

Benxi

本溪

The little-known city of Benxi (“Original Brook”) is located about 75 km (46 miles) southeast of Shenyang City, in eastern Liaoning Province. Liaoning, along with Jilin and Heilongjiang, are the three provinces that used to be known collectively as Manchuria, the region now commonly called *Dongbei* (North-east) by Chinese people.

Benxi contains just under one million people. The population consists of several major ethnic groups. The Han Chinese constitute the largest majority in Benxi, with more than 86% of the city’s residents, but there are also communities of 100,000 Manchu people, more than 25,000 Hui Muslims, 3,800 Koreans and 2,200 Mongols.

The 1990 census also revealed that 634 mem-

Population:
 937,805 (1990)
 967,815 (2000)
 998,800 (2010)

Province:
 Liaoning

Major Ethnic Groups:
 Han 86.3%
 Manchu 10.2%
 Hui 2.7%
 Korean 0.4%

Christians:
 13,000 (1.3%)

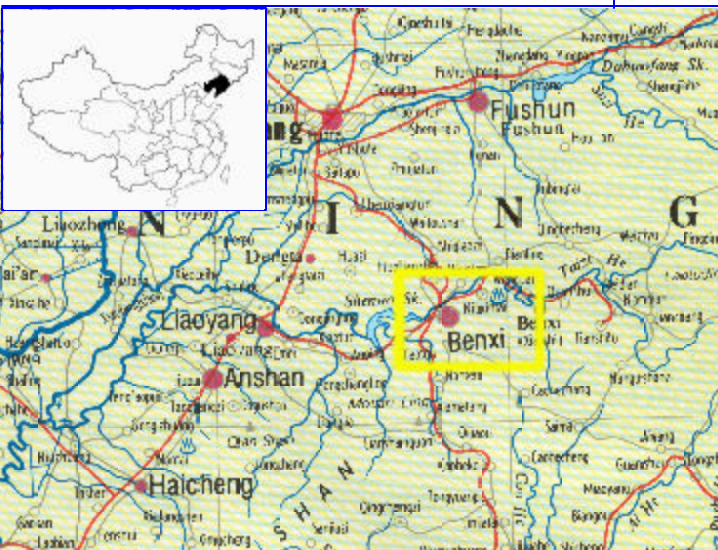
bers of the Xibe minority group make their homes in Benxi. The Xibe are the descendants of Manchu soldiers who were positioned around various regions of China by the Qing government during the mid-1700s.

It is a sad indicment of Benxi that it gained nationwide notriety for its horrific pollution levels. Indeed, Benxi in the 1980s became known as “the city that is invisible from space” when satellite photographs failed to see through the thick smog that perpetually covers the city.

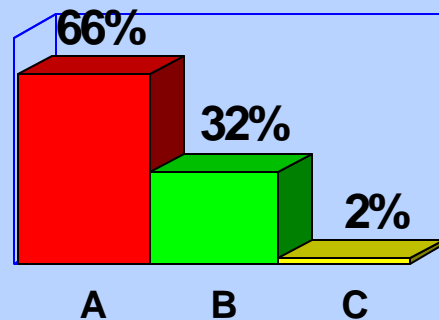
Benxi’s blanket of smog results from being a heavy industrial city with numerous iron and coal mines.

It was founded as a metallurgical center in 1915, and today is the fifth largest steel producing city in China. Per capita it produces more steel than anywhere else in the country. It also contains many chemical, cement and manufacturing plants. Benxi is ringed by mountains, which prevent the pollution from dispersing.

The government, to its credit, has taken the pollution problem seriously and has spent more than US\$ 60 million to improve air quality. As a result of their “blue sky” policy, dust precipitation fell from 53 tons per square kilometer per month in 1989 to 36 tons in 1999. Total partivulate emissions fell 10,000 tons since 1997, but Benxi still qualifies as



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



an extremely polluted city, with more than seven million tons of coal burned in the city each year.

Although the above description of Benxi sounds unappealing the city, which is located on the lower reaches of the Taizi River, does contain some lovely nature spots.

The Benxi Water Cave National Park covers 45 sq. kilometers (18 sq. miles) and is composed of six scenic spots distributed in a belt along the Taizi River: the Water Cave, the Spa Temple, Tanggou Valley, Mount Guanmen, Mount Tiecha and Mount Miaohou.

Although Benxi's pollution problems would probably not endear too many missionary candidates when they consider places for future ministry in China, the city is a prime location for a Christian more concerned about the eternal plight of a million lost souls than personal comfort.

Liaoning remains one of the most unreached provinces in all of China. Despite recent strong church growth in Heilongjiang Province, Inner Mongolia, and other nearby parts of China, the people of Liaoning remain indifferent to the claims of the Gospel and little encouraging news has been received concerning the advance of the Gospel there.

Pray for Benxi

- 1** Pray the people of Benxi would be as eager for Christ's inner cleansing as they are to clean up their environment.
- 2** Ask God to glorify His Name among every ethnic group living in Benxi.
- 3** Pray the Church in Benxi would have all their needs supplied by the Lord.

Overview of Benxi (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Ben-shee"	Employed People	: 528,551 (56.4% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Penki, Penhsi	Main Industries	: Industrial 54.9%, Professional 13.5%
Location	: eastern Liaoning Province, NE China	Education	: University: 5.2%
Population	: 937,805 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 61.2%
Males	: 475,753 (50.73%)		: Primary school: 23.0%
Females	: 462,062 (49.27%)		: Never attended any school: 10.6%
Households	: 267,513	Population under 15:	: 271,048 (28.9%)
Average Household	: 3.5 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 9.3% (men 4.8%; women 13.9%)
Divorced People	: 8,168	Major Nationalities	: Han 809,620
% divorced of Population:	: 0.87		: Manchu 95,967
Centurions (1990)	: 2 people aged 100 or more		: Hui 25,261
Immigrants to City	: 34,423		: Korean 3,782
From same province:	: 23,293 (67.7%)		: Others 3,175 (19 groups)
From other provinces:	: 11,110 (32.3%)	Christians (2003)	: 13,000 (1.3%)