

ZHANGJIAKOU 张家口

The 1990 Chinese census listed a population of 720,000 people in Zhangjiakou City, in the northwestern part of Hebei Province in northern China. The city's population is growing quickly, and is estimated to be 968,000 in the year 2000, and around 1.3 million by 2010. Hebei Province wraps itself around the Beijing and Tianjin Municipalities. Beijing and Tianjin were formerly part of Chihli Province, but were carved out as separate administrative units with the same status as a province in the 1950's. Chihli ('Direct Rule') was renamed Hebei ('North of the River').

Population:
720,814 (1990)
968,700 (2000)
1,301,800 (2010)

Province:
Hebei

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 96.2%
Hui 2.8%
Manchu 0.8%
Mongol 0.1%

Christians:
4,000 (0.4%)

Zhangjiakou, were therefore of great strategic importance to the Chinese, who knew the wall was only as strong as its weakest point. It is believed the Mongol hordes of Genghis Khan were finally able to gain entrance through the Great Wall after they made a secret alliance with a gatekeeper. The Mongols went on to conquer China and establish the largest empire in the history of the world.

More than 96% of the population of Zhangjiakou are members of the Han Chinese nationality. The city is also home to more-than 20,000 Hui, 6,000 Manchu and 1,000 Mongols.

Zhangjiakou is encircled by mountains on three sides, forcing the city to spill eastward onto the plains. Zhangjiakou has been an important city throughout Chinese history because of its location immediately south of the Great Wall. The Great Wall is famous the world-over, but a few facts are worth repeating. Construction on the wall commenced during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC) and the last stage was only completed some 1,700 years later. Built to keep out the aggressive Mongols and barbarian tribes to the north, the wall meanders approximately 5,000 km (3,100 miles) across six northern provinces.

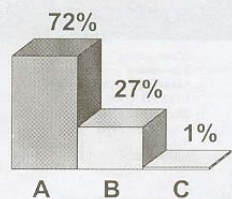
Towns and fortresses along the wall, such as

Recent history in Zhangjiakou has been dominated by the events of 10 January, 1998. A large earthquake struck the city and surrounding districts, killing 50 people, injuring 11,000 and leaving scores of families homeless and without shelter in temperatures of -25°C (-13°F). The European Commission contributed humanitarian aid worth ECU 525,000 for the victims of the earthquake. Together with the Chinese Red Cross and other organizations, much has been done to repair the homes and the lives of those affected by the earthquake, but it has left a scar on the already impoverished community.

Missions work in Hebei Province was dominated by the



Status of Evangelization (Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)

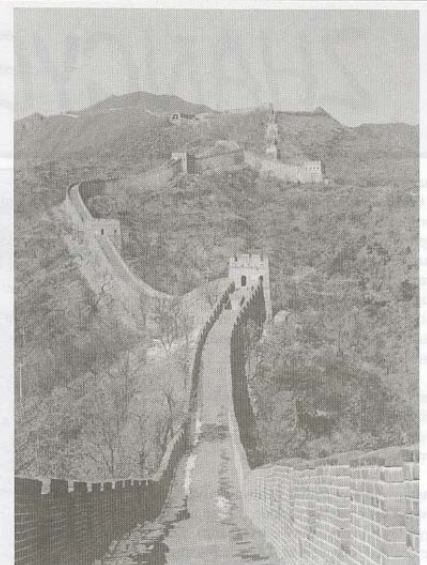


A = have never heard the Gospel or the name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherents to any form of Christianity

Catholics prior to 1949. Consequently, Hebei is known as 'The Rome of the Orient', a nickname that doesn't sit well with the Communist authorities, who perceive submission to the Pope as a political threat. Hebei easily contains the largest number of Catholics of any province in China, with conservative estimates placing the figure at 800,000 (Bridge, December 1989). These Catholic believers have endured great persecution and discrimination because of their faith during the past several decades. In China, the Catholic church does not seem to carry with it as much of the idolatry as it does in other parts of the world. Even in 1922, a Protestant writer in China was forced to commend the faith of Catholic believers. Milton Stauffer wrote, "Go where you will in China, enter their churches when you will, and you will almost invariably find someone at prayer. Or again, if you are passing a little country church at the hour of its daily mass, you will find on any week day a goodly few from the village gathered there for worship." (Stauffer, *The Christian Occupation of China*, p.463)

Protestant work in Hebei only got underway in 1860-61 when the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the United Methodist Church and the London Missionary Society all sent workers to the region. All of the initial workers were based in Beijing and Tianjin, however, and it is not known when the first missionary ventured out into what is today's Hebei Province. Zhangjiakou, however, seems to have been completely forgotten during Protestant missionary efforts. A mission study from the 1920's shows bases and workers in practically every town of the province except Zhangjiakou.

Today, Zhangjiakou is one of the most unreached cities in China, with no more than one out of every 250 people a professing Christian of any kind.



The Great Wall—China's symbol of ingenuity and achievement. The Great Wall was erected to keep out hostile tribes, but at Zhangjiakou it has helped prevent the people from knowing the Gospel.

Pray for Zhangjiakou

- 1 Pray Zhangjiakou would not continue to be neglected by the emissaries of Christ. Pray the city would soon be filled with strong churches and redeemed believers.
- 2 The house-church movement in Hebei Province is not as strong as most other parts of China. Pray God would raise up workers to saturate the most unreached parts of Hebei with His Word.
- 3 Ask God to raise up reproducing fellowships in all the towns and cities along the length of China's Great Wall.

Overview of Zhangjiakou

Pronunciation	: "Jahng-jeeah-koo"	Employed people	: 410,225 (56.9% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Chang-chia-kow	Main Industries	: Industrial 48.2%; Professional 13.3%; Agriculture 12%
Location	: Hebei Province, northern China	Educational	: University: 1.5%
Population	: 720,814 (1990 census)	Attainment	: High School: 60.6%
Males	: 370,676 (51.42%)	(highest level)	: Primary School: 26.7%
Females	: 350,135 (48.58%)	(attended)	: Never attended any level of school: 11.2%
Households	: 217,246	Population under 15	: 20.6%
Average household	: 3.32 people	Adult Literacy	: 89% (men 94%; women 84%)
Divorced people	: 4,068	Major Nationalities	: Han 693,536
% of population	: 0.56%		: Hui 20,142
Centenarians (1990)	: 3 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 5,770
Immigrants to City	: 13,687 per year		: Mongol 1,004
From same province	: 10,944 (80.0%)		: Korean 151
From other provinces	: 2,740 (20.0%)	Christians	: 4,000 (0.4%)
			: Others (16 groups): 211