

2500 years ago, the Greek historian, Herodotus, noted that Greek seafarers encountered a tribe named the Abaza along the eastern shores of the Black Sea. The descendants of the Abaza later migrated northeastward into the Caucasus Mountains and became fiercely Muslim over the past 1,000 years.

A war-like people, the Abaza have known little grace. Many died in the Caucasus Wars with the Russian Empire in the middle of the 19th Century. The Abaza now live in at least 14 towns and villages in the mountain region of Karachai-Cherkessia in southern Russia. Their ancient language is fascinating—it functions with 63 consonant sounds and only two vowels! For an outsider, it’s definitely a mouthful of intense sounds.

Among the 40,000+ Abaza, there are approximately twenty known believers. Pray for these courageous ones, who are carriers of the desperately needed grace of Jesus for their people. When one understands in one’s own heart language that “God in Christ has forgiven me...” it’s so much more possible to “be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ has forgiven me.” The Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness...—can start to grow and spread throughout the culture.

PRAY for the revived active teams in Abaza Bible Translation, and in Oral Bible Stories in Abaza! **PRAY** for the key followers of Jesus among the Abaza to embody the forgiveness and kindness of Jesus to all whom they meet. In the last 10 years, two new prayer movements in the international church embody hope for the Abaza People. Matthew 9:36-38

2020-2024: Some good news: 1.) In past six years, Abaza Bible Translation is reactivated—7 books now translated, including Matthew, Luke, Acts, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, and Solomon’s Wisdom! Work is underway on 5 more NT Books & 4 more OT Books!

2.) Breakthroughs in Orality/Video Bible work in Abaza, with 39 audio Bible stories now in Abaza & 4 OT & NT Scripture videos! **PRAY** Isa.55:8-12!

3.) Nearby Russian churches have somewhat awakened in their compassion and vision for the Abaza people group. **PRAY BLESSING** on this, Matt.5:14-16, Phil.2:15.

4.) The Bible Translation Team & the Audio Bible Story teamwork is beginning to permeate into the culture. **PRAY** the Fruit of the Spirit thru these carriers of Jesus’ grace, resulting in greater and greater impact for the Good News of the Gospel, Isa.60:1-3, “**arise & shine...**” & Col.1:6, “**...the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing...**”

Names of ABAZA towns or villages:

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| 1. Kara-Pago | 8. Malo-Abazinka |
| 2. Kubina | 9. Tapanta |
| 3. Psikh | 10. Krasnovostochni |
| 4. El’burgan | 11. Novokuvinski |
| 5. Inzhich-Chukun | 12. Starokuvinski |
| 6. Koi-dan | 13. Abazakt |
| 7. Abaza-Khabl’ | 14. Ap-sua |



The ABAZA Flag