

Ankang 安康

The little-known city of Ankang (“Peace and Health”) is located in the southeastern part of Shaanxi Province in north-central China.

Ankang is home to more than 950,000 people. The overwhelming majority are Han Chinese, along with 13,500 Hui Muslims and a handful of other minorities. Most of the Hui live together in one section of the city, where they have built mosques and Islamic restaurants.

The history of Ankang goes back a long way, with records showing the city was inhabited as far back as 312 BC, although the name Ankang was first used in 280 AD.

The city was developed economically and culturally during the Spring and Autumn War Period and the Former Han Period (722 BC - 24 AD). Many iron tools from this era have been excavated from the city.

Ankang has a long history of fighting and blood for much of its two thousand years. In the pre-Christian era various nomadic tribes battled for control of the city, while fighting continued on and off until 1940, when the Japanese bombed Ankang four times during the Second World War. More than 800 people died during the Japanese raids. Today there are still unexploded bombs found in the ground.

Population:
859,165 (1990)
931,182 (2000)
1,009,200 (2010)

Province:
Shaanxi

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 98.2%
Hui 1.6%
Manchu 0.1%
Mongol 0.1%

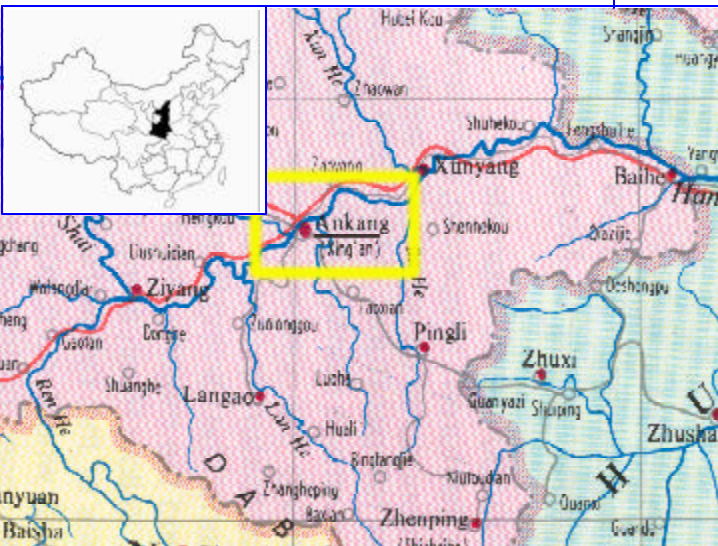
Christians:
20,000 (2.1%)

1983 saw Ankang in national news again when flooding killed 870 people. The flood waters came from the Han Shui River, which borders the northern part of the city.

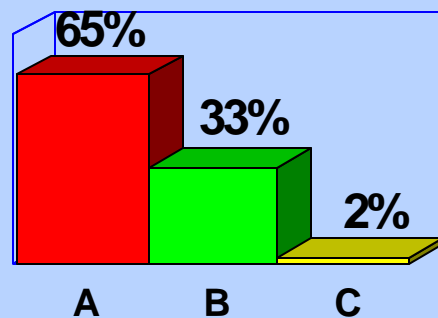
There are 65 kinds of mineral resources in the ground around Ankang including hydrargyrum, antimony, titanium, barite and scheelite. Ankang is known as “the base of chemical minerals in Shaanxi.”

Although Shaanxi Province is the place where Christianity first made its confirmed appearance in China (635 AD), the Gospel has not impacted southern Shaanxi and Ankang City much. Today only about two percent

of the population in Ankang adhere to Christianity in any form. Most people in the city have yet to hear the Gospel. House church believers in the area have experienced torture and persecution that can only be described as demonically inspired. In 1993 a group of believers were arrested at a meeting in Xunyang when five Ankang evangelists came to teach. “The PSB officers beat the believers with truncheons.... They also forced each of the 26 others in the meeting to beat three brethren 100 times with bamboo rods. If they failed to comply they were beaten by the PSB. These brothers were beaten until they were totally covered with blood, gaping wounds and injuries all over their bodies. They were



Status of Evangelization
(Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the Name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherants to any form of Christianity



then hung up and further beaten with rods on their backs until they were unconscious and barely breathing. The PSB also cursed them loudly with the most vile and filthy language. They also violently beat the women unconscious. They placed two of them over a stove, placed 130 pound (60 kg) millstones on their backs and continued to beat them. The women's trousers were ripped open in front of the men to expose their private parts. They were then beaten in this area in the most cruel manner and abused in other ways. One 12 year old boy who went to the meeting was also beaten on the head and thrown like a stone.... The most severely beaten of them all was a 22 year old brother named Lai Manping. His face was totally black and clots of blood came out when he relieved himself. His breath smelled terrible and everyone in the room could smell it. In addition, he sustained severe internal injuries as a result of the beatings. The guards brought a 20 year old doctor to look at him. She administered only external medication and left. The guards, realizing he was about to die, made him leave. Lai died as he was crawling home.... His family found his body and conducted an autopsy. They found his heart was totally black. The PSB claimed Lai died of an illness." (China News and Church Report, 7 May 1993)

Pray for Ankang

- 1** Pray Ankang would truly be a place blessed with spiritual peace and health from the Lord of Salvation.
- 2** Pray the example of Lai Manping will cause believers in Ankang to live wholeheartedly for Christ.
- 3** Ask God to bring revival to Ankang.

Overview of Ankang (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Ahn-khaang"	Employed People	: 399,796 (46.5% of total population)
Old Names	: Hingan, Hsing-ngan, Xing'an	Main Industries	: Agriculture 76.8%, Industrial 5.6%
Location	: SE Shaanxi Province, northern China	Education	: University: 2.3%
Population	: 859,165 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 28.4%
Males	: 458,570 (53.37%)		: Primary school: 37.8%
Females	: 400,595 (46.63%)		: Never attended any school: 31.5%
Households	: 203,699	Population under 15:	: 259,885 (30.2%)
Average Household	: 4.2 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 34.7% (men 24.5%; women 46.4%)
Divorced People	: 3,787	Major Nationalities	: Han 845,314
% divorced of Population:	: 0.44		: Hui 13,480
Centurions (1990)	: 2 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 189
Immigrants to City	: 18,348		: Mongol 53
From same province:	: 13,114 (71.5%)		: Others 129 (18 groups)
From other provinces:	: 5,226 (28.5%)	Christians (2003)	: 20,000 (2.1%)