

On the Horizon

A HORIZONS INTERNATIONAL UPDATE from GEORGES HOUSSNEY



Another exciting summer is underway at Horizons! Three successful training programs completed our busiest teaching season, and we're ramping up for the fall semester. Here's what's going on!

Randy and Betty Pinner have joined the Horizons team as cooks and house parents. From the get-go, it has been clear that their vision goes far beyond simply meal preparation. They joyfully work as a team while ministering to the many people that hang around the kitchen and dining room. Their wisdom, humor, and kind hearts have made Horizons feel more like a home.

HISTIME 2007 was smaller than in previous years, but the group of students that came was young and energetic. It was encouraging to see them grow throughout the month of training, and by the end of the course they seemed well-equipped and excited to follow the Holy Spirit's leading as they depart for North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Mini-HISTIME 2007:

- 60 students came for the week.
- This number grew to 300 for the weekend.
- Classes were held during the day.
- Students went out for evangelism in the evenings.
- Over 300,000 Muslims were in Dearborn for a festival.
- We distributed 6000 Arabic Bibles and scripture portions.
- We helped distribute 50,000 Arabic Jesus film DVDs.
- The students were emboldened and excited.
- Many Muslims were excited to receive the scripture.

Discouraging aspects:

- Many Bibles and tracts were trashed.
- Some Christian organizations just handed out gimmicks and did not share the gospel.

An encouraging story from Mini-HISTIME 2007:

"When I met this devout Muslim, a leader and a teacher of Islam, my first impression was he was a tough cookie. He argued with me for 10 minutes. I asked God to give me a key to his heart. It was amazing. His heart opened and the arguments vanished. "Are you sure you will go to heaven after death?" His answer was the usual "Inshallah" (It's up to God). "Would you buy insurance from a company that collects your money but would not guarantee coverage for your car?" "Certainly not." Well, my friend, you already have. You are buying into a religion that will not insure your life." He pondered for a second and simply said, "You are right." This gave me an open door to explain the gospel to him. An hour later this Shiite Muslim from Iraq invited Jesus to come into his life. It turned out he has been listening to Christian radio in Arabic and has been disappointed in Islam but had no one to talk to him until we met."

-Georges Houssney



Randy and Betty, the spiritual and physical nourishment duo



Zef, Firas, and Georges with a shipment of Arabic scripture



Horizons' New York ISM group in the Adirondack Mountains

The Horizons ISM team in New York, led by **Mark and Ginnie Harkness**, has been stretched thin this summer, as almost half of the leadership team has been traveling to Japan, China, and Central Asia on short-term trips. Still, they have been hosting lots of events, including hiking and camping trips, picnics, concerts, plays, and more.

New Ministry Field!

Rich Duke has been assigned to concentrate his ministry on international students in Denver, at Loretta Heights, and the School of Mines in Golden. Pray for the new team that's forming to minister to these students. There has already been a very good response from students on both campuses. Rich has paired up about 20 international students with friendship partners, but there are about 50 more internationals who have requested a partner but don't have one yet. If you live in the Metro area and would like to **consider being a friendship partner**, please call Rich at 303.806.0370.

Volunteer to adopt a room! Help us make our Boulder facility more attractive to international students! You could volunteer your time to paint or help with minor renovations. You can also choose to sponsor a room financially, and/or by providing things for the room such as comforters, desks, beds, or whatever the room needs. Call Grace for more info at 303.442.3333.

Have you considered donating stock to Horizons? Stock gifts are tax deductible and are a great way of reducing capital gains taxes.

Cubs to Lions

This past May, Horizons hosted the first Cubs to Lions discipleship conference for Muslim Background Believers (MBBs). Several men and women came from all over the Muslim world, each with stories of God's grace irresistibly compelling them to leave Islam and embrace Jesus Christ as their God.

"I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready." 1 Corinthians 3:2

New Christians need milk. Often, MBBs are given leadership roles almost immediately. Their faith doesn't grow as they are asked to eat meat instead of the milk they so desperately need. They are seen as "experts" on Islam and the Qur'an instead of drinking deeply from the Word of God. Their worldview unknowingly remains Islamic, and they find themselves stuck between their old lives and their new life in Christ.

"What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs." Luke 12:3

The last two days of the conference, Sa'id (pronounced Sa-eed), a mature Muslim convert from Morocco who leads a ministry for Muslim refugees in Paris, taught about the heart needs of Muslims and how to effectively share Christ with Muslims without fear instead of trying to hide their faith from their family and friends.

Our entire group assembled at Boulder's outdoor mall for public outreach. We brought the "church" outside and sang in Arabic, French, English, and Spanish. Sa'id busied himself by fearlessly pursuing groups, distributing gospels of John and, in his broken English, shared his hope in Christ. New believers emerged as evangelists as each former Muslim handed out gospels and shared their testimonies with those who stopped.

"The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion." Proverbs 28:1

Each attendee returned home better equipped to remain and grow in Christ. They are not yet "lions." Our prayer, however, is that they will grow in their faith, into powerful witnesses of Christ's light in a dark world. Amen.

-Joshua Stacey

Horizons as a Lifestyle

Whenever you live, work or hang out at Horizons, life is never boring unless you want it to be. There are usually some people who are like you, some who like you, and some you've never met before to talk with, be around, and get into trouble with. Here are some ways to spend a half an hour next time you decide to stop by:

1. Pick up a ping pong paddle and find yourself really challenged by a proficient paddler who is also an engineering grad student from China.
2. Sit down at one of our worn-in pianos and pick your favorite tune. Someone will probably stand by your shoulder and hum along. Or, if some cute Korean girl (or an American guy like Seth) is playing, you can stand nearby and admire their flare for music.
3. Fill your plate at any meal and choose someone interesting to sit down with for a chat and a bite. There are likely to be several interesting international conversations going on at any time.
4. Jump in on a soccer game. This summer they've been playing on Friday nights at 7.
5. Learn and play silly Korean games like "aaahhh shookie!", or you could opt for something more conventional, like Chess, Risk, Scrabble, Taboo, or Uno.
6. What about finding someone to garden with? Pulling weeds together is a great way to get to know someone. And there are always plenty of weeds!
7. Call ahead (303.442.3333) and sign up to be an English conversation partner. Whether the subject is jokes or politics or idioms, lots of students like to have a chance to practice English.
8. Fix a lonely community bike in the courtyard and take it for a test drive. Find someone who knows the way to Chautauqua Park and enjoy the ride!
9. A quick game of foosball or pool before getting on to "the next thing" is a great way to meet a friend and spend a few minutes. Be prepared for some big egos!
10. Bring your racket and play tennis with some German guys.
11. Helping around the kitchen, whether you're pitching in with dishes and clean-up or encouraging Randy and Betty, our terrific chefs, gives you an excellent opportunity to smile and enjoy a joke or two. Get Randy to tell you about the ducks he sent to Grace!

-Joy Houssey

