

## 2014—Antsukh Avar

“I’m Antsukh and I’m Avar, and I’m Dagestani, and I’m a Russian citizen!” the middle-aged Antsukh man by the name of Ismail exclaimed. Identity is a complicated thing high in the southern mountains of the Russian province of Dagestan near the border with Azerbaijan and Georgia. Ismail’s leading identity comes from his native Antsukh language; Antsukh shares similarities to the larger Avar language family, but is so distinct as to be mutually unintelligible from lowland Avar. The Antsukh language is spoken in nearly 60 villages and towns in this region, including in one village—Tivi—across the border in northeastern Georgia. In the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Antsukh Avars are justifiably proud that one of their own has been selected as President of the Russian province [*Republic*] of Dagestan.

Pride has never been in short supply among the mountainous Muslim Antsukh people. They are renowned for highest levels of: ‘Resistance to Change’—‘Xenophobic Suspicion toward Outsiders’—and ‘Pride.’

*PRAY for grace and the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23) to come to the Antsukh. For centuries the region has been beset by power struggles and violence. PRAY for representatives of the love of Jesus to find ways to become present internally in Antsukh culture-Matt.9:36-38. PRAY for courage to respond to the Gospel--Acts 8*

### **NAMES OF ANTSUKH VILLAGES :**

- |                 |                |                     |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Zhal-da      | 21. Antsukh    | 41. Tlyarata-ADMIN. |
| 2. Char-akh     | 22. Zhazhada   | 42. Kut-lab         |
| 3. Sab-da       | 23. Mazada     | 43. Gara-kolob      |
| 4. Kishdatl’    | 24. Noi-ruk    | 44. Nitil-sukh      |
| 5. Zhin-dakh    | 25. Khi-dib    | 45. Sani-orta       |
| 6. Tonokh-Kuli  | 26. Khor-ta    | 46. To-khota        |
| 7. Tidatli      | 27. Tamu-da    | 47. Tli-yanada      |
| 8. Ros-nob      | 28. Chil-da    | 48. Kolob           |
| 9. Ko-sob       | 29. Ter-kib    | 49. Tsim-guda       |
| 10. San-ta      | 30. Gve-diish  | 50. Choro-da        |
| 11. Khada-kolob | 31. Gen-duk    | 51. Gort-nob        |
| 12. Khara-da    | 32. Ukal       | 52. Gerel’          |
| 13. Tokh        | 33. Tokh-Orda  | 53. Gene-kolob      |
| 14. Lan-da      | 34. Ti-lutl’   | 54. Kami-lukh       |
| 15. Shi-dib     | 35. Kar-dib    | 55. Dag-bash        |
| 16. Kal-da      | 36. Khadi-yal  | 56. Khu-chada       |
| 17. Chada-kolob | 37. Kha-mar    | 57. Tal-suk         |
| 18. Khoro-da    | 38. Bar-nab    | 58. Tadi-yal        |
| 19. Bezhuda     | 39. Si-kar     | <u>IN GEORGIA</u>   |
| 20. Nachada     | 40. Tsumi-lukh | 59. Tivi Village    |



*Large Town of Tlyarata – Administrative Center of Antsukh Language Region (on Dzhur-mut River)*



*WINTER View of Village of Tsumi-lukh High in southern mountains of Antsukh Region*



*Village of Gerel’ -- Antsukh Language Region*



*High mountains at extreme southern end of Antsukh Region near border with Azerbaijan & Georgia. (Small Antsukh village visible)*