Bashkir in Belarus



hough most Bashkirs live in their homeland that is now in southwestern Russia, others have fled to other countries like Belarus. Though the Bashkirs were traditionally nomadic herdsmen, most are farmers today, though they still raise livestock. Today, the village itself is regarded as the key to their social structure. Some of the Bashkir groups have lost all memory of their tribal clan origin. Nevertheless, they still express their sense of kinship and loyalty to kinsmen. Bashkir marriage ceremonies usually take place in their homes. However, a mullah (Muslim leader) usually participates in the marriage agreement. Young newlyweds live with the husband's parents until they are ready to form their own household.

Ministry Obstacles

Islam is a strong cultural as well as a religious factor. The Bashkir might be reluctant to give up the Islamic religious system unless they experience the glory of the Lord in a practical way.

Outreach Ideas

Belarus has some religious freedom, and there are all kinds of gospel materials in Bashkort, the Bashkir language. Christ followers can distribute them. There are also some Christian believers among the Bashkir people in Belarus.



■ BAHSH-keer
POPULATION: 1,200

LANGUAGE: Bashkort
RELIGION: Islam

BIBLE: Complete STATUS: Unreached

Prayer Focus

Pray for Bashkir elders to open their communities to the transforming work of Jesus Christ. Pray for workers, filled with the fruit and the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for an unstoppable movement to Christ among the Bashkirs.

SCRIPTURE The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

- Psalm 111;10

PRAY for fear of the Lord and wisdom to come to this people group.