

Qingzhou 青州

Qingzhou (“Blue State”), with a population of approximately 900,000 people, is located in the north-central part of Shandong Province in eastern China. Qingzhou is one in a string of large cities across Shandong that are unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is located about 60 km (37 miles) from the Bohai Sea, approximately half way between Zibo City, 50 km (31 miles) to the west, and Weifang City to the east.

More than 97% of the residents of Qingzhou belong to the Han Chinese ethnic majority. The only two minority groups with any significant representation in Qingzhou are the 19,500 Hui people, who are Muslims, and 2,300 Manchus. In all, there are individuals living in Qingzhou from 23 of China’s 55 officially-recognized minority groups.

Qingzhou is known as ‘the city of kites.’ Locals believe the art of kite-flying was invented here by the great Chinese philosopher Mo-tse (468 - 376 BC). Mo-tse handed his kite-making knowledge down to his student Gongshuban, who succeeded in keeping his bamboo kite flying in the sky for three days.

For centuries Qingzhou has been an important economic, military and cultural center. Today it is

Population:
876,073 (1990)
896,807 (2000)
918,000 (2010)

Province:
Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 97.3%
Hui 2.3%
Manchu 0.3%
Dong 0.1%

Christians:
21,500 (2.4%)

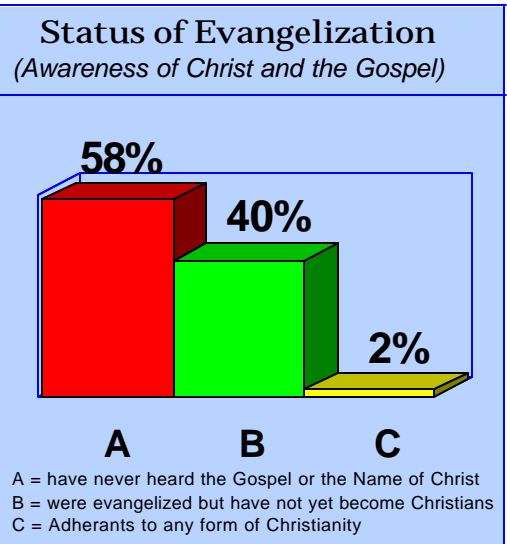
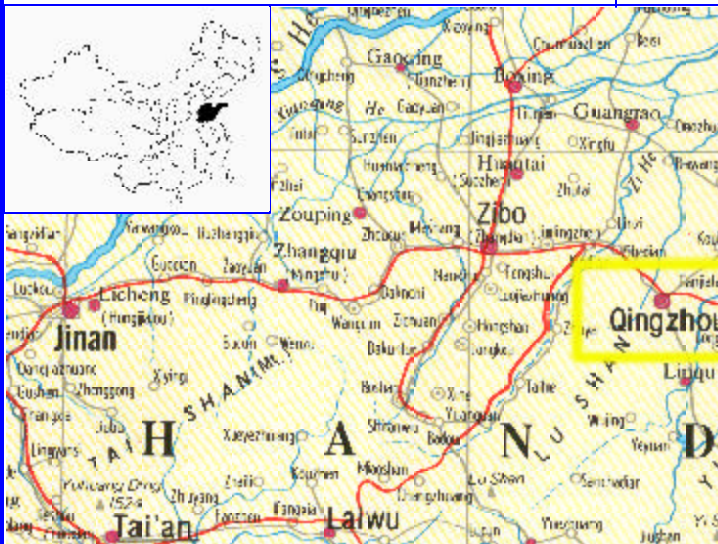
an economic leader in Shandong and a popular destination for tourists.

One Qingzhou tourist brochure persuades visitors to come to the city with these bold words: “The long history, the brilliant culture, and the rapid development of a modern economy, offer abundant tourism resources and precious cultural relics in Qingzhou, and constitute the character of highly visual enjoyment with a rich cultural content. Among the great tourist attractions are picturesque landscapes with green mountains and dainty waters, strange caves and thick forests; there are precious cultural relics and many kinds of folk

customs indicating diverse ethnic cultures.”

Indeed, any people considering moving to Qingzhou may find it a more comfortable city to live in than most other places in China. Downtown Qingzhou has at least six large department stores and five shopping centers stocked with goods from around the world. These are all located on or near a three-mile long street that is the financial and commercial hub of the city.

Qingzhou is also renowned for its agricultural products, with crops such as wheat, corn, sweet potato, peanut, soybean, sorghum, millet and tobacco. Delicious Qingzhou peaches are exported throughout China and abroad.





Qingzhou was an important Buddhist center for more than fifteen centuries. The ancient ruins of the Longing Temple was excavated in the 1990s. During the process, in October 1996, archaeologists discovered a hoard of more than 400 Buddhist statues, dating from the Northern Wei (386 - 534 AD) and Eastern Wei (534 - 550) dynasties. These idols have been restored and sent on exhibitions around the world in recent years.

It is difficult to find any information about the missions history in Qingzhou, as it was a very small country town until the 1950s and barely rated a mention in mission reports. Jinan City first had Protestant missionaries in 1874, and nearby Zibo in 1896, so it is likely workers preached the Gospel in Qingzhou during their journeys in the late 19th century.

There are an estimated 21,500 Christians in Qingzhou today, divided between official and unregistered Protestant churches, and a few Catholic churches.

The small yet zealous Christian community in Qingzhou desires to make their city a place where the true God reigns, rather than a place of idolatry that it has been for so long. The majority of people in the city remain unaware of the Gospel.

Pray for Qingzhou

- 1** Pray God will smash the rampant idolatry that rules over the lives of thousands of people in Qingzhou.
- 2** Pray Jesus will be on the lips and hearts of all people in Qingzhou.
- 3** Ask God to send revival to the churches of central Shandong.

Overview of Qingzhou (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Ching-joe"	Employed People	: 522,175 (61.1% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Tsing-chau	Main Industries	: Agriculture 82.0%, Industrial 8.6%
Location	: North Shandong Province, East China	Education (highest level attended):	University: 1.7% High School: 41.0% Primary school: 40.9% Never attended any school: 16.4%
Population	: 855,115 (1990 census)	Population under 15:	214,414 (25.1%)
Males	: 434,522 (50.81%)	Adult Illiteracy	: 17.7% (men 8.8%; women 26.7%)
Females	: 420,593 (49.19%)	Major Nationalities	: Han 764,439 Hui 19,546 Manchu 2,251 Dong 55 Others 215 (23 groups)
Households	: 222,112	Christians (2003)	: 21,500 (2.4%)
Average Household	: 3.8 people		
Divorced People	: 1,406		
% divorced of Population:	0.16		
Centurions (1990)	: 1 person aged 100 or more		
Immigrants to City	: 9,441		
From same province:	5,695 (60.3%)		
From other provinces:	3,744 (39.7%)		