

SHIJIAZHUANG 石家庄

Shijiazhuang is the capital city of Hebei Province in northeastern China. According to the 1990 census, Shijiazhuang was home to more than 1.39 million people, including 114,000 people who live in the Shijiazhuang Jingxing district, technically outside the city limits.

Shijiazhuang is a railway junction town approximately 250 km (154 miles) southwest of Beijing. Although now it is a booming, industrialized city, at the turn of the 20th century Shijiazhuang was a tiny village inhabited by just 500 people. The construction of the Beijing to Wuhan railway in 1905 rapidly expanded the population to about 10,000 in the 1920's. In recent years the population of Shijiazhuang has mushroomed because of a flood of immigrants who have come to the city looking for work and better living conditions. More than 35,000 people each year permanently migrate to the city. Often men come for work, leaving their wives and children back home. If they successfully procure a job they send money back home for their family's support.

Youthful Shijiazhuang City was laid out in square blocks by city planners, radiating from the train station in the center of town. Being a provincial capital, more than 62,000 people in Shijiazhuang work for the government,

Population:
1,390,206 (1990)
1,868,300 (2000)
2,510,700 (2010)

Province:
Hebei

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 98.3%
Hui 1.0%
Manchu 0.4%
Mongol 0.1%

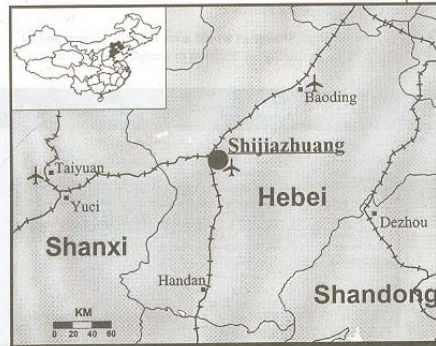
Christians:
13,000 (0.7%)

the fourth highest category of employed people after "Industrial", "Professionals" (doctors, scientists, etc.) and "Commerce" (shop owners and traders).

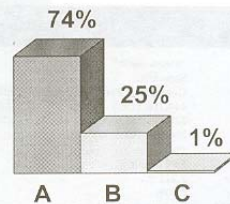
Because of its lack of history, there are few sites or old buildings to see in Shijiazhuang, although there are several important ancient temples and landmarks surrounding the city. Oddly, one of the most famous landmarks in Shijiazhuang today is the tomb of Canadian Norman Bethune, who died in 1939. He is perhaps the best known foreigner in the hearts of Chinese people, even better known than Marco Polo. Bethune was a doctor who served with the Eighth Route Army in the Chinese struggle against Japan. Previously he had served with the Communists in Spain. Mao Zedong stated, "We must all learn the spirit of absolute selflessness from Dr. Norman Bethune." Bethune is so fondly thought of in China that 'Bethune' is synonymous with 'Canada'.

More than 700 Chinese war heroes are buried in the cemetery in Shijiazhuang. These include soldiers who fought in the Japanese, Korean and Civil Wars. A Martyr's Mausoleum is located on Zhongshan Road, west of the train station.

Just ten km (six miles) north of Shijiazhuang is the town of



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

Zhengding, which contains several temples and monasteries. The oldest is the Longxing Monastery which houses a 20 meter (66 feet) high Buddha dating from the Song Dynasty (960-1279). The idol is part of the Temple of Great Mercy. Possibly because of the presence of the ancient Buddhist influence in Zhengding, Shijiazhuang today is home to a community of more than 450 ethnic Tibetans, thousands of miles from their traditional homeland. Shijiazhuang is dominated by the Han Chinese, although more than 14,000 Hui Muslims also live in the city. They are easily spotted around the town as the Hui men wear white caps and the women wear head coverings. There are a number of Hui restaurants in Shijiazhuang, each boasting a sign in Chinese stating "No Pork sold here".

There is a significant community of more than 6,000 Manchu people in Shijiazhuang, as well as 900 Mongols and 460 Koreans.

The Catholics have dominated missionary work in Hebei Province. Today they number at least four times as many adherents as Protestants. Hebei could be rightly described as the Catholic center of China. They have suffered horrendous persecution for their faith in recent decades, especially those sections of the Catholic church who acknowledge the authority of the Pope and who seek to maintain their links with the Vatican in Rome.

The Protestant community is also growing in Hebei Province, but the majority of people in Shijiazhuang have yet to encounter the Gospel. Although approximately one percent of Shijiazhuang are professing Christians, few evangelistic activities take place in the city. Christianity is seen as a private conviction and not a life-changing encounter with God. Many people in Shijiazhuang view Christianity with suspicion and link it to the colonial era when foreign powers controlled China.



Shijiazhuang has grown from a village of 500 people in 1900 to more than 1.8 million today. Ninety-nine percent of the people in Shijiazhuang do not personally know Jesus Christ.

Pray for Shijiazhuang

- 1 Pray the Holy Spirit would soften the hearts of people in Shijiazhuang, that they would see their great need for God and humbly seek Him with all their hearts.
- 2 Ask God to glorify the Name of Jesus Christ throughout Shijiazhuang. Pray no section of society will remain ignorant of the Gospel or the claims of Christ.
- 3 Pray God would send many church planters to Shijiazhuang from Han Chinese churches in more reached parts of the nation.

Overview of Shijiazhuang

Pronunciation	: "Shi-jeah-zhooong"	Employed people	: 814,282 (58.6% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Shih-chia-chuang	Main Industries	: Industrial 47.6%; Professional 17.2%; Commerce 9.9%
Location	: Hebei Province, northeast China	Educational	: University: 5.1%
Population	: 1,390,206 (1990 census)	Attainment	: High School: 63.6%
Males	: 727,171 (52.30%)	Primary School	: 23.5%
Females	: 663,035 (47.70%)	(highest level attended)	: Never attended any level of school: 7.8%
Households	: 173,004	Population under 15	: 19.6%
Average household	: 3.73 people	Adult Literacy	: 92% (men 97%; women 87%)
Divorced people	: 5,721	Major Nationalities	: Han 1,367,782
% of population	: 0.41%		: Hui 14,943
Centurions (1990)	: 2 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 5,867
Immigrants to City	: 36,651 per year		: Mongol 895
From same province	: 25,781 (70.3%)		: Korean 466
From other provinces	: 10,845 (29.6%)	Christians	: 13,000 (0.7%)
			: Others (29 groups): 1,153