

Returning with songs of joy...

“While our various team members were from very different backgrounds and situations, as a group we enjoyed a wonderful sense of camaraderie, encouragement and support. We shared a common calling and heart desire for the Lord to see His work advanced in the lives of those to whom we had come to serve.”

— Rev. Bruce, cross-cultural worker, Central Asia (2003 – 2009)

There is a powerful sentiment in Bruce’s words that reflect the heart desire of all Global Interaction cross-cultural workers, “... for the Lord to see His work advanced...” So beautifully do these few words encapsulate the calling of all of God’s people.

When Global Interaction’s work first began in Central Asia in the late 1990’s, our team of cross-cultural workers were sent from churches in South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and Singapore. This team set the foundations for this ministry during a period of communist control, and their faithful service bears witness to God’s desire to reconcile people to Him regardless of the situation or challenges.

Almost 30 years later, our team is again experiencing an increasingly challenging political environment. We pray for God’s continued protection.

Kevin has recently returned to Australia following four years of faithful service among the H people. Pete and Nomes, with their children Ryan, Abigail and Jacob, are currently the only team members living and serving long-term in Central Asia and Team Leader Walt, based in USA, continues to support them. Relocating family and life to a new country poses various challenges, Kevin said, “They have met the challenge bravely and the Good News will continue to be shared in this place”.

Kevin returned to Australia with many encouraging stories to share.

He said, “I was approached by a student from a nearby academy to assist them with their English. They had a part-time job and had been given a beautifully leather-bound Bible by their employer, which included an English translation. One afternoon, the student read the story of a young slave-girl whose master had a hideous skin disease. God enabled this humble slave-girl to bring about her master’s spectacular healing.” **Kevin was able to share with the student that, through faith in Jesus, God often empowers ordinary people to do extraordinary things. To Kevin’s delight and to ours, this young student who had been exploring faith in Jesus, later that same week, gave their life to the Lord.**

For our readers who received the *Global Interaction Crunch the Numbers Donor Appeal* letter in November and January this year, you were updated on a remarkable story of God's hand at work in the life of a local authority seeking Jesus. In finalising the Sheep Loan Project, Kevin met with a local authority who enquired of Kevin why so many people in Australia would care for people in her country. Kevin shared with her "... we are followers of Jesus, and this is what he would have us do".

The conversation led to a faith sharing conversation. The woman had a copy of the Bible, and over the following months they met up to read and study passages together. The Sheep Loan Project provided a platform for many families to generate a sustainable revenue. Global Interaction projects often respond to a local need and for the H people, this project has set in motion a program for sustainable farming.

The H people are a minority group with most identifying as Muslim. We know that God is moving among the H community and He is working through our team. Our small team in Central Asia is even smaller now that Kevin has returned – is it possible that God is calling you? We believe that the harvest is plentiful and that the workers will come...

— By Andrea Fleming
Partner Engagement and
Communications Manager

A RECENT REFLECTION FROM NOMES

"Summer here is hot and dry and winter is cold. Pete spends each morning with a language tutor, intent on improving his language skills and is connecting with people through music and sport. I am learning language two days a week and working as the pre-school Team Leader at the bilingual international school where our two oldest kids attend. The kids are really enjoying school and are beginning to make new friends. We really value spending time with people here, dedicating time to developing relationships and friendship is important in this journey. Together we are exploring and getting to know this beautiful place and the people to whom God has called us.

Having lived here for a year now, we are feeling really settled and are glad we can call this place home, seeking daily for doors to be opened for us to share our faith. For now we are trusting that our lives as a family bear witness to the love of Jesus. Currently, our team is small, but we hope that in time that will change. Please ask God to raise up more workers, or even consider whether He might be calling you to join Him in His work among the H people of Central Asia".



The Crunch the Numbers Appeal

It's not too late to give! To partner with Global Interaction's ministry and give towards the costs of running the organisation, go to www.globalinteraction.org.au/CrunchTheNumbers

We are so thankful for the almost \$50,000 we have received for this appeal so far. We would love to see this figure increased by another \$20,000. Your gift supports the administration and operations of our local team who is integral to the continuation of our cross-cultural ministry...

Above: H woman at a street stall. Photo taken by Colin Meadows.
Above left: Cityscape in Central Asia. Photo taken by Pete and Nomes.