

ZAOZHUANG 枣庄

Despite being little-known outside of China, Zaozhuang is the 14th largest city in the country with a population of 2.4 million people. This figure is expected to grow to more than 3.2 million in the next ten years.

Zaozhuang, which means 'village of date-fruit', is located in the southern part of Shandong Province in eastern China, bordering the Yimeng Mountains to the east and facing Weishan Lake to the west. Zaozhuang City is part of the larger Zaozhuang Prefecture, which contains over 3.5 million inhabitants. More than 99 out of every 100 people in Zaozhuang are ethnic Han Chinese, speaking a form of standard Mandarin. Eleven thousand Hui Muslims make up the only significant ethnic minority group in the city. There are small numbers of other minority people in Zaozhuang, including 94 Hani, 84 Lahu, 58 Miao, 54 Yi and 24 Wa. This is extremely surprising because all of these minorities are found in Yunnan Province in southwest China—thousands of miles away from Zaozhuang. Perhaps the tribesmen migrated to Zaozhuang to work in its coal mines.

Zaozhuang has been dubbed "The coal capital of Shandong." There are 125 coal mines in the city and surrounding areas, producing an annual output of 15 million tons. Zaozhuang is also home to six power

Population:
1,793,103 (1990)
2,409,700 (2000)
3,238,400 (2010)

Province:
Shandong

Major Ethnic Groups:

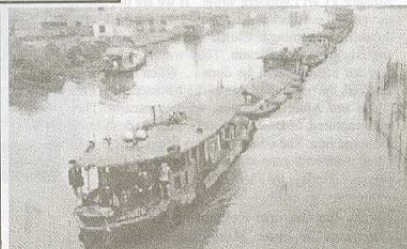
Han 99.2%
Hui 0.6%
Manchu 0.1%
Hani 0.1%

Christians:
26,500 (1.2%)

stations and numerous cement plants. Textiles and machine-building are two other important industries for the city.

Being a working-class city, tertiary education is given a low priority in Zaozhuang. In 1990, just 2,810 people were enrolled in a university, approximately one out of every 1,000 people. The literacy rate in Zaozhuang is also among the nation's lowest, especially among women. In 1990, a staggering 563,516 (91%) of the city's 619,007 adult women were either illiterate or semi-illiterate.

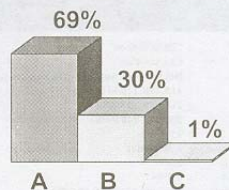
Zaozhuang is situated near the Grand



The ancient Grand Canal flows near Zaozhuang.



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

Canal, one of the world's greatest feats of human endeavor, rivaling even China's Great Wall.

Work on the Grand Canal commenced 2,400 years ago. During the Sui Dynasty (589-618 AD), Emperor Yang Di expanded the canal to link the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers, thus allowing boats to quickly make a journey that would normally have taken a year. The canal caused the inland areas of China to flourish. Millions migrated inland away from the coasts. It is said that five million people labored to build the Grand Canal. Finally, in the 14th century, the Canal stretched from Hangzhou in the south to Beijing in the north, a vast inland man-made waterway measuring 1,800 km (1,111 miles) in length.

Protestant missionaries have been active in Shandong Province since the 1860's. Among the most famous workers to labor in this province were Timothy Richard (to whom a memorial church still stands in Qingzhou); Jonathon Goforth who was used mightily by God to being several powerful revivals in the province; and Lottie Moon, a Southern Baptist who arrived in 1873 and gave 40 years of her life to the people of Shandong. Moon was renowned for the blunt challenges and rebuttals to the churches she had left behind in the United States, challenging them to send more workers and to take responsibility for the evangelization of the lost in China. A special 'Lottie Moon mission offering' was started in Baptist churches, a custom that continues to be collected just before Christmas every year. In recent years the total amount received by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptists has exceeded US \$100 million, all of which is used to spread the Gospel among the nations of the world.

Zaozhuang has a small number of Christians, but together they amount to only about one percent of the city's inhabitants. It is one of the largest and most needy unreached cities in China.



An elderly man selling coal to house-owners on the streets of Zaozhuang. Zaozhuang is nicknamed 'The Coal Capital of Shandong'. One hundred and twenty-five coal-mines are located in and near the city.

Pray for Zaozhuang

- Two thousand years after Christ died for them, the majority of people in Zaozhuang have yet to hear the Good News for the first time in their lives. Pray they soon will know the Gospel.
- Pray the Holy Spirit would strengthen and thrust out His followers into the highways and backstreets of Zaozhuang, compelling people to come into the Kingdom of God.
- Pray the Name of Jesus Christ would be on the lips and in the hearts of the people of Zaozhuang.

Overview of Zaozhuang

Pronunciation : "Zao-zhou-ang"
Old Spelling : Tsao-chuang
Location : Shandong Province, eastern China
Population : 1,793,103 (1990 census)
Males : 926,502 (51.67%)
Females : 866,601 (48.33%)
Households : 444,864
Average household : 4.03 people
Divorced people : 3,271
% of population : 0.18%
Centenarians (1990) : 14 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 7,020 per year
From same province : 4,990 (71.1%)
From other provinces : 2,029 (28.9%)

Employed people : 1,036,174 (57.8% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 76.6%; Industrial 12.4%; Professional 4.7%
Educational : University: 0.2%
Attainment : High School: 33.4%
(highest level)
Primary School: 37.2%
Never attended any level of school: 29.2%
Population under 15 : 29.7%
Adult Literacy : 68% (men 79%, women 57%)
Major Nationalities : Han 1,781,531
Hui 10,915
Manchu 144
Hani 94
Lahu 84
Others (25 groups): 335
Christians : 26,500 (1.2%)