

TAIYUAN 太原

Taiyuan City, the capital of Shanxi ('West of the Mountains') Province in northern China, is home to more than 2.7 million people. The city is attracting throngs of immigrant workers every year, of which approximately 35,000 stay and permanently settle in the city annually. The subsequent population increase means that by the year 2010, Taiyuan will be home to approximately 3.7 million inhabitants.

Ninety-nine percent of the people in Taiyuan belong to the Han Chinese nationality, although the natives of Shanxi speak the Jin Chinese language. Jin was formerly classified as a dialect of northern Mandarin, but many linguists now consider it a distinct Chinese language group. Among the remaining inhabitants of Taiyuan are 13,500 Hui, 5,000 Manchu, 600 Mongols and 450 Koreans.

Taiyuan has experienced an economic boom in the past ten years. This is reflected in a 1990 figure, which found an incredible 100,000 people in the city were employed in the construction industry.

Shanxi Province is considered the cradle of Chinese civilization, especially in the first thousand years after the Birth of Christ. Shanxi formed the territory of the state of Qin, which was the first dynasty to unify all of China. The

Population:
2,051,558 (1990)
2,757,000 (2000)
3,705,200 (2010)

Province:
Shanxi

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 90.0%
Hui 0.6%
Manchu 0.2%
Mongol 0.1%

Christians:
14,000 (0.5%)

first settlements in Taiyuan date back 2,500 years. When Marco Polo passed through the city in the 13th century he described it as "a prosperous city, a great center for trade and industry."

For centuries Taiyuan witnessed wars, conflicts and paid host to numerous raiding armies who continually passed through Taiyuan on the way to a conquest. At one stage the city was home to 29 different temples dedicated to the god of War.

Today, Taiyuan contains several important old religious sites, including the Chongshan Buddhist Monastery, built on the site of an older temple which dates back to the sixth century AD, and the Twin Pagoda Temple, built more than 500 years ago. Twenty-five km (15 miles) southwest of Taiyuan is the Jinci Temple, which for more than 1,000 years has been a focal point of local Buddhists and Daoists. Regular prayers and sacrifices were made here to a host of gods, demons and protective spirits. These ancient strongholds are strategic locations for on-site prayer and intercession teams to travel to.

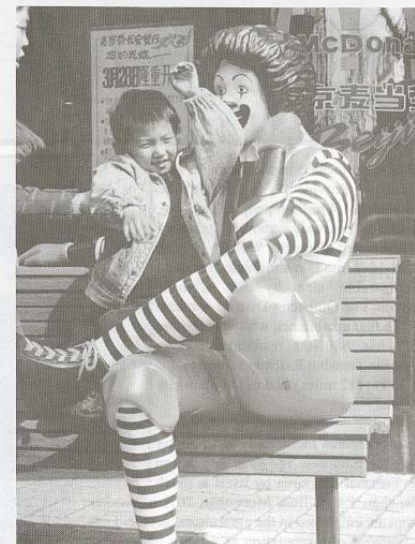
Taiyuan stands out in mission history because of the brutal events of 1900. In the few years preceding the turn of the century, members of a secret society called the Boxers had gone throughout the countryside spreading anti-foreign

propaganda and anti-Christian sentiment. Shanxi was in the grip of a severe drought at the time, which was blamed on the presence of the foreign missionaries. The Boxers rallied the masses by such slogans as "The foreigners have insulted our gods. Foreign blood must be spilled before our gods will send rain." James and Marti Hefley recount the events that transpired in Taiyuan....

"Violence exploded in late June, 1900. Mobs roamed the streets, setting fire to the missionaries compounds.... Thirty-two missionaries and children, along with their loyal Chinese friends, barricaded themselves in the boy's school.... On July 9 soldiers arrived and escorted the missionaries to the courtyard of the governor's palace where they joined twelve Catholic clergy.... The governor announced that the men would die first. George Farthing, one of the English Baptists and the father of three children, stepped forward. His wife clung to him, but he gently put her aside and knelt before the chopping block without a murmur. His head fell with one stroke of the executioner's sword. The other men were killed one by one, then the women and children. The Farthing children hung on to their mother and had to be pulled away when she was ordered to kneel. Mrs. Lovitt was permitted to hold the hand of her little boy. "We all came to China to bring you the good news of salvation by Jesus Christ," she said in a firm voice. "We have done you no harm, only good. Why do you treat us so?" In a strange act of gentleness, a soldier stepped up and removed her spectacles before she and her son were beheaded." (Hefley, *By Their Blood*, pp.15-16).

In all, 159 foreign missionaries were killed in Shanxi Province, plus thousands of Chinese converts. More than 30,000 Chinese Catholics and 2,000 Protestants were butchered throughout the country. Far from destroying the church, however, the number of Christians in China doubled in the six years following the massacre.

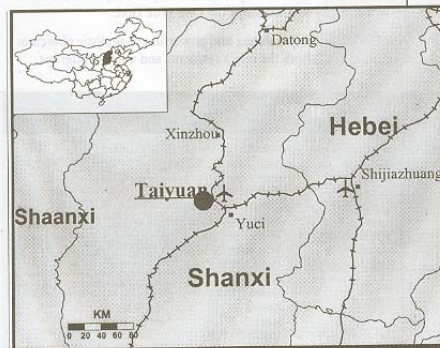
Today Taiyuan remains one of the largest unreached cities in China, with only about one in every 200 of the city's inhabitants being followers of Jesus Christ.



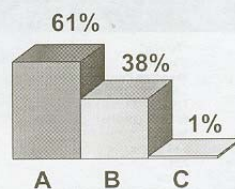
East meets West at this McDonald's store in a major Chinese city.

Pray for Taiyuan

- 1 Taiyuan is a city with a history of blood, hatred and violence. Pray the Gospel would saturate the city, opening the eyes of thousands and cleaning multitudes of black hearts.
- 2 Pray the blood of God's people that has been spilled in Taiyuan will become the seed of a strong, triumphant and evangelistic church.
- 3 Pray against the demonic strongholds that keep the 2.7 million souls in Taiyuan lost, blind and hell-bound.



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

Overview of Taiyuan

Pronunciation	: "Tai-yooahn"	Employed people	: 1,123,508 (54.7% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Tai-yuen	Main Industries	: Industrial 43.9%; Professional 17%; Agriculture 11.5%
Location	: Shanxi Province, northern China	Educational Attainment	: University: 4.1%; High School: 62.6%; Primary School: 25.1%; Never attended any level of school: 8.2%
Population	: 2,051,558 (1990 census)	Population under 15	: 20.6%
Males	: 1,084,008 (52.84%)	Adult Literacy	: 92% (men 96%; women 88%)
Females	: 967,550 (47.16%)	Major Nationalities	: Han 2,031,254; Hui 13,213; Manchu 4,904; Mongol 598; Korean 450; Others (27 groups): 1,139
Households	: 519,553	Christians	: 14,000 (0.5%)
Average household	: 3.95 people		
Divorced people	: 11,865		
% of population	: 0.58%		
Centenarians (1990)	: 5 people aged 100 or more		
Immigrants to City	: 34,670 per year		
From same province	: 25,367 (73.2%)		
From other provinces	: 9,290 (26.8%)		