a loyalty for God's Kingdom that surpasses our loyalty toward ourselves and the organizations or churches in which we serve. We can't have unity in the Kingdom if we view one another as competitors. Faith allows us to reframe problems as opportunities.

Interesting. So you're basically saying it's about having your heart in the right place, by getting beyond yourself and focusing more about the Kingdom. But practically



speaking, how can we as individuals build up the Church?

That's a great question, and a challenging one—because the Church is so big, and each of us is so small. We are the living stones in His temple, but sometimes it's hard to find our place in the wall. Building the Kingdom is a big responsibility. Each person has a small sphere of influence, but through connecting with others, our collective impact multiplies quickly.

That's really how Horizons has grown over the years—all our programs and ministries started with ideas that sprung out of relationships with other believers. Thankfully our board and leadership has been so incredibly supportive and has given us the flexibility and resources to take action when we see opportunities that God moves us toward. So many of the little seeds that we began watering long ago have now turned into trees that are bearing fruit.

I love that organic and relational way of looking at ministry. Can you share any practical examples of it?

One example that comes to mind is how Horizons' ministry began in Kosovo. When my dad first visited in 1994, it was a miracle that he even got through the border, but he had a strong sense that God wanted him to go. He met 6 believers from Muslim backgrounds on that trip, and he ended up encouraging them to start a church together. Over the next 5 years, he visited them 3-4 times a year to disciple them, train them, and help them grow into a congregation of about 50 believers by 1999.

We never knew that God was preparing that little flock for something big. In 1999, ethnic violence broke out and caused a huge refugee crisis. That small church started multiplying like crazy at that time, through a work of the Holy Spirit. I'm amazed when I fast-forward in my mind from the small beginnings of my dad mentoring those few believers in '94, to the present day. God has given that little flock a lead role in establishing a whole network of churches in Kosovo. This year, that network is establishing the Balkan Institute for Missions to Muslims, to spread the gospel throughout the region and beyond!

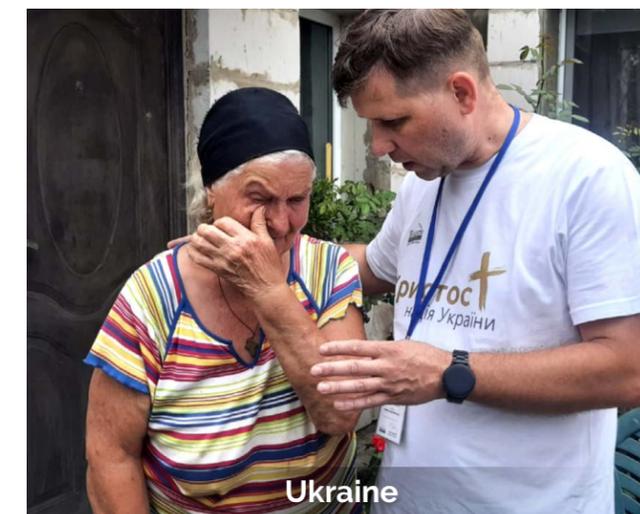
That's an amazing story — and I know there are many others like it!

It's true, and each is a testament to God's faithfulness to His little flock; in the US, the way that God has touched the lives of international students has shown us continual opportunities to impact nations from right where we are; in Zambia, helping local churches to take advantage of their land resources so that they can send missionaries and not just receive them. They've built amazing

things for their communities, like churches, clinics, wells, roads, orphanages, schools, and a missions training center. What happened in Zambia emboldened us to start farming in Lebanon, which has resourced our support and collaboration with nearly every evangelical church in the country.

Seriously, it's mind-boggling to me, and these things we've seen around the world in the past 30+ years just give me a sense of confidence in the Lord - that he can use tiny beginnings to impact huge numbers of people.

These stories have changed my whole perspective on ministry. Now, when I see or hear about any church or ministry, even if it's well-established and big, I can just imagine how it could have started out in the beginning. Nothing ever starts big, right? And likewise, it's changed my perspective on small things—like our new ministry in Ukraine, which we have modeled after what we have learned in Lebanon's crisis. Each chapter of the adventure teaches us to imagine how things could develop over time, and find ways to help things grow in healthy ways. Imagine what the Ukraine ministry could look like, 20 years from now!



HORIZONS' GROWING INFRASTRUCTURE IN LEBANON

Since 2012, Horizons has built up strategic ministry infrastructure in Lebanon, including ministry centers, guest houses, farmland, medical clinics, transportation, food, and missional businesses. **Horizons is developing these assets in response to the needs of local churches and their communities**, as part of a long-term strategy to spread the gospel in the region.

Horizons is also integrating a number of properties developed by Horizons partner Mohammad Yamout. Sadly, Mohammad passed away in May, and his family approached Horizons to take responsibility for assets which include **two new farms, a medical clinic, sewing center, and guest houses**. Horizons has assumed responsibility for paying off the outstanding debts on these properties in the coming months. Though this is a significant challenge, it also represents **a massive expansion of our footprint in South Lebanon**, which will make a huge impact for decades to come. We thank God for Mohammad's ministry, and for the opportunity to work with his family to continue his legacy of preaching the gospel in South Lebanon.

The map on the opposite page details the types and locations of Horizons' growing ministry infrastructure. Please pray with us that God will continue to bless individuals, communities, and churches through Horizons and our partners.

LEGEND

- Discipleship/House Visits
- Humanitarian Aid
- Children's Ministry
- Medical Services
- Guest Houses
- Agricultural Project

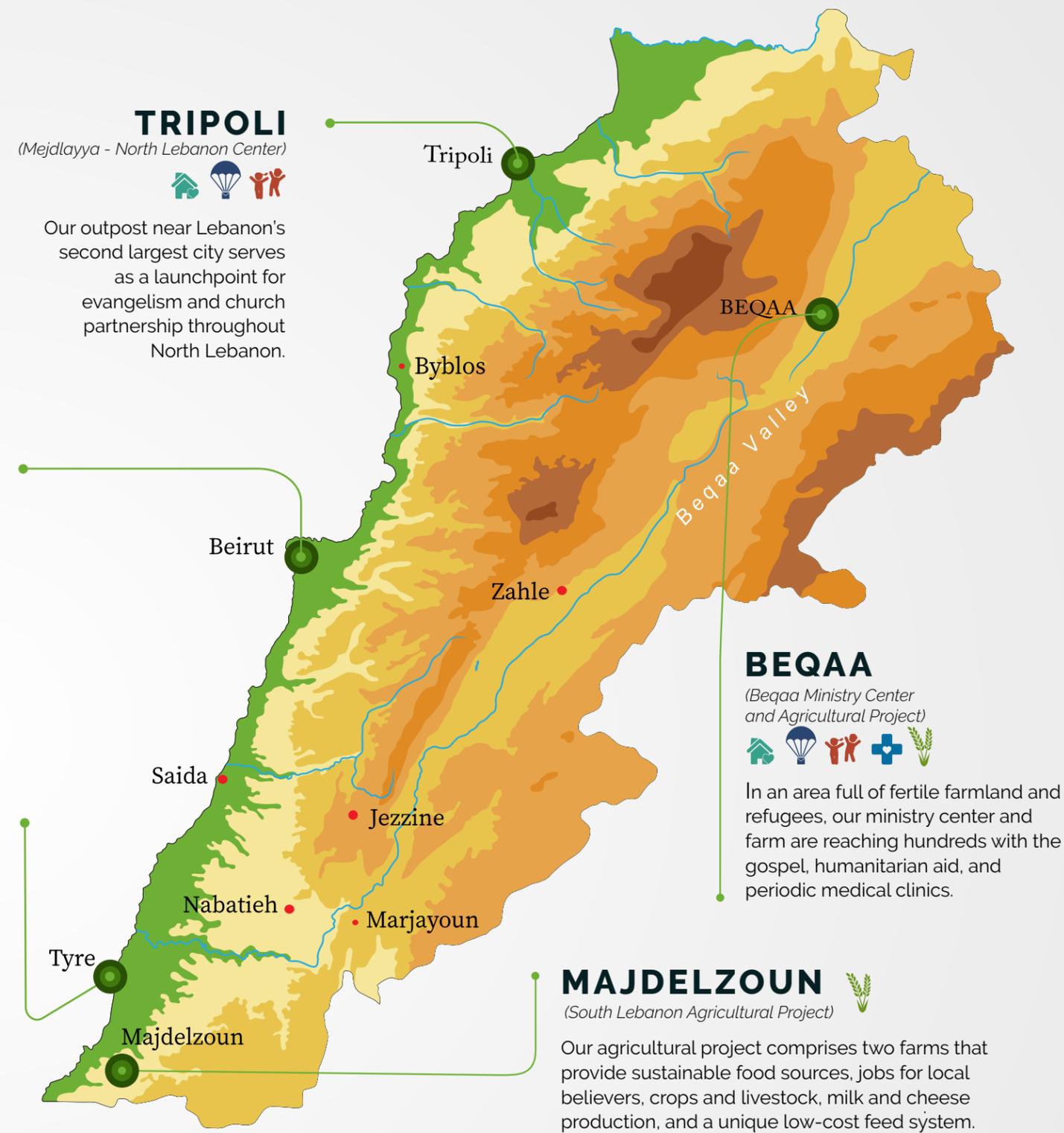
BEIRUT

Beirut is the hub of our Lebanon operations, where over 100 staff members and interns serve. Infrastructure includes a school for Syrian refugee children, a media production studio, language acquisition academy, a bakery, and the Middle East Center for World Missions.

TYRE

(Tyre Ministry Center, River of Healing Medical Center)

Tyre serves as our main beachhead in heavily Shiite South Lebanon, and has a well-developed ministry infrastructure established by Mohammad Yamout. These include several ministry spaces and missional businesses that shine Christ's light in the community.



If you would like to take a vision trip to explore ministry in the Middle East, Lebanon is the place to start! Our International Teams Department will facilitate all your arrangements—including transportation, housing, and food—and will connect you with a variety of ministry projects and opportunities. Horizons has hosted hundreds of teams for vision and project trips. We would love to have you join us, and bring a group from your church along! To contact the International Teams Department for more details: trips@horizonsinternational.org

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXPANSION AND HOW YOU CAN HELP:

horizonsinternational.org/tyrecampaign



“ And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved...” ” Acts 2:47

Horizons Lebanon’s house visit teams are witnessing a growing response to regular evangelism and discipleship.

Lebanese and Syrians alike are coming to Christ and being discipled by the Horizons crisis response teams. **Teams are gaining access to share the gospel in regions that were previously considered closed.** The teams, which include five staff members and two interns, conduct frequent house visits, where they listen to the hearts of the people and share Christ with them. Also, the team brings food portions and medications.

The team evaluates the specific needs of each family to see what can be done. Is their stove broken? We’ll fix it. Is the mattress worn out? We’ll bless this family with a new one. **Every visit not only shares Christ through scripture study, but demonstrates the love of Christ in a tangible way.** This method has brought hundreds of new seekers and believers into Horizons’ discipleship courses and local churches.

In the homes of Lebanese families, God has been working through the discipleship teams:

Nareen had a dream in which a friend told her Jesus would be bringing food to her family. Only 30 minutes after sharing her dream with her husband, Nareen received a call from the Horizons team, telling her they were on their way with a food portion! As the team delivered food, they also shared the Bread of Life. Nareen’s son also listened and prayed to accept Jesus.



Nadia is an elderly woman whom a team has been visiting regularly for a few months now. Now, when the team visits, her caretaker and her neighbors join in the meetings. The group has grown to include 7 people, and the team leads them in weekly Bible studies. The team reports that this group is seeing miracles in their lives and their faith is strengthening!

Walid enjoys the visits from the team and learning about Jesus. He shared how once his wife was having pain in her stomach. The team prayed for her, and within half an hour the pain in his wife’s stomach disappeared! Walid shared this miraculous story with his relatives, and the next time the team came to visit, his relatives joined the meeting and prayed to receive Jesus.

Zeinab has a team visiting her regularly. She was formerly a Muslim, but she gave her heart to the Lord a few months ago. One week, Zeinab told us that she had been sharing the gospel with a Muslim friend, and asked if she could invite this friend to join the Bible study. Now, Zeinab and her friend both attend the weekly Bible study!

Samira has engaged in regular Bible studies. The team reports that she is growing in her faith. Two of the team members, Charbel and Eve, report that this woman has asked to get baptized!

1,565
people in
regular
discipleship

97
proclamations
of faith
in 2022

As a result of your partnership with us in prayer and support, Horizons has been able to increase the number of house ministry teams working in Lebanon. We praise God that he has used your support, and the support of others like you, to raise up a new generation of seekers and believers in Lebanon.

horizonsinternational.org/lebanon

MINISTRY IN UKRAINE

A DIGITAL ROUNDTABLE

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has left once-thriving cities in ruins and thousands of people have died, while millions more have been displaced as they seek refuge in other countries. Yet amid the trauma and devastation, God is at work, preparing hearts and building up his Church.

On Wednesday, October 12, you can join Horizons staff members Khalil and Julia Abdelahad as they share about ministry efforts in Ukraine. Khalil and Julia recently relocated their family to Ukraine, to establish a permanent Horizons ministry center that will serve victims of the war through gospel-centered humanitarian aid.

Learn how the local churches have transformed their buildings into places of refuge, serving as a conduit for thousands of people finding hope in Christ. You will also hear how Horizons is applying the crisis-response model we developed in Lebanon to empower local churches in Ukraine to take a leading role in their nation's physical and spiritual recovery.

As we learn about the mission field in Ukraine, you will have the opportunity to talk with Khalil & Julia, ask questions, and pray for them as they share the love of Christ with a broken and traumatized people.

Digital Roundtable:

**Planting Hope in
Ukraine**

**Wednesday,
Oct. 12
4pm MT**

REGISTER TODAY!

horizonsinternational.org/roundtables



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