

## 2014—Godoberi People

“You say that Uncle Gadzhi has just died?” the young Godoberi woman, Madina, asked intensely. “How did you hear?” “Aunt Fatimat just called from the mountains,” her cousin Ragimat answered. These two young Godoberi women lived in the capital city of Dagestan with their young families.

“We must reach our husbands immediately. We’ll have to leave this afternoon—the funeral will be tomorrow in Godoberi in the mountains. We can’t be late!” It was a 7-hour drive to the mountain village of Godoberi, the ancient home region of at least 3000 Godoberi-speaking people in this mountainous region of Dagestan in southern Russia. “If we leave quickly, we can get there by midnight and be ready for the funeral observances first thing tomorrow morning.”

The Godoberi people, located in the far western mountains of Dagestan next to Chechnya, observe strict Sunni Islam. At a funeral the male relatives will repeat endless ritual prayers, hoping to reach a total of 70,000 repetitions. Local Muslim traditions say that if you reach that number, the deceased will have a better chance of making it into heaven—but you’ll never know for sure.

*PRAY that Godoberi families in the city will come into relationship with one of the several thousand followers of Jesus in the urban regions of Dagestan. PRAY that they’ll come to understand the gift of Jesus to the human race—“for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it’s a gift of God”(Eph.2:8). PRAY that such a breakthrough will then be passed by Godoberi clan relationships up into the Godoberi heartland in the western mountains.*

### NAMES OF GODOBERI VILLAGES

#### In Primary Godoberi Region:

1. Ziberkhali
2. Beledi
3. Godoberi (central village of region)

#### In Northern Dagestan:

1. Terechnoe



*A View of  
One Quadrant  
in the  
major village*

*of*

*Godoberi*