

AVAR

Quick Facts

- Population: 900,000+
- Progress: 50+ believers
- Language: Avar
- Scripture: NT & 11 OT books completed
- Location in Russia: Dagestan, Stavropol Krai, Moscow, Chechnya



"Like Imam Shamil, I will not allow my honor to be impugned!"...

...the Avar man proclaimed indignantly. "He inferred that my work and my family were not as noble as his—and he will suffer for this!" This exchange may have taken place in an urban neighborhood in the city of Makhachkala or in a mountain town in the Avar Khunzakh district. It may be unfolding between this Avar gentleman and a Dagestani of another people group, or it may be between two Avar clans. And the suffering, which is to follow, will not necessarily involve blood, although it might. More likely it will involve an intricate pattern of revenge through economic or clan connections, and some form of ostracism or rejection of the offending person.



For a wide door for effective work has

opened for me, and there are many adversaries.

1 Cor. 16:9



The Avar People of Dagestan are the largest linguistic group of Dagestan, and historically the most powerful. Honor/Shame is a high code, deeply ingrained in the Avar cultural psyche. Indeed, Imam Shamil, arguably the most famous Dagestani in history, was Avar. Imam Shamil was a powerful Muslim religious leader in the 1st half of the 19th Century, who led the political and military resistance to the Russian conquerors from 1834-1859. Shamil accomplished one daring exploit after another to baffle Russian military battalions of Tsarist Russia.

Avars call themselves Ma 'arulal - "free mountaineers, who inhabit the highest lands"

The Ma 'arulal speak their own distinct Avar language, based on the Khunzakh Avar dialect for literary written Avar. Primary Avar is spoken in more than 200 Avar towns and villages. In addition, in the highest mountains of southern Dagestan, five additional languages in the Avar family—Batlukh, Gid, Andalal, Qarakh, Antsukh—are spoken in more than 150 additional villages. All of these peoples then utilize Russian as a 2nd language.

The Avar carry many amazing ancient cultural strengths, however, one strength not found in Avar culture is grace. The absence of grace has left the Avar vulnerable to intense cycles of violence on many levels. Pray that many Avar will understand that "keeping away from strife is an honor for a man" (Prov.20:3); and that there is even greater honor in forgiveness and 2nd-mile love (Rom.12:17-21) than in vengeance.

(Profile Information from Joshua Project & North Caucasus Regional Partnership)



Engagement Opportunities

- Get informed - [AvarLink](#)
- Explore access strategies to serve long term in Russia
- The University language study program (Russian) remains the most effective way for foreigners to get visas and become immersed in the culture.
- Very closed to Westerners, but more open to workers from Ibero-America and Asia.

Pray

- for the new believers among the Avar—Pray for their number to continually increase.
- for men and women of peace in each one of the 200+ Avar towns & villages, to be keys to welcoming the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit into each Avar-language community.
- Pray for dreams and visions among open-hearted Avar.

**Is God calling you to serve in the Caucasus?
Let us help you respond. Contact us.**