

H people of Central Asia

The People Group

The H people are relational and hospitable, often centering important moments around food. They are known to be astute business people who love music and good conversation. The H people are a minority people group in a country where the government is continually tightening its regulations on minority groups.

Their history of religious discrimination has led the H people to be an insular community who hold tightly to their belief system. The vast majority of H people are Muslim and there are very few known followers of Jesus.

The Ministry

Pete and Nomes are currently the only team members on location. They are investing in their culture and language learning, which is equipping them for effective ministry among the H people.

God is opening doors for them to be involved in the community in formal and informal ways.

Particularly through Pete's local language nurturer, the family is being welcomed into H community life. They are being invited to join cultural festivals and smaller family gatherings.

Nomes and Pete are building meaningful relationships and asking God's Spirit to open opportunities for faith conversations in this challenging environment.

Former intercultural workers R and B are looking to return to serve among the H people as soon as possible, however are currently stuck in India due to COVID travel restrictions. They will return with years of ministry experience among this people group and a heart to build relationships and share Jesus.

Team Members

Pete and Nomes
R and B

Prayer Needs

- » Pray that God will be raising up more workers to join the team in sharing the Good News
- » For God's Spirit to be opening opportunities for relationship building and faith sharing conversations as the team connects with their H friends
- » **For God to miraculously open the door for R and B to return to Central Asia**
- » That the team will be growing their culture and language learning every day so they can build relationships and share the Good News in culturally understandable ways
- » **For God to be placing seekers in the path of believers who will journey with them towards Jesus**
- » That the team will be wise and bold as they seek opportunities to share faith within a challenging environment

Stories of Hope from Central Asia

Growing Authentic Relationships

Pete and Nomes share how God is enabling them to build deep, life-giving friendships.

“It is our heart’s desire that all people, and in particular our H friends, their families and the wider H community, would come to experience wonderful new life that is found in Jesus.

One of the things we are thankful for since returning to Central Asia last year, is just how warmly we have been received by the local people, especially by our H friends and Nomes’ work colleagues.

By God’s grace, we are slowly building deeper friendships and broadening our relational networks. We are so grateful that we are once again being invited to key social gatherings with Pete’s language nurturer Mike and his friendship group. One highlight was joining six families on a weekend away.

A few weeks later, Pete offered to shout all the guys to a meal out at a nice H restaurant. During this meal, the guys decided that this should be a monthly event and so Pete is now having regular opportunities to connect with this group.

But even more significantly, over this period Pete and Mike have had a number of significant conversations about matters of faith. In a recent culture and language lesson, Pete was able to give a basic explanation of the Easter story, explaining as best he could the grace and forgiveness that we can receive through Jesus and the fact that we seek to do good in loving response to the grace we’ve received, not in order to earn our way to heaven. This was something Mike had never heard before.”

More Stories from Central Asia

- » **Episode 5 of Missioning** with Pete: www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning
- » **Short news articles:** www.globalinteraction.org.au/News

Explore God’s Word Together

Pete and Nomes write, “Throughout the course of the year, Pete has continued to meet with Mike for culture and language lessons and has regularly been connecting with other H friends over meals and at various other social gatherings.

During the summer, as part of his language lessons, Pete has been working through a number of stories from the Bible with Mike. First, Pete studies the stories on his own, and then he brings them to Mike and they chat through and record any new words that Pete has encountered through the text.

It has been fascinating to see the cultural insights that Mike brings in his understanding of the words being used and the meaning of the stories as a whole.

To this point they have focused on the early New Testament, allowing Mike for the first time to hear in-depth stories about someone whom he reveres as a ‘saint’ but, in reality, knows little about. **Please ask that as they continue to do this, Mike will be captivated by these stories, and that he would come to know this man, not just as a ‘saint’, but as his Saviour and King.”**