



The Kosobuckis Outreach to Internationals

The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:34

Women facing adversity

February 2021

This past year has been like no other in our generation – in America and around the world. Disease, disappointment, destruction, despair and death have rocked our country and our planet. We don't personally know of anyone who has died of COVID, but we do personally know a young man who recently chose to take his own life. This has been a hard year for so many. Yet the Spirit of God works with and through this heartache. Allow us to share some of the ways He is doing just that in the hearts of some international women. For security we use pseudonyms.

We first connected with "**Pamela**" through ESL, after which she quickly began gravitating towards Christians. When the lockdown for COVID occurred, however, Pamela closed herself tightly away, partly due to fear of the virus and partly due to paranoia that people would blame her for the virus since it began in her country. But there were still ways to reach her and God drew her into different Bible studies. In late December, we received a call from Pamela in which she shared excitedly of her decision to follow Christ. Shortly after that Karl began meeting with Pamela's teen-aged son, "**Jay**", who has expressed his desire to study the Bible and openness to consider Christ. Another international boy – a believer – has recently joined this study with Karl and Jay.

"**Beatrice**" came to Christ about 3 years ago, but being the only believer in her home, things were difficult and her life in Christ was more like a roller coaster than a straight track. That has changed. She has become serious about her walk with the Lord: praying together with other women, studying Scripture with purpose, manifesting her hope and peace in Christ. We are rejoicing at this change and praying for her husband and daughters to turn to Christ also.

"**Mary**" was a relatively new believer when she arrived with her husband in the States. Three and a half years ago she began attending Karl's Global Connect

class, passionately studying God's word and always looking for opportunities to share her testimony in everyday life. She's been attending Jo Ann's Bible study for International ladies and this semester she will lead several of those studies in the book of 1 Peter. She is a gracious and loving wife to her dear Muslim husband, "**Mack**", and her deepest desire is to see him come to know Christ.

Once again ESL was the tool God used for us to get to know "**Jan**". Jan began to attend the international ladies Bible study, but more for the benefit of friendship than a sincere interest in Christ. It has been extremely hard for her to be locked down with her teen-aged son all of these months, but that difficulty and other challenges have caused her to be more open to the gospel. Her eagerness to know God's word is sincere and growing. It seems that Jan is very close to trusting Christ. Her husband is already a believer.

We have a long history with "**Linda**", another connection made through ESL. She came to the U.S. about six years ago as a professing Christian and several years back even joined one of Karl's trips to the Creation Museum. We've never doubted her profession of faith, but this year, like no other, Linda is growing deeply in her walk with Christ. We have wept with her through hardships, but these have caused her to look to Christ and take major steps in her faith.

In most of the lives above, it is adversity which has brought change. This isn't our preference, but as John Bunyan once quipped, "It is said that in some countries trees will grow, but will bear no fruit because there is no winter there." "Winter" has arrived and God is using it. Please join us in prayer for these precious souls.

Thank you for your partnership with us through your faithful prayer, gifts and encouragement. May the church continue to grow and God be glorified as He gathers a people to Himself in preparation for His glorious kingdom.
Karl and Jo Ann

Address: 119 Penwood Dr; Cary NC 27511

E-mail: karl.kosobucki@crossworld.org

Phone: (919) 655-4597 Cell:267.684.9993



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USA International Office | 10000 N Oak Trafficway | Kansas City MO 64155
main 816.479.7300 | crossworld.org