

The K people of the Silk Road Area

The People Group

The K people are very community focused, often opening up their homes to offer hospitality to family and friends as well as being involved in community events and festivals. 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.

Being Muslim is key to the K people's cultural identity and there is a general resistance towards western expressions of Christianity. There are very few K people who are following Jesus in distinctively K ways.

The Global Interaction team among the K People

As our cross-cultural workers have established themselves among the K people, they recognise the inherent affection, warmth and welcoming nature of those in their community and their willingness to establish authentic relationships. It is only within the context of a mutually trusting friendship, that the team has experienced openness for conversations about Jesus. Seeds that have been sown and nurtured over many years, are now becoming small but significant steps of faith.

The team's English Teaching and Community Centre among the K people is thriving. Having a population proficient in English is a national developmental goal identified by the local government. The centre has been embraced by the broader community and the demand for lessons is great. Our team is also building relationships with people in the community through allied health and agricultural opportunities. As our team teaches students, connects with parents and partners with farmers, relationships naturally develop, conversations occur and seeds are being sown!

Prayer Needs

- That there will be a strong movement of God's Spirit among K people
- For God to stir curiosity about who Jesus is and what the team believes among those connected with the cross-cultural team
- For cross-cultural workers to grow in their cultural understanding and language skills, enabling them to effectively communicate the Gospel in their context
- That the team's relationships with their K friends will continue to deepen and regular opportunities for spiritual conversations will arise

Pray for the Team Members

Ben and Petra

David and Eliza (Team Leader)

Mel (candidate)

Stories of Hope from the Silk Road Area

Witnessing God at Work

Candidate Mel spent a short time with the team in the Silk Road Area. Below she reflects on her experiences and how she saw God use the team... in every 'little' thing.

“The Community Centre where they do English classes is in the middle of town and is bustling with kids, teens and adults all eager to learn English. I had the privilege to sit in on a few classes and see the passion of Ben as he taught English to equally passionate students.

The classes I sat in on were intermediate which meant the students’ level of English was pretty good. We were able to ask each other questions about our lives and cultures. The conversations highlighted for me the cultural importance placed on relationships... the students had such a warm and welcoming nature. While there was nothing exceptional about these conversations, the experience was one of warmth and joy and it continues to stay with me. I loved witnessing the relationships the team had built with so many people throughout the town, in the English centre and at local stores and restaurants, and the meaningful conversations they were able to have in the local language.”

Disability Inclusion

Petra is an Occupational Therapist and, along with the team, is establishing a new project with children with disabilities and their families. This project aims to help address the needs of children with disabilities among the local community and communicate the worth, value and capabilities of all people with disabilities. Children with disabilities in the Silk Road Area are often socially isolated from the greater community and there is a general belief that children with disabilities, regardless of severity, cannot or will not develop.

In the lead up to the first disability support group for families, Petra visited a number of different families to encourage them to come and in the end, two families came. The meeting was a great starting point and they had good discussions about the goals and logistics of the group. They were all very keen to have regular meetings where their children could socialise and where they would receive advice and training.

Thank God for the families who came along and their willingness to try something new and pray that as the group develops, there will be a real and tangible benefit for those involved. Pray also that the wider community will become a more inclusive for people with disabilities.

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