

"Prayer does not prepare us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work."

Tabasaran



Population	146,400
Location	Dagestan, Rostov Oblast, Krasnodar Krai, Stavropol Krai
Language	Tabasaran
Religion	Islam (Sunni)
Bible Translation	New Testament
Status	Unreached

The Tabasaran people of southern Dagestan are considered the first indigenous people of the rugged, mountainous Caucasus region. They are a very united people, having resisted pressure from foreign rulers for centuries. They live in clan groups in small villages and are very skilled artisans. The Tabasaran have been Sunni Muslim since the Arab conquests in the 9th century. However, remnants of their pre-Islamic beliefs are still evident. Traces of earth, sun, sky, and moon worship still exist, as well as beliefs in protective deities and spirits. They participate in practices that include worshipping the graves of holy men, using magic, and rituals to bring sun or rain.

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into Russia who will share the love of Christ with the Tabasaran.
- Ask God to raise up prayer warriors who will intercede for the Tabasaran.
- Pray that strong, local churches will be raised up among the Tabasaran.
- Pray that God will open the hearts of the Tabasaran to hear and be receptive to the Gospel.
- Ask the Lord to save key leaders among the Tabasaran who will boldly declare the Gospel to their own people.
- Pray for the Bible to be translated into the Tabasaran language.

This is a sample of the new prayer guide I've been working on that will feature 115 unreached people groups of Russia. I hope that we can finish the work this summer and have Russian and English print versions available this fall. Pray about this project so that others can pray for the many needs in Russia.

Currently it is the season of Ramadan, so the Russian language Etnopedia Facebook page is hosting the 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World. The online event is reaching about one thousand people so far. Pray that many more can be reached and more prayer will go out to the lost.



It has been a very busy time for us. So much has happened. How do I sit down and tell you all about it? I suppose I will just have to summarize.

- The kids all got new shoes. Somehow the shoes they were wearing last year shrank during winter.
- I have spent several days speaking to mechanics concerning the two vans we own. I'd rather not speak to mechanics so often. But the ladies (the vans) love the attention they are getting. Pray for smoother roads in Ukraine so that my mechanic will no longer be at the top of the list of most frequently dialed phone number.
- Ukraine decided to extend winter this year, skip spring entirely, and start summer early. I really like the springtime. It was a very pleasant three hours this time around. I enjoyed every minute.
- I was marveled recently about the skills our kids have developed. Their tongues are spitting out foreign words and we wonder how they learned it. They create things around the house and our hearts are warmed. They formulate inquisitive questions and spring forth wisdom beyond their years. I can't imagine who they belong to. "Are you one of mine?" I ask. However, their mother and I wish they would pick up the messes they make and clean the house more often.
- Small remodeling projects have progressed around the apartment. Several want to be a painters in our family. Fortunately, one of our balconies needed repainted. It was a safe place to hone their skills. I learned my lesson though. The more painters you have, the more brushes and rollers you have to clean. Now I limit to just one "helper". Someone once said to us, "About the time you leave, your apartment will be just how you want it." So true.

Next month we are vacationing in the homeland. We are driving to Czech and south-west Germany where our ancestors originally came from. I hope it will be relaxing, fun, and uneventful. One of my brothers is also meeting us there. Pray for us. We can recognize when it seems someone has been praying for us.

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