

# Zhucheng

诸城

With a population of approximately 1.1 million people, Zhucheng ("City of Variety") is one of a dozen large cities in densely-populated Shandong Province in eastern China.

Zhucheng, which was formerly known as Mizhou, is located in east-central Shandong about 75 km (46 miles) west of Qingdao City. Zhucheng is a 'sister city' with the city of Bellevue in Ontario, Canada.

Zhucheng has produced some famous people throughout its long history. Zhang Zeduan, a great artist from the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279) was born here.

In more recent times Zhucheng produced the notorious Jiang Qing the second wife of Chairman Mao Zedong. Jiang was a moderately successful actress in Shanghai in the 1930s, but her life changed when she was introduced to Mao. Jiang married Mao in 1939, even though he was still married to his first wife He Zizhen. The Communist Party leadership strongly opposed Mao's second marriage and they forced her to remain a housewife and keep out of politics. Jiang was far too ambitious for such restrictions, and in the early 1960s she sided with Lin Biao and made a bid for power. By the 1970s she had seized a prominent role in important government activities, supported by the 'Gang of Four.' After Mao's

**Population:**  
1,030,658 (1990)  
1,057,313 (2000)  
1,194,800 (2010)

**Province:**  
Shandong

**Major Ethnic Groups:**

Han 99.7%  
Manchu 0.1%  
Korean 0.1%  
Hui 0.1%

**Christians:**  
19,000 (1.8%)

death in 1976 the Gang of Four were punished and Jiang fell from influence, not to be seen again in national life.

In the 1970s a Christian delegation from the United States toured China, on a trip designed to scope out the state of the Chinese Church after so many decades of brutal oppression. Jiang Qing arrogantly told them, "Christianity in China has been confined to the historical section of the museum. There is not a single Christian left."

She was wrong.

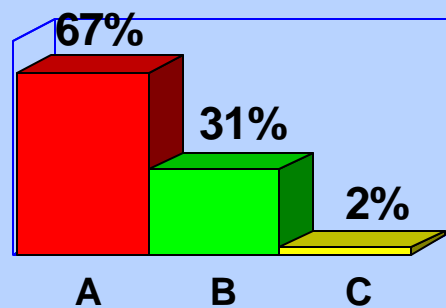
The economy in Zhucheng has been growing steadily, though at a

slower rate than many other cities in the province. Part of the reason for Zhucheng lagging behind economically is the low rate of education and high illiteracy among the city's residents. At the time of the 1990 census, 110,377 (27.9%) of adult women in Zhucheng were found to be illiterate, compared to 15.4% of men. A mere 786 people had ever attended university, though a further 10,000 had managed to attend a tertiary technical college at some stage in their lives. Almost 20% of adults had never attended any formal schooling (including primary school) at any stage of their upbringing.

Traditionally Zhucheng has been a farming town. For centuries the main crops have been grain, cot-



**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 = Adherants to any form of Christianity



ton, seed oil and tobacco. A large amount of pork is produced here also, and exported throughout the country. In the past few decades a manufacturing industry has also emerged, with garments, tires, electronic goods and machinery being the major products.

There are several recognized churches in Zhucheng today, including some fellowships of the Jesus Family tradition. The Jesus Family was founded in 1921 by Jing Dianying in Mazhuang County, Shandong. Members of the Jesus Family were required to sell all their possessions and distribute their wealth among the other family members. Their slogan summarized their commitment and frugal existence: "Sacrifice, abandonment, poverty, suffering, death."

The style of communal life practiced by the Jesus Family attracted those who were searching for answers and those who were homeless, destitute and despised. Many blind people and beggars joined the Jesus Family and gained eternal life in Jesus Christ. Not surprisingly, the lifestyle of the Jesus Family made them targets of the Communists after 1949. At one time there were some 20,000 Christians enlisted in more than 100 different Jesus families throughout China. Today there remains a small yet faithful body of believers in Zhucheng.

### Pray for Zhucheng

- 1** Pray the believers in Zhucheng today will also live with the sacrifice and commitment of their forefathers.
- 2** Ask God to make His Church in Zhucheng like a sharp arrow.
- 3** Pray for a rapid increase in the number of disciples in Zhucheng City.

### Overview of Zhucheng (based on 1990 census)

**Pronunciation** : "Jooch-cheng"  
**Old Names** : Mizhou, Chucheng  
**Location** : E-central Shandong Province, E China  
**Population** : 1,030,658 (1990 census)  
**Males** : 523,425 (50.79%)  
**Females** : 507,233 (49.21%)  
**Households** : 260,678  
**Average Household** : 4.0 people  
**Divorced People** : 1,870  
**% divorced of Population**: 0.18  
**Centurions (1990)** : 3 people aged 100 or more  
**Immigrants to City** : 15,637  
**From same province**: 6,294 (40.3%)  
**From other provinces**: 9,335 (59.7%)

**Employed People** : 653,231 (63.4% of total population)  
**Main Industries** : Agriculture 84.8%, Industrial 7.4%  
**Education** : University: 1.2%  
**(highest level attended)**: High School: 37.2%  
 Primary school: 42.1%  
 Never attended any school: 19.5%  
**Population under 15**: 236,487 (22.9%)  
**Adult Illiteracy** : 21.6% (men 15.4%; women 27.9%)  
**Major Nationalities** : Han 1,030,361  
 Manchu 144  
 Korean 55  
 Hui 31  
 Others 67 (14 groups)  
**Christians (2003)** : 19,000 (1.8%)