

The K people of the Silk Road Area

The People Group

K people are warm and hospitable and tightly connected to their family and community. They are strong and resilient people, traditionally nomadic, living in a large country on the ancient Silk Road trade route between the Middle East and China. Their cultural roots are still strongly rural.

K people are predominantly Muslim, while those surrounding them practice Orthodox Christianity. Their Muslim faith is intertwined with traditional animistic beliefs relating to ancestors and shamanism. While the number of believers is growing in the cities, still less than 1% of their ethnic group are Christian. While they are transitioning into a globalised world, the cultural differences make it difficult for K people to connect with Western or Orthodox style churches.

Global Interaction team among the K People

Our cross-cultural team lives much like the K people do, spending Sundays at the local bazaar, celebrating family milestones and national events and building friendships over a cup of tea. In a K community it is culturally important to have an open home, inviting people in to share your space, food and life. Our team regularly hosts people in their homes and visits the homes of their friends.

Our team continues to learn culture and language from local K people and engages with the community more widely through the English language programs. It also continues to pray that as friendships grow, so too will the K people's interest in hearing more about the life giving message of Jesus.

Prayer Needs

- God to be revealing Himself to K people
- K people whose hearts are open to responding to the Good News will connect with our team and explore faith together
- Continued culture and language lessons will enable the team to grow in their ability to share the Gospel in a way that makes sense to their K friends
- Ease in obtaining visas to allow the team to live among the K people
- Those stirred to serve among the K people will act on God's promptings

Pray for the Team Member

Walt (team leader based in USA) and Jeanine

Ben and Petra

David and Eliza

Stories of Hope from the Silk Road Area

Making Opportunities

The team in the Silk Road have been involved in English teaching for many years. This year they have relocated into a larger space following the conversion of a house into the new English teaching and community centre. There was much excitement about the centre with local people taking a keen interest in the developments of the conversion and asking the team about their plans for the centre.

Increasing the English proficiency of the K people is a key priority of the government and this centre is an excellent way for the team to be visibly contributing to the community. With the conversion complete, English classes have begun and the team is excited to consider the other ways they could use the centre to contribute, such as Occupational Therapy sessions and a Kids' club.

Importantly, this centre offers a wonderful and natural platform for the team to meet local people and build genuine friendships with them. As these relationships deepen, the team are looking for ways to talk about Jesus and have meaningful spiritual conversations.

Pray that the team would be sensitive to the Spirit as they connect with K people through the centre and seek to share the Gospel.

Invitation of Friendship

In K culture, the youngest daughter-in-law is expected to carry out all the housework, meal preparation and child-rearing duties. For four young mums on the Silk Road, they support each other by heading to a cafe once a month to eat lagman noodles, salad and drink Pepsi and milky tea. They chat about their husbands, parenting and life sharing how they are feeling for a couple of fleeting hours away from the burdens and expectation of family duties.

Recently they invited cross-cultural worker Eliza along to their special tea-time where they shared their experiences of being mothers and supported each other in life's challenges. Pray with Eliza, that as her friendships with these K women deepen, she will be able to share the source of her strength and hope with them.

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