

## 2014 – Karachai People

*“But in their distress they turned to the LORD, the God of Israel, and sought him, and he was found by them. In those days... one nation was being crushed by another and one city by another, because God was troubling them with every kind of distress.” 2Chron.15: 4-6*

*“But when He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:8*      *“... I came that you might have life, life in all its fullness.” John 10:10*

Over the past 600 years the Karachai people have experienced life much like a grape placed in a wine press. Formerly part of the once mighty Alan Empire (nominally Christian), the Karachai were defeated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and forcibly converted to Islam by the Turko-Mongol invader Timur. Conquered again in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by Russian czarist imperialism, the Karachai people are all too familiar with distress brought about by defeat at the hands of invading nations. During World War II they were swallowed up by the German advance through the Caucasus, only to be re-conquered by Stalin’s Soviets shortly thereafter. Due to their “acceptance” of German rule, Stalin then deported the Karachai--numbering roughly 80,000 at the time--from their Caucasus homeland to remote parts of Central Asia 1943-1957. Despite 35 percent of their population dying during the forced relocation, many Karachai have returned to their homeland and have begun repopulating their home area in the Russian province of Karachai-Cherkessia.

Now numbering approximately 220,000, the Karachai of the Russian North Caucasus have preserved much of their heritage due to their Islamic cultural identity and their clan-organized communities, called Tukhum. Fiercely loyal within their Tukhum, Karachai have maintained strong family and cultural traditions best observed in weddings, funerals and over-the-top hospitality toward guests. Nevertheless, realizing population growth and retaining cultural identifiers have not changed the Karachai’s position on the global stage, or the state of well-being within their society. Karachai culture, on the one hand, is devoted to ‘duty’—but, on the other hand, is plagued by cycles of vengeance, corruption, and male drunkenness. Karachai Islamic traditions are a largely ‘graceless’ dynamic, with no clear understanding of forgiving grace and no indwelling Holy Spirit to revitalize.

At present there are less than 50 known Karachai followers of Jesus and only one evangelical church. The New Testament & Psalms in the Karachai language was completed in the 1990’s.

*\* Please PRAY that in their distress the Karachai will turn to the Lord Jesus, not for political power, but for spiritual deliverance from the bondages of Islam and from the devastations of sin and past suffering. Isaiah 61: 1-4*  
*\* PRAY that Jesus followers will multiply as joyful lives are modeled by believers, and that numerous churches will be firmly established as the body of Christ grows amongst the Karachai. PRAY for men and women of peace (Lk 10:6) in each Karachai 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*  
*\* PRAY that the Karachai New Testament & Psalms will spread throughout the culture to open hearts--II Chron 16:9.*  
*\* PRAY that the love of God will continue to ‘disturb’ the Karachai people, inviting them away from sin and judgment and toward the marvelous grace of Jesus and the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit—Ephesians 3:18,19.*  
*\* PRAY that the beauty of Karachai culture will bloom as the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23) enlivens the historical richness of the Karachai people.*



Karachai Patriarchs in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century



Karachai Woman in Traditional Dress

**Names of CITIES, TOWNS, & VILLAGES in  
KARACHAI region of KARACHAI-CHEKKESSIA:**

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Cherkess [ <i>capital of Karachai-Cherkessia, with mixed population</i> ] |                        |
| 2. Dubyanskiy  | 55. Darkin             |
| 3. Voroshilovskiy  | 56. Bocharovskiy       |
| 4. Yevseyeskiy   | 57. Valuyskiy          |
| 5. Erken-Yurt  | 58. Nekrasovskiy       |
| 6. Erken-Khalk   | 59. Druzhba            |
| 7. Kuban-Khalk   | 60. Dzhagonasskiy      |
| 8. Sadovoye  | 61. Ust'-Dzheguta      |
| 9. Chapayevskoye   | 62. Prikubanskiy Raion |
| 10. Verkhniy Kubanskiy   | 63. Vazhnoye           |
| 11. Gluboki  | 64. Novaya Dzheguta    |
| 12. Molochniy  | 65. Dzheguta           |
| 13. Kotlyarovskiy  | 66. El'Tarkach         |
| 14. Kavkazskiy   | 67. Uch-kelen          |
| 15. Khoperskiy   | 68. Aksu               |
| 16. Rodnikovskiy   | 69. Dzha-ga            |
| 17. Suhev  | 70. Rim Gorskiy        |
| 18. Maiskiy  | 71. Krasnyy Kurgan     |
| 19. Ilinskiy   | 72. Kommun-stroy       |
| 20. Udarnyy  | 73. El'kush            |
| 21. Oktiabrskiy  | 74. Vodovod            |
| 22. Novyy  | 75. Malokarachaevskaya |
| 23. Solnechnyy   | 76. Musht              |
| 24. Vodo-razdelnyy   | 77. Kichi-Balyk        |
| 25. Ilich  | 78. Khasaut            |
| 26. Prigorodnoye   | 79. Ullukol            |
| 27. Ilich-evskoye  | 80. Verkhnyaya Mara    |
| 28. Kramorovskiy   | 81. Nizhnaya Mara      |
| 29. Alenovskiy   | 82. In-dush            |
| 30. Tallyk   | 83. Khu-des            |
| 31. Rodnik   | 84. Shkol'nyy          |
| 32. Kosyakinskiy   | 85. El'brusskiy        |
| 33. Bulavinskiy  | 86. Kart-Dzhurt        |
| 34. Gandroburovskiy  | 87. Uch-kulan          |
| 35. Pogorelovskiy  | 88. Kurzuk             |
| 36. Popovskiy  | 89. Akhtubye           |
| 37. Privol'nyy   | 90. Verkhniy Uch-kulan |
| 38. Morozovskiy  | 91. Akhalsheni         |
| 39. Issayeskiy   | 92. Kamennomostskiy    |
| 40. Kholodnorodnikovskoye  | 93. Dzingirik          |
| 41. Pristan'   | 94. Nikolinskoye       |
| 42. Kyzyl-Kala   | 95. Novaya Teberda     |
| 43. Krasnogorskaya   | 96. Teberda            |
| 44. Pravokubanskiy   | 97. Verkhnyaya Teberda |
| 45. Saru-Tyuz  | 98. Dzazlyk            |
| 46. Kumysh   | 99. Daut               |
| 47. Karakent   | 100. Krasnaya Zvezda   |
| 48. Malokurganny   | 101. Dombay            |
| 49. Ordzonikidzevskiy  | 102. Morkh             |
| 50. Kubran   | 103. Marukha           |
| 51. Novi Karachay  | 104. Kardoniskaya      |
| 52. Kosta Khetagurova  | 105. Zelenchukskaya    |
| 53. Karachayevsk   | 106. Storozhevaya      |
| 54. Kyzyl-Oktyabr'skiy   | 107. Kobu-Bashi        |



*Karachai New Testament and Psalms*



*From Russian TV - See Caucasus in background*



*Mountain meadow high in the southern Karachai Region*