

2014—Adyghe People

Adyghe (pronounced Ah-dig) culture has at its core the values of: respect, hospitality and reverence for elders. Their identity and code of conduct comes from an ancient system of rules, etiquette, and ethos known as *Khabzeh*. According to *Khabzeh*, a host is expected to give his life to protect his guests. In return guests are expected to be gracious and behave in a way that honors the host.

Much insight into Adyghe culture and customs can be gathered from Adyghe folk dances. These dances tell stories about everyday life such as courtship, preparing for war, the harvest, and displaying of strength. The stories preserve Adyghe ancient history, and they are predecessors to Greek mythology, containing ancient stories of gods from southern Russia. The *Khabzeh* came from these Epics.

Adyghes are one of the remaining tribes of a large people group known as Circassians. They lived in the North Caucasus region of Southern Russia for more than a thousand years until they were conquered by ethnic Russians during The Caucasus War (1817-1864). Due to the war, in the late 19th Century at least 1 million Circassians (Adyghes & Kabardians) were deported or fled to areas in the Ottoman Empire including Turkey and the Middle East. Although the Adyghe people still regard the North Caucasus as their sacred home, a majority live outside the region.

Ninety eight percent of all Adyghes claim to be Sunni Muslim. There are approximately 100 Adyghe Christians in the world and there is one indigenous church of about 40 members located in southern Russia. The rest are dispersed among Russian Orthodox and Evangelical churches. The entire New Testament and 12 books so far in the Old Testament have been translated into the Adyghe language. Adyghes in southern Russia also have access to the Central Asian Russian Scriptures (CARS) which uses language familiar to Muslims.



MAP showing present locations of Circassians [dark-shaded regions] in southern Russia, Turkey, and the Middle East. -- Note the outlined rectangular region in southern Russia—the Adyghe are located in the two black areas at the west end; the Kabardians in the two black areas in the center.



Adyghe Traditional Folk Dance

Present estimates are approximately 140,000 Adyghe in southern Russia, with at least 10 times that many in diaspora locations, especially in Turkey and the Middle East. In Adyghe history, most Adyghe were nominal Christians from the 10th to the 17th Centuries. In the past two decades there is a resurgence in Adyghe self-awareness and ethnic identity. Pray that the Bible in authentic Adyghe will make more and more inroads into Adyghe culture and connect with ancient oral traditions.

Pray that Adyghe believers, renewed with fresh winds of the Holy Spirit, will display the noble qualities of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control—which will stir many Adyghe to the fulfillment of their ancient noble customs through the indwelling grace of Jesus and power of the Holy Spirit.

* *PRAY for God to break the stronghold of spiritual apathy that holds the Adyghe people in darkness. II Cor. 10: 3-5*

* *PRAY for God to speak to Adyghees in dreams and visions revealing His plan of salvation. Acts 2:17 Heb.2: 3-4*

* *PRAY for a movement of House Church Planting among the Adyghees in the North Caucasus. Acts 20: 20-21*

* *PRAY for translators to complete the whole Bible in Adyghe within 5 years. II Timothy 3: 15-16*

* *PRAY for men and women of peace (Lk 10:6) in each Adyghe town/village, to be keys to welcoming the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit into each community in the years ahead. II Cor.13:14*



Traditional Adyghe Warrior with Trumpet



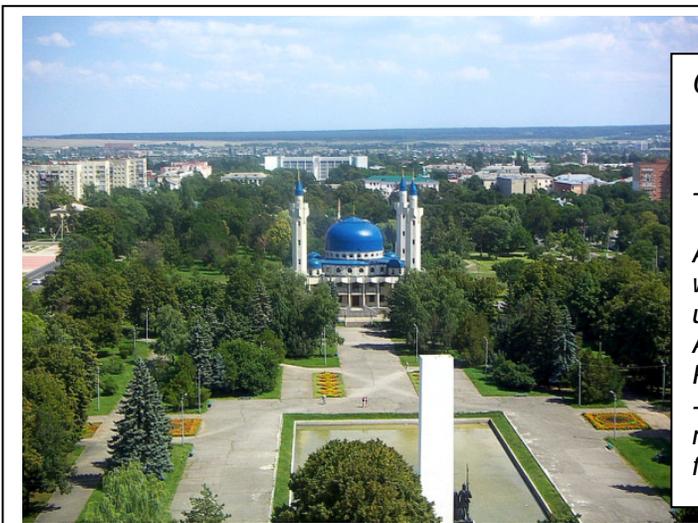
Contemporary Adyghe Men, with granddaughter

Names of CITIES, TOWNS, & VILLAGES in Adyghe-language region of southern Russia:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Psay-tuk | 17. Assoko-lay | 33. Mam-kheg |
| 2. Pana-khes | 18. Gabu-kay | 34. Psebe |
| 3. Khash-tuk | 19. Kun-chuko-kabl' | 35. Agoy-shapsug |
| 4. Afip-sip | 20. Adamiy | 36. Maloye Pseushko |
| 5. Novo-bzhe-gokay | 21. Bzhe-doog-khabl' | 37. Bol. Pseushko |
| 6. Kozet | 22. Krasno-gvardeyskoye | 38. Nadzhigo |
| 7. Takh-tamu-kay | 23. Khatu-kai | 39. Khadzhiko |
| 8. Natukh-ay | 24. Dzhambichi | 40. Kalezh |
| 9. Shendzhiy | 25. Pshizo | 41. Lugotkh |
| 10. Kazazovo | 26. Pshicho | 42. Tkha-gapsh |
| 11. Adyghe-isk | 27. Khata-zhukai | 43. Bol.Kichmay |
| 12. Gatlu-kay | 28. Kabe-khabl' | 44. Mal.Kichmay |
| 13. Vochepshiy | 29. Kha-kurino-khabl' | Mixed Cities: |
| 14. Dzhidzhi-kabl' | 30. Dzero-kay | 45. Maikop |
| 15. Neshu-kay | 31. Yegeru-khay | 46. Tul'skii |
| 16. Ponezhu-kay | 32. Kha-khemziy | 47. Gia-ginskaya |

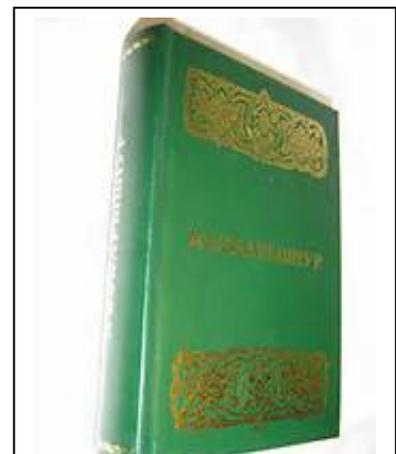


View of southern Adyghe Region, south of Maikop. Note Caucasus Mountains in background



City of Maikop

*-- Provincial Capital of Adyghe Region, with mixed population (20% Adyghe, 70% Russian).
-- Note modern mosque in foreground.*



Adyghe New Testament