

Yakut in Russia



Although the Yakut have officially been included as part of the Ewenki nationality in China, they have their own language and customs. Their origin is in Siberia, and they identify themselves as “Yakut” to outsiders. The Yakut live uncomplicated, semi nomadic lives, tending reindeer and dwelling in simple tents for part of the year. We know them for their large draft horses. The Yakut are shamanists who believe in faith healing and spirit possession. Although the Yakut in Russia were evangelized by Russian Orthodox missionaries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, few experienced a living faith in Christ. In 1996, four evangelists traveled to the Yakut in China, taking with them a gospel recording of Bible stories. The recipients were overjoyed to hear a message in their own language.

Ministry Obstacles

There is a history of resistance to the gospel and/or a failure to communicate it in a culturally relevant manner. Semi nomadism is also a logistical issue. Alcoholism is another obstacle.

Outreach ideas

Gospel recordings seem to awaken interest in the gospel. Short wave ra-



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POPULATION: 487,000

LANGUAGE: Yakut

RELIGION: Ethnic Religions

BIBLE: New Testament

STATUS: Unreached

dio and TV broadcasts in Yakut would help them understand.

Prayer Focus

Pray for nomadic evangelists who will be used by the Lord to usher in a movement to Christ. Pray for dissemination of Yakut language recordings, radio, and television.

SCRIPTURE For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth. (Acts 13:47)

PRAY that the believers in today's people group become God's light to their own group and to the nations of the world.

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