

Rongcheng 荣成

Rongcheng (“Glorious Future”) has the distinction of being the easternmost city in Shandong Province in eastern China. It is located at the end of the Shandong Peninsula, just a few miles from the juncture of the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea. Rongcheng is surrounded by the sea on three different sides. In the 1990 census the population of the city was given as 754,000, which grew to 852,000 in 2000.

There are 56 officially-recognized ethnic groups in China, but Rongcheng consists almost entirely of Han people. At the time of the 1990 census, 753,446 out of the city’s 754,286 residents were Han. The minorities were represented by a few hundred Manchu and Korean people, and, strangely, 72 members of the Wa minority, whose homeland is located at the opposite end of the country in southwest Yunnan Province.

Visitors to Rongcheng are immediately impressed by the city’s wealth. Many modern imported luxury cars fill the streets and people are generally well dressed and financially comfortable compared to other parts of China.

Due to its close proximity to trading partners Japan and Korea, and with rich agricultural and fishing resources, Rongcheng was actually ranked

Population:
754,286 (1990)
852,343 (2000)
963,100 (2010)

Province:
Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.7%
Manchu 0.1%
Korean 0.1%
Wa 0.1%

Christians:
17,000 (2.0%)

as the strongest economic city in northern China in 1991, and the twelfth strongest economy nationwide. By the year 2001 Rongcheng had attracted more than 1,400 foreign investment projects valued at US\$ 500 million. In the past few years the port city has constructed four development zones and a trade and recreation resort built with an investment of over one billion Yuan.

Rongcheng and its surrounding region has mineral deposits of gold, silver, copper, zirconium, graphite, quartz and granite. The reserves of naceous quartz, the raw material for making high-quality glass, is one of

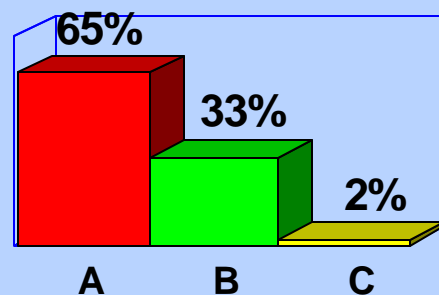
the highest in the world at more than 100 tons.

The fishing industry is also vitally important for Rongcheng. In 1993, the total output of the city’s fishing industry reached 721,000 tons, of which 200,000 tons were kelp, making up two-thirds of China’s entire kelp production.

While the city has done a good job at increasing its economic wealth, this has not resulted in a more moral society. In fact, the rush for money has exacerbated serious crime in all of its forms. Rongcheng made national news in May 2001, when more than 100 people from Henan Province were rescued from a kelp factory in Rongcheng. They had been kidnapped and trucked to Shandong where 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



forced to work as slaves. One of the workers managed to escape from the factory and contacted his family in Henan, which led to the government's intervention.

Rongcheng is home to some beautiful nature reserves, including Swan Lake at Chengshanwei, where more than 10,000 swans come each winter. It is the largest winter habitat for swans in the world. Many of Rongcheng's 500,000 visitors each year come to see the protected swans, a welcome change from the 1960s to '80s when locals hunted and killed thousands of the swans each year with homemade explosives.

Although Rongcheng ranks as one of China's wealthiest cities, people have found that material wealth has failed to fill the spiritual void in their hearts. Gambling, alcoholism and prostitution are major vices common in Rongcheng.

Presbyterian and Southern Baptist missionaries commenced work in Rongcheng in 1905, but they struggled to make much progress. After seventeen years they counted just 80 Chinese converts. Today only about two percent of the city's residents follow Jesus Christ. Approximately two-thirds have never heard the Gospel.

Pray for Rongcheng

- 1** Rongcheng means "Glorious or Honorable Future." Pray it will truly become a place filled with God's glory.
- 2** Ask God to glorify the Name of Jesus in every family in Rongcheng City.
- 3** Pray people in Rongcheng will reject materialism and embrace Christ.

Overview of Rongcheng (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Rong-cheng"
Old Spelling : Yung-cheng
Location : eastern Shandong Province, east China
Population : 754,286 (1990 census)
Males : 380,650 (50.46%)
Females : 373,636 (49.54%)
Households : 251,811
Average Household : 3.0 people
Divorced People : 3,418
% divorced of Population: 0.45
Centurions (1990) : 5 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 11,107
From same province: 4,669 (42.0%)
From other provinces: 6,423 (57.8%)

Employed People : 484,606 (64.2% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 73.0%, Industrial 15.8%
Education (highest level attended):
University: 1.1%
High School: 47.4%
Primary school: 38.8%
Never attended any school: 12.7%
Population under 15: 160,239 (21.2%)
Adult Illiteracy : 13.0% (men 7.1%; women 18.9%)
Major Nationalities : Han 753,446
Manchu 260
Korean 251
Wa 72
Others 257 (21 groups)
Christians (2003) : 17,000 (2.0%)