

The Tatars

There are about 7 million Tatars living throughout the Russian Federation and several surrounding countries. Because of their extensive movements and intermarriage with other peoples, the Tatars have quite varied physical features, from Mongoloid to Caucasian, blonde hair to black. The majority of Tatars are nominal Sunni Muslims. Several Tatar tribes were Christianized into Russian Orthodoxy between the 16th and 18th centuries, but most are nominal believers. Evangelical and Charismatic believers make up less than 1% of all Tatars.



Tatarstan

This Republic of the Russian Federation is situated about 600 miles east of Moscow. Its population of about four million includes Tatars (52.9%), Russians (39.5%), Chuvashes (3%) and other ethnic groups (5%).

In the past 15 years there has been a significant surge of Islam in Tatarstan, though the majority of the Tatar population continues to be nominally or culturally Muslim. In 1990 there were about 100 mosques in the entire Republic; by 2004 there were over 1,000. By comparison there are only 176 Russian Orthodox churches and only small numbers of Catholic or Evangelical churches.

► Pray

Pray for the cities in Tatarstan listed below. The Tatar in these cities need to discover the Gospel through the Bible, films, websites, Christian literature, and relationships. Pray for strong and multiplying churches throughout Tatarstan.

► Kazan (Qazan in Tatar)
Kazan is the capital of Tatarstan, with a population of about 1,150,000, and it is the largest port on the Volga River. It is a major industrial and commercial center and is the most important center of Tatar culture. The city celebrated its 1,000-year history in 2005, and the ceremonies included the dedication of the Kul Sharif mosque, one of the largest and most beautiful in Europe.

► Naberezhnye Chelny
With a predominantly Muslim population of 600,000 people, Naberezhnye Chelny is the second largest city in Tatarstan. It is located on the Kama River, approximately 700 miles east of Moscow. The local economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas exploration and production. The area also has significant water, timber and agricultural resources, but the standard of living is low.

► Other cities:
• Nizhnekamsk (population 225,399) • Almetyevsk (population 140,000) • Yelabuga (population 67,500) • Leninogorsk (population 65,600) • Zelenodolsk (population 100,000)

Recommended websites: www.kazan1000.ru/eng • www.tatarica.com

