

Tangshan 唐山

Tangshan City, located about 40 km (25 miles) inland from the Bohai Sea in northern China, is home to a large population of more than 1.7 million people. The larger Tangshan Prefecture, of which Tangshan City is part, contains about seven million people.

Medium-sized mountains ring Tangshan to the north and east of the city. The giant municipalities of Beijing and Tianjin are easily accessible to Tangshan by road.

Tangshan will always be remembered for the gigantic tragedy that occurred here on July 28, 1976, when the city and surrounding area was completely destroyed by an earthquake. The government claims more than

Population:

1,517,758 (1990)
1,683,459 (2000)
1,867,200 (2010)

Province:

Hebei

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 98.3%
Hui 1.0%
Manchu 0.6%
Korean 0.1%

Christians:

30,000 (1.7%)

250,000 people were killed. A Taiwanese study stated a higher figure of 665,000 deaths.

For centuries many Chinese have believed that natural disasters are a sign of heaven's displeasure against a dynasty's rule, and a sign that change is about to take place. It was no surprising to many, therefore, when Mao Zedong died a few weeks after the destructive earthquake.

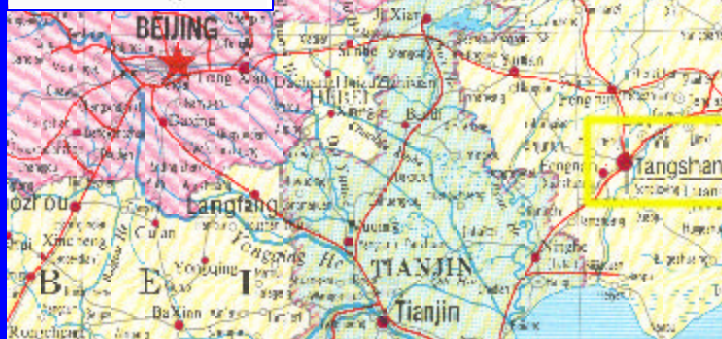
One coal miner, Meng Jiahua, recalls how he was working on the night-shift at the coal-face when he felt the earth trembling around him. He and his fellow workers exited to the surface as quickly as they could.

"All the houses and buildings were flattened. Everything you see around was in ruins. The living were lined up along one side of the road and the corpses on the other side. The strange thing is that almost none of the miners underground were killed. Only those sleeping in their beds at home died." Soldiers dug large pits and filled them with layers of corpses, followed by a layer of lime. Since the bodies were never identified, the surviving family members were never able to perform their ancestral rites. Each year, during the Qing Ming festival, people in Tangshan burn paper 'spirit money' at cross roads to remember their dead.

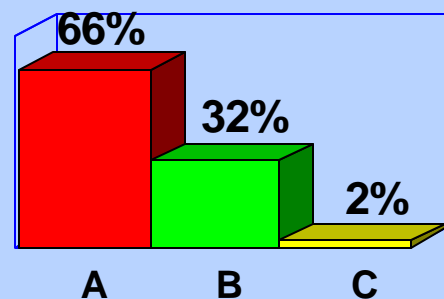
Today Tangshan has been completely rebuilt and



The 1976 Tangshan earthquake flattened the city and killed at least a quarter of a million people.



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



is a thriving economic center - one of the “25 most prosperous” cities in China. In 1998 it was declared an open economic zone, with machinery, motor vehicles, chemicals, coal, steel, textiles, glass, petroleum products and cement being among the city’s most important products. Agricultural produce includes corn, barley, peanut, cotton and vegetables.

The long history of Tangshan was discovered when archeologists unearthed a site filled with relics dating back to 200 BC, plus nine tombs which have been dated to around 900 BC. Not far from the city lie the Eastern Imperial Tombs from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). Five emperors, 15 empresses and 136 concubines are buried there.

During the Japanese invasion in 1938 Tangshan was a key location in the anti-Japanese campaign. The carnage was terrible. In 2001 the 1,900 residents of Panjiadai Village near Tangshan City collectively sued the Japanese government for the 1942 massacre of 1,280 of their relatives. They sought 4.5 billion Yuan (about half a billion U.S. dollars) compensation, a claim not likely to be seriously entertained by the Japanese authorities.

Today less than 2% of Tangshan are Christians, mostly adherents to Catholicism.

Pray for Tangshan

- 1** Pray God’s people in Tangshan will experience a spiritual breakthrough, leading to revival in this needy city.
- 2** Ask Jesus to strengthen and equip all who call on His Name in Tangshan.
- 3** Pray this city of death will become known as a city full of spiritual life.

Overview of Tangshan (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : “Tung-shahn”	Employed People : 858,278 (56.5% of total population)
Old Spelling :	Main Industries : Industrial 47.0%, Agriculture 20.1%
Location : eastern Hebei Province, NE China	Education : University: 5.0%
Population : 1,517,758 (1990 census)	(highest level : High School: 52.0%
Males : 779,898 (51.38%)	attended): Primary school: 30.9%
Females : 737,860 (48.62%)	Never attended any school: 12.1%
Households : 431,757	Population under 15: 344,671 (22.7%)
Average Household : 3.5 people	Adult Illiteracy : 11.7% (men 5.5%; women 18.2%)
Divorced People : 6,286	Major Nationalities : Han 1,492,763
% divorced of Population: 0.41	Hui 14,444
Centurions (1990) : 2 people aged 100 or more	Manchu 8,649
Immigrants to City : 72,469	Korean 853
From same province: 51,117 (70.5%)	Others 1,049 (24 groups)
From other provinces: 21,324 (29.5%)	Christians (2003) : 30,000 (1.7%)