

BEIJING 北京

Beijing is widely known as one of the great cities of the world, but few people realize it remains a relatively unreached city, with less than one percent of its population professing to be Christian.

The population of Beijing City is approximately 8.5 million people, although the population of the Beijing Municipality, which includes several counties spread over a 16,801 square km (6,487 square miles), stands at around 13 million people. By the year 2010, the number of people living in the city itself is expected to exceed 11.4 million. Beijing is being besieged by job-hunters who come in from rural areas in search of employment and a better life. Thousands of peasants can be seen camped out on the streets around the train station on any given day. Unfortunately, most find jobs harder to come by than they had been led to expect, and ultimately return back to their farms empty handed. Those who do strike it lucky in Beijing, and become permanent residents of the city, number 118,000 every year.

Because Beijing is such an important employment base, only 17.2% of the city's inhabitants are aged under 15 years old. This is one of the lowest rates for any city in China. Overall, the people of Beijing are highly educated. The adult literacy rate of 92% ranks among China's best.

Population:
6,325,723 (1990)
8,501,250 (2000)
11,424,800 (2010)

Province:
Beijing Municipality

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 95.3%
Hui 2.4%
Manchu 1.7%
Mongol 0.2%

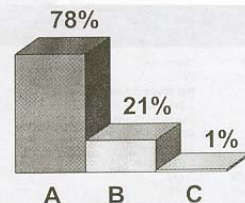
Christians:
60,000 (0.7%)

Although the earliest records of settlements in the Beijing area date back to 1000 BC, the city as a distinct entity is comparatively young by Chinese standards. It was not until 1215 AD, when the great Mongol Emperor Genghis Khan decided to move his capital to Beijing (then called Khanbaliq), that the city became well known. Up to that time, centuries of Chinese emperors had ruled from the city of Xian. In the early 1400's the city was renamed Beijing (Northern Capital), and it has remained the capital of China to this day.

The past 150 years has been a tumultuous time for Beijing. Foreign colonial powers laid claim to sections of Beijing during the Qing Dynasty, a period the Chinese consider the most humiliating in their long history. In 1860 British and French troops marched on the old Summer Palace and burned it to the ground. In 1900, the diabolical Boxer Rebellion broke out across China. Anti-foreign sentiment ran high. A *London Times* reporter described the carnage that took place in Beijing: "As darkness came on, the most awful cries were heard in the city, most demonic and unforgettable, the cries of the Boxers—'Sha kuei-tzu' (kill the devils)—mingled with the shrieks of the victims and the groans of the dying. For Boxers were sweeping through the city, massacring the native Christians and burning them alive in their homes."



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 = Adherents to any form of Christianity

The Japanese occupied the city in 1937, followed by the Kuomintang after the Japanese defeat. In January, 1949, Communist forces entered Beijing and took control. Later in the year, on October 1, Mao Zedong proclaimed the new People's Republic of China to a million ecstatic spectators gathered in Tiananmen Square. Tiananmen again became the focus of world attention on June 4, 1989, when a student democracy movement was savagely put down by army troops. Although the Chinese authorities claim only a small number of people died in the incident, valid local estimates place the number of dead at around six thousand. The June 4th massacre was a turning point in recent Chinese history, enforcing the authority of the Communist Party and silencing dissent.

The history of Christianity in Beijing dates back a long way. The Catholic missionary John of Montecorvino constructed a magnificent church in the city in 1299. By 1305 he had won 6,000 converts. John was opposed by the jealous Nestorians, who called him a "spy, magician, and deceiver of men." John claimed he would have baptized more than 30,000 converts if it had not been for the slander of the Nestorians.

Today, the best estimates for the number of Christians in Beijing do not exceed 70,000, which amounts to less than one percent of the population. Being the Communist capital, the local authorities in Beijing watch the church closely. In 1998, 85-year-old pastor Allen Yuan was placed under house arrest after he had baptized about 350 new believers. Yuan refuses to join the government-sanctioned Three Self Movement so his church has not been allowed to reopen.

Despite its fame, Beijing remains a largely unreached and unevangelized city. Most of the city's two million households have no way of hearing the Gospel.



A PLA soldier stands guard in front of the Tiananmen Gate in Beijing. On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China from this same place.

Pray for Beijing

1. Beijing has not contained many Christians throughout its long history. Pray this would soon change, with tens of thousands of people coming to know Jesus Christ.
2. Pray the believers in Beijing would be bold and evangelistic, and would not hesitate to spread the Gospel to their lost neighbors and friends.
3. Pray Christians from all over China would heed God's call to take the Gospel to the people of Beijing.

Overview of Beijing

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| Pronunciation | : "Bei-jing" | Employed people | : 3,749,103 (59.3% of total population) |
| Old Spelling | : Peking | Main Industries | : Industrial 34.1%; Professional 22%; Commerce 11% |
| Location | : Beijing Municipality, northeast China | Educational | : University: 9.8% |
| Population | : 6,325,723 (1990 census) | Attainment | : High School: 62.2% |
| Males | : 3,304,879 (52.24%) | (highest level) | : Primary School: 20.2% |
| Females | : 3,020,844 (47.76%) | Never attended any level of school: | : 7.8% |
| Households | : 1,831,078 | Population under 15 | : 17.2% |
| Average household | : 3.45 people | Adult Literacy | : 92% (men 97%; women 87%) |
| Divorced people | : 44,606 | Major Nationalities | : Han 6,032,150 |
| % of population | : 0.70% | | : Hui 152,578 |
| Centurians (1990) | : 38 people aged 100 or more | | : Manchu 104,483 |
| Immigrants to City | : 118,054 per year | | : Mongol 15,172 |
| From same province | : 9,762 (8.3%) | | : Korean 7,127 |
| From other provinces | : 106,585 (90.3%) | | : Others (51 groups): 14,203 |
| | | Christians | : 60,000 (0.7%) |