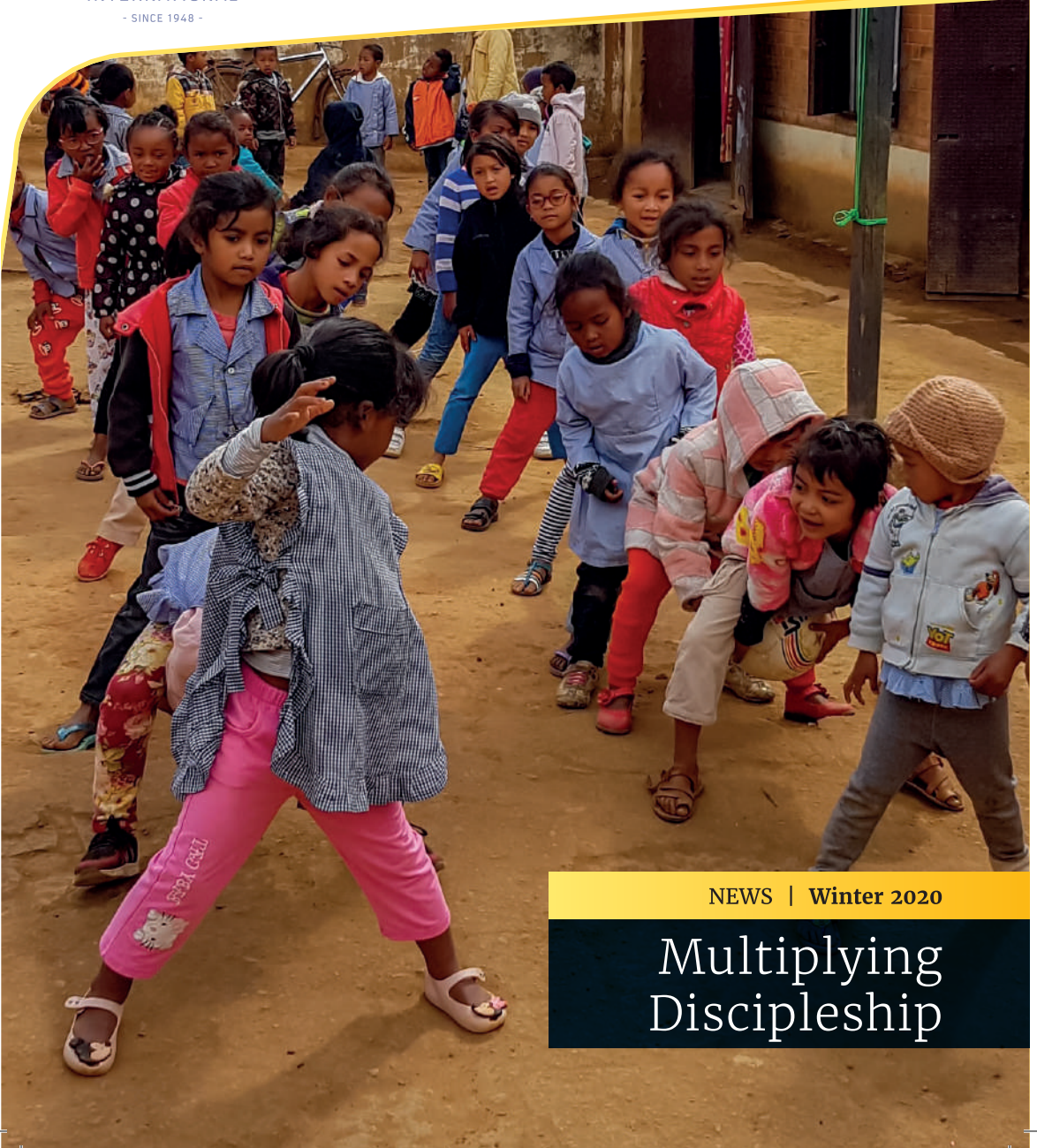




Grain of Wheat  
INTERNATIONAL  
- SINCE 1948 -

“Bringing hope  
to children”



NEWS | Winter 2020

## Multiplying Discipleship



## EDITORIAL

Covid-19, corona, quarantine, face-mask, lockdown. It seems that these are all that matters in nowadays life. Of course, that is not the reality!

Many people and many children in particular, have to deal with a lot of other difficult things in their daily life. It is our goal to support them and to share the love that God has for them. That does not remove the virus but places it in a different perspective.

It is almost Christmas again. We would love to see every child recognizing the Child that came into the world to save the children of the world. That is our wish and desire for this year's Christmas. What is yours?

We wish you a Thoughtful Christmas and a Blessed 2021!

With a blessing from the team of Grain of Wheat International.

Rob Hondsmark,

CEO Grain of Wheat  
International

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## HOW TO SUPPORT US

### To support our work among children:

**Switzerland:** Wire your donation to this bank account (IBAN): CH72 0900 0000 1748 7675 5

... or send your cheque to:

**USA:** Grain of Wheat International,  
P.O. Box 1125, Wheaton, IL 60187, USA.

**UK:** Grain of Wheat International,  
The Old Police House West Park Lane  
Damerham Fordingbridge Hampshire S  
P6 3HB GB, UK.

*Donations made to Grain of Wheat  
International are tax deductible*

[www.grainofwheat.org/donate](http://www.grainofwheat.org/donate)



## Central Asia



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### **CONTAGIOUS FAITH**

*My name is Dila\*. I was given the opportunity to serve the Lord as a counselor at the "Friendship" camp here in Central Asia. When I first met my team of boys, ages 6 to 11 years old, I noticed right away that 11-year-old Amon\*, was different from the rest.*

He had been to "Friendship" camp 5 times, and accepted Jesus as his personal Savior in 2017. He was unusually mature for his age and his leadership qualities were obvious to us all. No wonder, he was chosen as the captain of our team.

He and his teammates had a great time swimming, playing games and enjoying delicious meals together. He was a good friend to them all and made sure everyone was involved.

After our evening camp meeting, we spent time discussing what the boys had learned from the Bible lessons that day.

Amon would start us off in prayer and as he shared his insights, the younger children often asked him to tell them a Bible story.



Through his obedience to God's Word and his vibrant faith in Jesus, Amon was a great example to the boys of what a disciple of Jesus looks like. Every boy on our team was impacted by his life of faith and will always remember their life-changing time at "Friendship" camp.

*\* names changed for privacy reasons.*



## Multiplying Discipleship

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#### **MULTIPLYING DISCIPLESHIP FOR EXPONENTIAL IMPACT**

*Discipleship with exponential impact is the result of "hero-making" mentors, who focus their ministry on working WITH children instead of working FOR children.*

To begin with, let's take a look at Jesus' Great Commission to His disciples from the perspective of Grain of Wheat. Jesus gives the charge to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matt. 28:19-20.

Giving our hands and feet to reaching children and making them disciples is Grain of Wheat's mission, but how do we do this most effectively? How does it work? How can we stimulate discipleship in all the nations we serve?

I would like to briefly share a few principles with you. For some time now, we have seen

a paradigm shift within children's ministries from "working *for* children" to "working *with* children". This makes a huge difference in the way we approach discipleship!

The apostle Paul not only knew the best way to fulfill Jesus' vision for God's kingdom, but he gave us an example by recruiting a young apprentice named Timothy (Acts 16:1-3). I love that Paul picked Timothy because he is easy to relate to. We know his life wasn't perfect, as his dad was not around. Either he was an absentee father, or he had abandoned Timothy and his mom altogether.

Scripture describes Timothy as timid (1 Cor. 16:10-11). He was also very apprehensive about whether his life could have impact. Because Paul recognized this, he revealed to Timothy that they would change the world together: "*The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable people (like you, Timothy) who will also be qualified to teach others*" (2 Tim. 2:2).

In other words, he was saying: *"Timothy, don't be content with simply being a Christ follower. Think about how you can influence and disciple others for Jesus. I know it's hard for you to picture your life having significant impact, so I want you to refocus your thoughts on exponential impact!"*

- The first generation of discipleship was from Jesus to Paul.
- The second generation of discipleship was Paul to Timothy.
- The third generation of discipleship was Timothy to *"reliable people"*.
- The fourth generation of discipleship was from *"reliable people"* to *"others"*.

It's clear that with discipleship at the core of any movement of God, exponential impact takes place for generations!

***Paul's wise example of recruiting reliable people who are qualified to teach others and work with instead of for children, is the key to multiplying discipleship for exponential impact in every nation Grain of Wheat serves.***

If we are Spirit led and committed to this mission, our lives will most certainly have influence. But, by adding *discipleship* to our mission, we will begin to see an explosive exponential movement of hero-makers, making hero-makers for generations to come.

**Rob Hondsmark**



Ukraine



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### **THE DESIRE TO REACH OTHERS FOR JESUS**

*"My name is Sophia\*, and I am 15 years old. No one in my family is a believer, except for my grandmother who takes me and my sister to church. After coming to camp twice, I have given my life to Christ and I am so grateful that He saved me. Because I want others who have never heard of Jesus to know Him like I do, I have decided to be a missionary. And now, I'm looking forward to being baptized next year along with my sister."*

*"Hi, I'm Angelina\* and am a year younger than my sister Sophia. I have been to camp more than once, but at this camp, I accepted the Lord as my Saviour. I also want to serve the Lord as a missionary. Right now, I am praying very hard for my parents to accept Christ and be saved. We are living with our grandmother because they have been deprived of their parental rights."*

*Even through all of this, I can see the hand of God at work in our lives and believe He will bring our parents to church as well. One of the things that excites me the most, is being baptized with my sister."*

*\* names changed for privacy reasons.*





## Madagascar



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### **FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT**

*At age nine, Tahina\* lived in a remote bush village where life is rough in every way, and access to schooling is scarce. A hopeful future with purpose was something that never occurred to her, that is, until she was invited to our camp. Little did she know how her life would change the day she invited Jesus into her life.*

After camp, she loved coming to our club. With every passing week, we could see dramatic changes in the way she spoke and how she longed to do something meaningful with her life. It was at our teen camp three years ago, that she knew God was calling her to teach children and make them disciples of Jesus.

After graduating from our mission school, she received a scholarship to a private university and is now gaining tools to be an effective teacher.

Along with her studies, 19-year-old Tahina oversees one of our clubs. It's a long strenuous walk for the kids, but whether it's rainy, cold or hot they are determined to make it to the meetings. Joyful laughter fills the air as the children arrive, excited and eager to hear Bible stories, enjoy a yummy snack and play games.



***Now Tahina thanks the Lord every day for the high calling, with a high purpose He has given her, to lead children to faith in Jesus and disciple them to follow and love Him above all else.***

*\* name changed for privacy reasons.*



## Discipling of Children

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*The Bible teaches us in several passages how to become and how to make children disciples of Jesus. One of them is Deuteronomy 6:4-9:*

- Spiritual education begins with **theology** (v. 4) *"Listen, Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone."*
- He speaks of **relationship** (v. 5) *"Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*
- It gives **direction** (v. 6) *"You must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today."*
- It is applied from **generation to generation** (v. 7a) *"Repeat them again and again to your children."*
- And it provides a **methodology** (v. 7b) *"Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. (v. 8) Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. (v. 9) Write them on the posts of your house and on your gates."*


There is no environment better suited to make children disciples than the loving and caring family God has planned. Unfortunately, many children do not experience this kind of loving and instructing family. This is where Grain of Wheat Madagascar steps in and tries not to substitute but to complement the missing elements of discipling. We do this because of our love for God and to obey His command.

***First, we establish a relation to the children by assuring them of our love. Love is what children need most.***

When children receive love and affection, they can even cope with the insecurity, poverty, violence, abandonment, neglect, and other problems they might face.

During our activities, apart from the usual programs, our leaders take time to care for the children, listen to them, pray with them, be close to them, practice love, give affection, share friendship, and go to their homes if necessary.



A photograph of a group of children, likely in Madagascar, standing in a crowd. In the foreground, a young boy with short hair is looking down, wearing a camouflage-patterned jacket over a blue and white checkered shirt. Behind him, other children are visible, including a girl in a red beanie. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with many people.

In order to “Christianize” the children it might be enough to just share the Gospel. But in His Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus instructed us to “make disciples” (...) teaching them to keep all the things which I have commanded you.”

We see people choosing to be a child of God, to be redeemed, without being a disciple of Jesus Christ, accepting Christ as Savior but not as Lord of their lives.

***But the disciple of Christ according to the Word is the one who having listened to His teachings, puts them into practice, follows in his footsteps and resembles Him.***

In order to actually make children disciples, relationships like those in a family are necessary. This is why we wish to be involved in the children’s lives. We become their friend and sometimes even their family.

Like in families, as in the work of Grain of Wheat, the discipling process is carried on from one generation to the next. Many of our team members who now care for children and share the gospel themselves used to be club children and grew up learning to be disciples from the example modeled by loving and caring leaders (see page 7).

**Annick Andriambelonarivo,  
Madagascar**



## Lebanon NEWS



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### **LEBANON EMERGENCY FUND UPDATE**

*The massive explosion in Beirut on August 4<sup>th</sup>, has left many who are desperately in need of physical support. But even more, they need someone to personally stand with them by prayer and assurances that Jesus sees and loves them.*

In response to this, Grain of Wheat Lebanon has been the hands and feet of Jesus by:

- Distributing gift boxes and food to over 1,300 children from 728 homes.
- Providing 250 children with a monthly care package that includes food, medical supplies and Bible based trauma materials.
- Using their ingenious mobile washing machines to provide clean clothes and linens for hospitals and those living in temporary housing.
- Sharing Jesus' love and hope through 60 outreach programs at 16 new refugee camps.

- Launching digital out-reach programs that reach 20,000 people with the Gospel.

But nothing of this scope happens without teamwork. Did you know that YOU are personally on GW Lebanon's team by your generous support?



***Jesus tells us that, "Whenever you help those who are hungry or thirsty, sick, overlooked or ignored, that was Me – you did it to Me!" Mt. 25:34.***

Together we are making a world of difference in the beautiful name of Jesus!



## PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN

Jesus invites us to, *"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is planted in the ground, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is planted, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over."* John 12:24

As we do our part to plant the "wheat seeds" of faith in the soil of a child's heart, God will bring those seeds to life and reproduce an abundant harvest of faith not only in their lives, but also the lives of their family, friends and community.

### Please join us in prayer for:

- God to give the Grain of Wheat team creative ways to plant "wheat seeds" in the heart soil of children during this challenging Covid-19 season.
- Children to embrace the Good News of Jesus and be motivated to share it with their families.
- Families to plant seeds that will reproduce faith in the hearts of their co-workers, friends and neighbors, who will then reach out to others.
- Christian youth and adults to be Christlike role models as they disciple and nurture the faith of children.

If you would like to receive specific prayer topics each month, you may subscribe by sending an email to:

[info@grainofwheat.org](mailto:info@grainofwheat.org)



### The Family Corner

#### *A Card Game that Teaches Children how to pray*

Using an ordinary deck of cards, family members take turns praying according to the card they draw.

- **Spade or Club number:** Give thanks to God.
- **Heart or Diamond number:** Ask God's forgiveness.
- **King:** Tell God how great He is.
- **Queen:** Pray for a girl.
- **Jack:** Pray for a boy.



# Acknowledgements & Contact

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SPORTS



ARTS



CAMPS



TRAINING



CLUBS



HUMANITARIAN



PRAYER

#### Writing:

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## Vision

We see every child becoming an **ambassador of hope** through Jesus Christ.

## Mission

Grain of Wheat is an international Christian organization. Its mission is to encourage and equip the maximum number of children in need, to develop their potential and help them become **agents of transformation** in their community through the message of God's love.

## Strategy

Grain of Wheat engages with children regularly throughout the year. We partner with local churches to train leaders, hold weekly children's clubs, camps and events. Through this, children grow morally, socially and spiritually through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## GRAIN OF WHEAT INTERNATIONAL

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