

## K people of the Silk Road Area

### The People Group

Being Muslim is key to the K people's identity. In everyday life, this means honouring guests, drinking tea and covering tables with meat, bread, salads, sweets and fruit. Life is directed by the seasons, more so than religious practices. There's the jam-making season, leaf-burning season, house renovating season, preparing for winter season and thawing out from winter season.

Generally, the K people live for today, believing it has enough worries of its own. This realisation means there's limited energy and money left to plan for tomorrow. K people value friendships but it's a challenge to take that deeper and discuss the need for a Saviour. Many haven't seen a living example of what it looks like to be a K person who follows Jesus.

### The Ministry

Building on the foundation of former intercultural workers, the team is establishing themselves among the K community. They are building authentic relationships and living as good neighbours.

**In the past year, they have been amazed to meet a K believer who is reaching out to groups of emerging K faith communities!** They are so encouraged to know that there are local people here who are pursuing Jesus and seeking to get to know Him more. They are seeking God's guidance as they journey with these local believers.

Navigating ever-changing COVID restrictions has been difficult, but the team is continuing to engage with the community through the English Teaching Centre, as well as allied health and agricultural initiatives.

As an Occupational Therapist, Petra is using her skills to work with people who live with disability in the local community. These are people who are often rejected or ignored by their community. **By coming alongside them, showing them they have value, Petra is demonstrating the love of God.**

### Team Members

Ben and Petra  
Eliza (Team Leader) and David  
Mel (candidate)  
Suzanne (candidate)

### Prayer Needs

- » Pray that there will be a strong movement of God's Spirit among K people
- » **For emerging K believers to be strengthened in their faith and understanding of who Jesus is and how to follow Him in their own distinctive ways**
- » For God to stir curiosity about who Jesus is and what the team believes among those connected with the intercultural team
- » **For intercultural 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
- » For wisdom and protection for the team as they navigate the cultural, relational and health challenges of COVID

## Stories of Hope from the Silk Road Area

### Emerging Communities

Eliza shares how God is breaking through in surprising and exciting ways.

“Anna, a K believer, met Lily through a mutual friend last year and invited her to join the newly formed ‘Sunday tea’ club - a gathering of K believers and seekers. Lily’s son Sam, who’s in his mid-20s, has brittle bone disease and life has been a struggle for many years.

So when Anna gave them a copy of the Bible in the K language, they spent time reading and engaging with the story. **When Anna followed up with the pair a couple of months later, she asked, “Have you read the book? Have you accepted Jesus?” The answer came, “Yes!” And Lily began attending Anna’s ‘Sunday tea’ club.**

“I’m very happy,” Anna says. “It had been eight months since our group started and some people came but didn’t really believe. Their hearts weren’t true. But women like Lily, they are real.”

Our faithful partners and supporting churches have joined with our family and team many times over the past 12 months to kneel in prayer for Anna and her family.

Together we prayed when her husband abused her, when she was desperately ill, when she started her ‘Sunday tea’ club, and together we praised God for the safe arrival of her sixth baby in January.

**What a joy to be in this together, as we follow the Spirit’s leading to support the establishment of new K faith communities in this village and, hopefully, beyond.”**

## More Stories from the Silk Road Area

- » **Episode 27 of Missioning** with Mel: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning)
- » **Episode 10 of Missioning** with Ben: [www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Missioning)
- » **Short news articles:** [www.globalinteraction.org.au/News](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/News)

### People of Peace

David and Eliza share, “We have developed a friendship with a tandoor bread maker called Kai and his wife May. Kai has asked David to build some furniture for a café he’s establishing. It’s been lovely to watch this couple work out what they need to do together; what sizes the kitchen benches should be; and how they can be careful with their money.

The four of us have stood in the café’s kitchen, working out together the best way forward. Kai gets stressed about how they’re going to get everything done in order to open in time but May is a very reassuring influence on him.

**They invited us for a meal a couple of weeks ago and as we were leaving, May’s brother asked what religion we follow. We were able to share that we follow Jesus, who he’d heard of but didn’t know much about.**

Then on Thursday, after Kai had poured out his heart to us in David’s workshop about the stresses he was managing, we offered to pray for him, right there and then. He really welcomed the petitioning and thanked us over and over again for our help.

**Would you join us in lifting up Kai and May, our friendship with them and opportunities to tell stories about the One who saves?”**