

WAFANGDIAN 瓦房店

The 1990 national census listed a population of just over one million people living in the city of Wafangdian, in northeast China. Wafangdian is located in the southern part of Liaoning Province, a short distance north of the well-known city of Dalian.

Population:
1,001,360 (1990)
1,345,700 (2000)
1,808,500 (2010)

Province:
Liaoning

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 90.7%
Manchu 7.5%
Xibe 1.2%
Hui 0.4%

Christians:
9,000 (0.7%)

Wafangdian is located on a peninsula between the Yellow Sea and the Bohai Sea. It is near the Chinese border with North Korea. Despite its large size, Wafangdian is rarely visited by travelers. It is not known as a particularly attractive city, especially in the freezing winter months when the temperature plummets to below freezing for months at a time. A huge new nuclear power plant is being added to the skyline of Wafangdian, which will not contribute to the city's reputation as a tourist destination.

In addition to the more-than 90% Han Chinese majority in Wafangdian, the city is home to 75,000 ethnic Manchu, 12,000 members of the Xibe nationality, 4,000 Hui Muslims and 1,000 Mongols. Despite its proximity to North Korea, only a few hundred Koreans live in Wafangdian.

The Xibe are an interesting minority group. Although today most of them have lost their culture and language, having been assimilated by the Chinese, they were once a

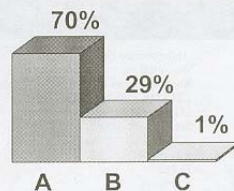
proud group of warriors. After the Manchus seized control of China and established the Qing Dynasty, they enlisted the Xibe as troops and administrators to control many of their newly acquired territories. Between 1690 and 1701, large numbers of Xibe were moved to more than twenty cities in Liaoning Province, including Wafangdian. Although they now look basically the same as their Han Chinese and Manchu neighbors, past records often mention that many Xibe had blond hair and blue eyes.

Interestingly, there are approximately 40,000 Xibe people now living in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on

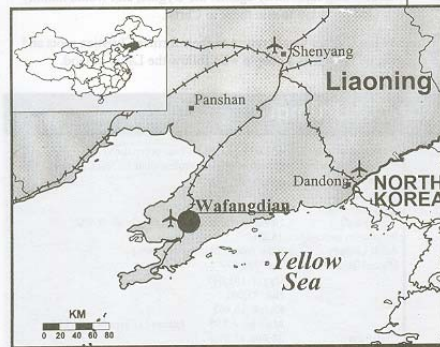


A roadside barber gives a haircut to a grateful customer.

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



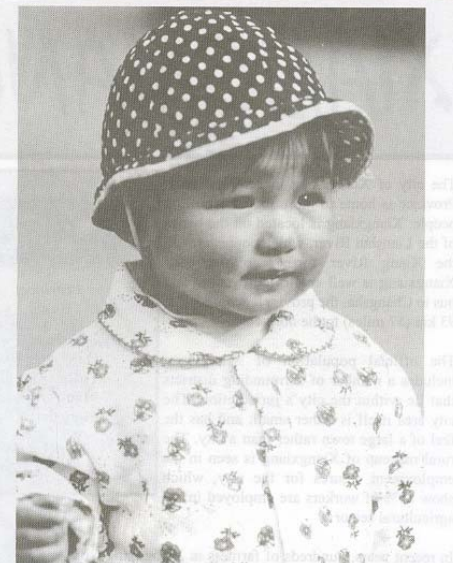
the opposite side of China. They are the descendants of troops who were sent to the Russian border in 1763 to rule the territory of the recently defeated Jungars. After hostilities subsided, the Xibe decided they would stay rather than endure the two-year journey back to their homeland.

More than 60% of the workforce in Wafangdian are employed in the agricultural sector, although there is little to do during the freezing months from November to February. Wafangdian is also the main region in China for diamond production. Approximately half of the country's diamond reserves are mined from Tieling-Dalian kimberlite belt. Two Australian companies, Quantum Resources and Astro Mining, have been awarded a contract by the Chinese government to operate mining in the area.

Although today fewer than one percent of the population of Wafangdian profess to be Christians, there has been three significant revivals in Liaoning during the 20th century. In the early 1900's thousands were swept into the Kingdom of God. A blind evangelist named Chang Sen, who had been a notorious gangster, alcoholic and womanizer before his conversion, walked from village to village preaching the Gospel. It is said that missionaries followed in his footsteps, baptizing thousands of converts and forming churches wherever Chang Sen had gone. Another revival spread through Liaoning and many other parts of Manchuria in 1920, followed by another movement during the Chinese Civil War in the late 1930's.

Many missionary groups worked in Liaoning prior to 1949, including the Methodist Hall of Northern China, The China Presbyterian Congregation and the China-Korea Mission.

Despite the exciting past, there is little knowledge of the Gospel among the people of Wafangdian today.



A small girl searching for her parent's in a Chinese city. Will the children of Wafangdian grow up lost and slaves to sin, or will someone care enough to take the Gospel to them?

Pray for Wafangdian

- 1 Pray another revival would sweep through Wafangdian, ushering thousands into the Kingdom of God. Pray all people in the city would grow up with a chance of hearing the Gospel.
- 2 Ask God to send evangelists and church planters from other parts of China to Wafangdian. Pray the Xibe would be renowned as warriors for Jesus Christ.
- 3 Pray God would give strategies to His church to help them reach every city, town and village where there are lost souls.

Overview of Wafangdian

Pronunciation : "Wah-fung-dee-ahn"
Old Spelling : Wa-fan-t'ien
Location : Liaoning Province, northeast China
Population : 1,001,360 (1990 census)
Males : 512,225 (51.15%)
Females : 489,135 (48.85%)
Households : 276,815
Average household : 3.62 people
Divorced people : 4,044
% of population : 0.40%
Centurions (1990) : 3 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 3,615 per year
From same province : 2,296 (63.5%)
From other provinces : 1,317 (36.4%)

Employed people : 554,796 (55.4% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 60.3%; Industrial 22.5%; Professional 6.1%
Educational : University: 0.2%
Attainment : High School: 42.0%
(highest level) Primary School: 45.0%
Never attended any level of school: 12.8%
Population under 15 : 23.7%
Adult Literacy : 87% (men 93%; women 82%)
Major Nationalities : Han 908,630
Manchu 75,413
Xibe 12,000
Hui 4,032
Mongol 948
Others (14 groups): 337
Christians : 9,000 (0.7%)