

Praying for People's Republic of China

Geography

Area: 9,573,000 sq km. The third-largest state in the world, also containing the highest mountains and plateaus in the world. The climate and geography are extremely diverse, ranging from tropical in the south to sub-arctic in the north, from a highly industrialized and modern eastern seaboard to sparsely populated western deserts and mountain ranges. Hong Kong and Macau are integral parts of China, though their statistics are not included here; Taiwan's status is debated. These three are handled separately.

Population: 1,330,584,783

Annual Growth: 0.63%

Capital: Beijing

Urbanites: 44.9%

Peoples

People Groups: 516 (83% unreached)

Official language: Putonghua (Mandarin Chinese)

Languages: 296 All languages

Religion

Largest Religion: Non-Religious 590,247,410 (44.36%)

Christians: 105,382,315 (7.92%) **Evangelicals:** 75,399,270 (5.7%)



Specific prayer needs listed on back.

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People's Republic of China Specific Prayer Needs

The faith and commitment of Christians under what may have been the harshest and most widespread persecution of the Church in all history. Persecution and suffering refined the Church and shaped it to withstand successive waves of repression and government efforts to weaken or destroy it. God, powerfully working through the unwitting atheist rulers of China, cleared spiritual roadblocks for the advancement of Christianity through Mao Zedong; freed up the economy and gave more freedom to Christians through Deng; and, through Hu Jintao, God guided China to new levels of interconnectedness with the rest of the world, strengthening the link between the Chinese Church and the worldwide body of Christ.

Christians are now found in every stratum of Chinese society. The emergence of vibrant urban professional churches – a third expression of faith distinct from the official churches and traditionally rural house churches – marks a turning point for Christianity in China. Tragedies such as the Tiananmen Square (1989) massacre and the handling of the SARS epidemic (2002) spurred many to seek answers to difficult life questions. Corruption within the government and society has further disillusioned people. One result of such ideological disillusionment – together with rising distaste for crass materialism – has been a significant turning to God for the first time among urban professionals and rural and minority populations.