

# AZERI

## Quick Facts

- Population: 40 million (world wide)
- Progress: 10,000+ believers
- Language: Azerbaijani
- Scripture: Entire Bible
- Locations: Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia, Turkey, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan



Perhaps you have never heard of the Azerbaijani people. So it may be surprising to learn that there are 40 million of them. For many, the name of this people group is hard to pronounce. It's even harder to find Azerbaijan on a map.

Their roots are in the Caucasus Mountains and their history is intertwined with Persia and Russia. They are a Turkic people, which means that their language has similar origins to languages like Turkish in Turkey, and Uzbek, Kazakh, Turkmen and Kyrgyz in Central Asia.

**Azerbaijanis are perhaps the most open of all these peoples to the Gospel.**

They live in a beautiful region full of contrasts. From majestic mountain ranges to fertile river valleys and coastal plains, the Azerbaijani people have been shaped by the land they live in. They are tenacious and resilient, yet generous and hospitable. Their music and art overflows from their love for their land.

Only about a quarter of the Azerbaijani people actually live in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The highest concentration of them live in Iran.



Azerbaijanis are a gateway people with the potential to reach the unreached peoples of Iran, Caucasus, Central Asia, and even the Middle East.

From the mountains of Ararat and the Azeri region of Naxchevan (named from the old Azeri words Nuh chixan, "where Noah came out," based on [Genesis 8:4](#)), to the highest echelon of power in Iran (the supreme leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, is an Azeri), Azerbaijanis are a people who shouldn't be ignored.

Although national boundaries present challenges to Western workers, they aren't so problematic to Azerbaijani believers. Natives from Azerbaijan go to Iran and share the good news of Jesus. Pastors from Baku go to northern Iraq and are welcomed as brothers rather than foreigners. Azerbaijanis from Baku share their faith in Georgia, having freedom to do so without government intervention.

Estimates of the number of Azerbaijani believers worldwide range from 7,000 to 14,000.

### Yet a growing number have recently come to faith in Christ.

Recent events have brought new challenges and diminished the free flow of people and ideas in the region: renewed persecution in Iran and war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Nevertheless, we continue to see growth and maturation in Azerbaijan's church. In many ways, they really are God's gateway people to the Muslim world.

(Profile Information from North American Azerbaijani Network)



## Engagement Opportunities

- Get informed - [PrayerCast](#) / [Villages of Azerbaijan](#) / [War over Nagorno-Karabakh](#)
- Lead or join a team working among the Azerbaijani people
- Access strategies include study, business, relief and development, and many others
- Join the [North American Azerbaijani Network](#)

## Pray

- that God would embolden and empower Azerbaijani believers to reach others for Christ.
- that believing workers who bring needed skills and professions to Azerbaijan would benefit the country and be given gospel opportunities.
- for growing unity among the few Azerbaijani churches in Azerbaijan

Is God calling you to serve? Let us help you respond. Contact us.

