

Kashgar 喀什

Although Kashgar City officially only contains 330,000 people, it is an extremely important and strategic place. Kashgar City is just one part of the larger Kashgar Prefecture, which is home to 2.3 million people.

A major earthquake struck Kashgar in February 2003, killing more than a thousand people.

Kashgar is surrounded by deserts on every side. In reality it is a giant oasis, 1290 meters (4,231 feet) above sea-level. Numerous vegetables and fruit grow here, while wheat, maize and cotton are the main crops.

Visitors to Kashgar (which is called 'Kashi' in Chinese) are immediately struck by the different atmosphere. In many ways it remains a world removed from the hustle and bustle of life in "faraway China." This is not surprising considering more than 76% of the population in Kashgar are Muslims belonging to the Uyghur minority group, while only 22% of the city's residents are Han Chinese. Almost all of the Han have migrated into Xinjiang in recent decades, part of China's plan to overwhelm the Muslim majority in the disputed region by sheer weight of numbers. To this day, the Muslims of Kashgar have much more in common to the people of nearby Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan than with

Population:
215,437 (1990)
324,534 (2000)
488,900 (2010)

Province:
Xinjiang

Major Ethnic Groups:

Uyghur	76.5%
Han	22.0%
Uzbek	0.5%
Hui	0.5%

Christians:
1,100 (0.3%)

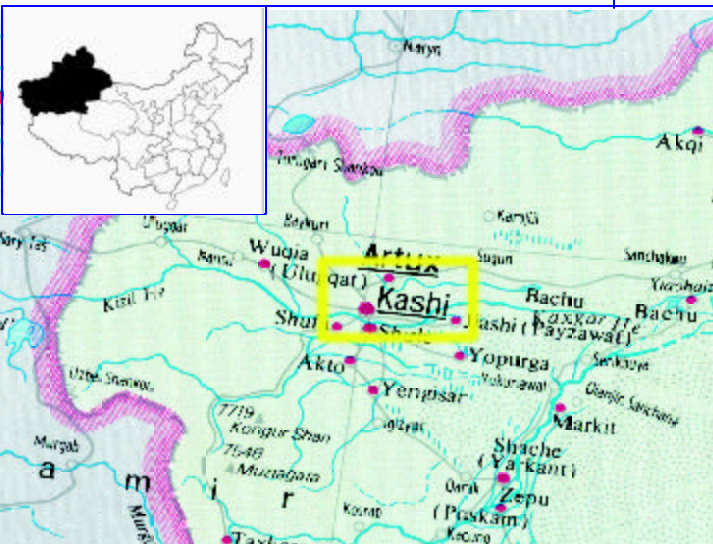
China

Kashgar was known as Shule in ancient times and has a rich history of more than two thousand years. Its prominence was due to its location on the Silk Road, joining China with Central Asia and Europe. According to the *Persian Epic*, an ancient Tular hero named Afulabuseyav established his kingdom here. Chinese influence in the region began as early as the 2nd century AD, though it was nominal. Records of the Roman Empire show that they traded in Kashgar in the sixth century. China only gained definitive control over the city in 1760, though since then there has been

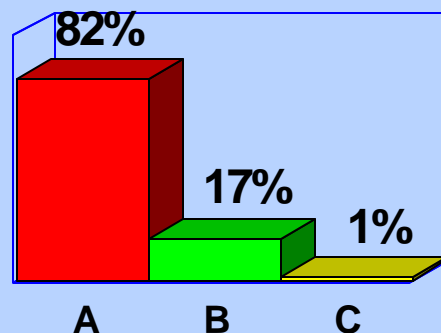
regular uprisings and contested control.

Marco Polo visited Kashgar as he entered China across the mountains from today's Pakistan in 1275. Polo's observations of the city show how remarkably little Kashgar has changed in more than seven hundred years: "The inhabitants live by trade and industry. They have fine orchards and vineyards and flourishing estates. Cotton grows here in plenty, besides flax and hemp. The soil is fruitful and productive of all the means of life. The country is the starting-point from which many merchants set out to market their wares all over the world."

Between 750 - 840 Kashgar was the capital of the Uyghur empire. Islam had not yet conquered the re-



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



gion and the predominant religion was Manichaeism. Polo commented, "The inhabitants here are idolators and utter savages, living entirely by the chase and dressed in the skins of beasts."

Though founded about 2,000 years ago, Kashgar has never responded to the Gospel in any significant way throughout its history. The Nestorians established several churches in Kashgar between the 7th and 13th centuries, but persecution and corruption by the Nestorians resulted in the church disappearing in Kashgar for the next 500 years. Islam flourished in its place and the city became a leading Muslim center.

The Swedish Missionary Society recommenced work in Kashgar in 1892. By 1930 they had 300 converts in Kashgar, almost all of them being Uygurs. A purge of Christianity by Abdullah Khan in 1933 resulted in the missionaries being expelled and many of the Uygur Christians were killed in a mass execution. Khan said, "It is my duty...to put you to death, because by your preaching you destroyed the faith of some of us."

Today there are hundreds of Chinese Christians in Kashgar, but only a handful of Uygur believers. Because of the deep prejudices and cultural-linguistic differences that exist, the Chinese evangelists have experienced little success in reaching out to their Muslim neighbors.

Pray for Kashgar

- 1** Pray the blood spilled by Christians in Kashgar will be the seed for a strong Church in this ancient city.
- 2** Ask God to open the hearts of Muslims to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- 3** Pray the Name of Jesus Christ would be glorified and honored in Kashgar.

Overview of Kashgar (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation :	"Kash-gahr"	Employed People :	83,752 (38.9% of total population)
Chinese name :	Kashi	Main Industries :	Agriculture 25.3%, Industrial 22.2%
Location :	western Xinjiang Region, NW China	Education :	University: 11.0%
Population :	215,437 (1990 census)	(highest level :	High School: 37.9%
Males :	108,702 (50.46%)	attended):	Primary school: 36.0%
Females :	106,655 (49.54%)		Never attended any school: 15.1%
Households :	46,872	Population under 15:	69,134 (32.1%)
Average Household :	4.6 people	Adult Illiteracy :	15.2% (men 12.5%; women 17.9%)
Divorced People :	5,136	Major Nationalities :	Uygur 164,876
% divorced of Population:	2.38		Han 47,378
Centurions (1990) :	8 people aged 100 or more		Uzbek 1,183
Immigrants to City :	16,208		Hui 989
From same province:	13,152 (81.1%)		Others 1,011 (19 groups)
From other provinces:	3,055 (18.9%)	Christians (2003) :	1,100 (0.3%)