

Facts about China

Official name: People's Republic of China

Continent: Asia

Geography

Area: 9,573,000 sq km

China is the country with the third-largest area in the world. It contains the highest mountains and plateaus in the world. The climate and geography vary greatly, ranging from tropical in the south to sub-arctic in the north.

The two most important rivers are the Yellow River and the Yangtze River. The Yangtze River is south of the Yellow River and flows in the same direction (west to east). It is 3,988 miles long and is the third longest river in the world. Just like the Yellow River, the Yangtze played an important role in the development of the culture and civilization of Ancient China. Farmers that lived along the Yangtze River took advantage of the warm climate and rainy weather to grow rice. Eventually the land along the Yangtze became some of the most important and wealthy land in all of Ancient China.

To the south and southeast of China are the Himalaya Mountains. These are the highest mountains in the world. They provided a nearly impassable border for Ancient China, keeping the area isolated from many other civilizations. They were also important to Chinese religion and were considered sacred.

To the north and west of Ancient China were two of the world's largest deserts: the Gobi Desert and the Taklamakan Desert. These deserts also provided borders that kept the Chinese isolated from the rest of the world. The Mongols, however, lived in the Gobi Desert and were constantly raiding cities of northern China. This is why the Great Wall of China was built to protect the Chinese from these northern invaders.

Population: 1.386 billion (The largest population in the world)

China is highly populated in the east and sparsely populated western deserts and mountain ranges.

Capital: Beijing

Hong Kong: Hong Kong was governed by the British from 1842 until 1997. Now it is once more a part of the People's Republic of China.

Agriculture: Agriculture is a vital industry in China, employing over 300 million farmers. China ranks first in worldwide farm output, mainly producing rice, wheat,

potatoes, tomato, sorghum, peanuts, tea, millet, barley, cotton, oilseed and soybeans.

People living in cities: 45%

People who have not heard the Gospel: 83%

Official language: Mandarin. Cantonese is the second most common language. There are an estimated 600 different spoken Han dialects, but one written language common to all.

Religion

Largest Religion: Non-religious

Christians: 8 %

Challenges for Prayer

China remains officially atheist, and Communist Party members number well over 70 million. Pray that people will come to know Jesus, despite atheism being propagated in the education system. Pray for Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

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