

Provinces of China



Matthew 9:37-38 “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

We would like to ask for your prayers for God to send more laborers into the harvest fields of China. This book tells you about the need of the Gospel in each of the provinces of China. Please pray for people in each of these provinces to be reached with the Gospel. Thank you for taking time to pray for the people in China. God bless you as you read this short book!

Yours for China,

Vision For China Team

China Provinces

Mainland China has twenty-two regular provinces. In addition to these provinces, there are eleven other regions that are similar to the Chinese provinces. These regions are as follows.

Chinese Autonomous Regions

An autonomous region is a first-level administrative subdivision of China. Like Chinese provinces, an autonomous region has its own local government, but an autonomous region has more legislative rights. An autonomous region is a minority entity which has a higher population of a particular minority ethnic group. China has five different autonomous regions.

- Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region
- Tibet Autonomous Region
- Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region
- Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region
- Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Chinese Direct Controlled Municipalities

A direct controlled municipality is the highest level of classification for cities used by the People's Republic of China. These cities have the same rank as provinces, and form part of the first tier of administrative divisions of China. A municipality is often not a "city" in the usual sense of the term (i.e., a large continuous urban settlement), but is instead an administrative unit. China has four different direct controlled municipalities.

- Beijing Municipality
- Tianjin Municipality
- Chongqing Municipality
- Shanghai Municipality.

Chinese Special Administrative Regions

The special administrative regions of China are regions of China which while under the Central People's Government of China, enjoy an high degree of autonomy and have very little interference by either the Central Government or the Chinese Communist Party. China has two special administrative regions.

- Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- Macao Special Administrative Region



Fujian Province

Population = 37,700,011

Fujian Province is a province of China that is located directly across from Taiwan. It is a very diverse province with many different ethnic groups and languages. It was slower to develop than many of the other Chinese provinces and today is not as crowded as many of the other provinces on the east coast of China. The two biggest cities in Fujian province are Xiamen and Fuzhou. Both of these cities have more than 2 million people in population. The people in Fujian province desperately need Jesus Christ. According to a survey done in 2009, only about 3.5% of the people in Fujian province identify themselves as Christian. Would you pray that God would raise up laborers to take the Gospel to Fujian?





Anhui Province

Population = 60,300,000

Anhui province is a province that is known for its mountains and agriculture. One of the four sacred mountains of Buddhism is located in Anhui province. It is called Jiǔhuá Shān (Nine Glories Mountain) and many of the shrines and temples located on this mountain are dedicated to "Ksitigarbha" a Buddhist figure that supposedly helps people in hell. The people in Anhui province need to know of Jesus. He is the only one that can truly save anyone from hell. Please pray for laborers to be raised up to take the Gospel to these people that so desperately need it.





Zhejiang Province

Population = 54,890,000

Zhejiang province is home to the city of Wenzhou which is known as the Jerusalem of China because of the large percentage of Christians that live in the city. It all started with a missionary from the China Inland Mission named George Stott who came to the city of Wenzhou in the 1800's. He only had one leg when he came to China in 1866 because of an earlier farm accident. When asked why he, with only one leg, should think of going to China he responded, "I do not see those with two legs going, so I must." God used him to start Chengxi Christian Church which is still in existence today and influence many people in Wenzhou for Christ. Please pray that God would raise up more laborers like George Stott who would be willing to take the Gospel to the country of China.





Jiangsu Province

Population =79,200,000

Besides three of China's four direct-controlled municipalities, Jiangsu is the most densely populated province in China. It is small in land area but is home to millions of people. Many people in southern Jiangsu speak a form of Chinese called Wu instead of Mandarin Chinese. Its economy is one of the most prosperous in China, and it has the highest GDP per capita of all Chinese provinces. People in Jiangsu province need Jesus. The main religions in this province are Chinese folk religions, Taoist traditions, & Chinese Buddhism. Would you pray for laborers to be raised up to reach these people with the Gospel?

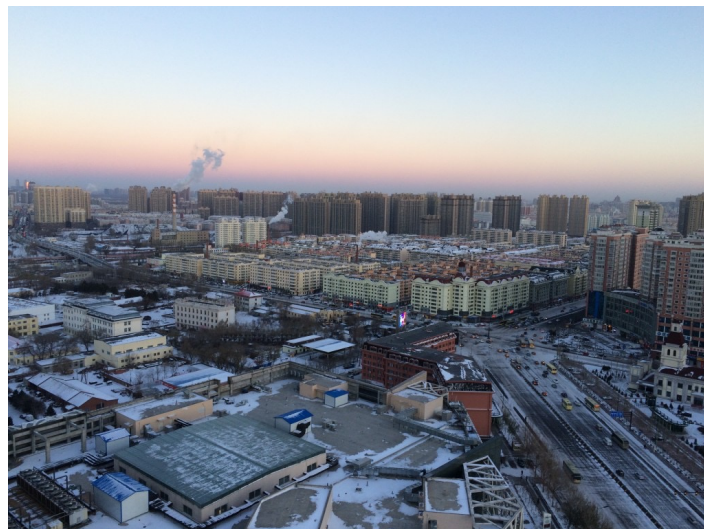




Heilongjiang Province

Population = 38,312,224

Heilongjiang province is China's most northern province. Much of the province borders Russia. The capital and largest city of the province is Harbin with a population of over 10 million people. Harbin is famous for its ice sculpture exhibits with dozens of sculptures made from ice. I have friends who were missionaries in Harbin. A great work was started with churches being planted and Chinese men being trained for ministry. The work continues to grow and go on today despite the fact that the missionaries were forced to move to Taiwan after the government found out about their missionary activities and made them leave the country. This province needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Only a very small dent has been made so far in reaching this province for Christ. The majority of people have never heard the Gospel. Would you pray that God would do a great work so that many people in Heilongjiang province can know the good news of Jesus Christ?





Jilin Province

Population = 27,462,297

Jilin Province is a province located in the Northeastern part of China. It forms the longest border than any other province with the country of North Korea. Jilin is home to two-thirds of China's ethnic Koreans. They make up about 4% of the population. Jilin is a big manufacturer of automobiles. In fact its capital city, Changchun, is known as the Detroit of China. Jilin province has a very cold climate in the winter. Please pray for the people of Jilin province. They need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. The majority of people that live in Jilin province do not know the good news of Jesus. Would you pray that laborers would be raised up to take the good news of the Gospel to them?





Liaoning Province

Population = 43,900,000

Liaoning Province is part of the Manchuria region. Manchuria was controlled by Japan after they invaded it in 1931. By 1949, Manchuria was under the control of the People's Republic of China. Liaoning Province along with other provinces in the Manchuria region have gone through much fighting during the 1900's. Liaoning Province is the province I had the opportunity to live in during the six months I spent in China in 2015. I was able to get a first-hand experience of the need for the Gospel in this province. I personally had the opportunity to ask one hundred different people if they were a Christian or not. Of the hundred people I asked only five said that yes they were a Christian. There is a great need for the Gospel to be preached. Would you pray that God would raise up more laborers to preach the Gospel in Liaoning Province?





Shanxi Province

Population = 36,500,000

Shanxi province is a province located in the North China region. Part of the Great Wall of China forms the border between Shanxi province and the neighboring province of Inner Mongolia. Shanxi province is considered one of the most polluted provinces in China because of the province's heavy reliance on coal. Shanxi province needs to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. According to a survey done in 2009, only 2.17% of the people that live in Shanxi province identify themselves as Christian. Please pray for these people to hear the Gospel.





Hebei Province

Population = 73,326,101

Hebei province is a heavily populated province located around the city of Beijing. It is only the 6th most populous province in China, but it still has 24 million more people in population than the US state of California. One of the cities in Hebei province, *Zhangjiakou*, will be the location of some of the venues for the 2022 Winter Olympics. Shijiazhuang is the largest city in Hebei province with over 12 million people in population. Hebei province has the largest Catholic population of any province in China and is known as the center of Catholicism in China. Hebei province desperately needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. According to a survey done in 2009, less than 5% of the population claims to be Christian. Would you pray that God would raise up laborers to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Hebei province?





Jiangxi Province

Population = 45,200,000

Jiangxi Province is located in southern China. Jiangxi is a very poor province and has the lowest average wage of any province in China. The capital city of the province is Nanchang. This city is huge with a population of over five million people. It is a historic city known as the place where the Communist Party's People's Liberation Army was born. There are millions of people that live in Nanchang and the surrounding province of Jiangxi that desperately need the Gospel. Approximately less than 5% of these people claim to know Christ as their Savior.





Shandong Province

Population = 97,333,900

Shandong Province is one of China's most populated and affluent provinces. Located on the Eastern coast of China, parts of Shandong have been under the control of England, Germany, and Japan at different times in history. This province desperately needs Jesus Christ. The great majority of people are involved in worshipping nature deities, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and folk religion. Confucius the founder of Confucianism was born in Shandong province in the year 55 A.D. Mount Tai, a mountain in Shandong province is the most revered mountain of Taoism and one of the world's sites with the longest history of continuous religious worship. It has been a place of worship for at least 3,000 years and served as one of the most important ceremonial centers of China. Shandong province is full worship and ceremony, but the great majority of people are worshipping false gods and ideas. Please pray for missionaries to take the truth of Jesus to these people that so desperately need it.





Henan Province

Population = 94,100,000

Henan Province is the third most populated province in China. There are a lot of people that live in Henan Province. In fact, if it were a country by itself, it would be the 15th most populated country in the world with more people than countries like the United Kingdom, Egypt, Turkey, & Germany. Henan province is the birthplace of Chinese civilization with over 3,000 years of recorded history. The famous, "Yellow River" and many of the ancient capital cities of China are located in Henan province. It is also considered by numbers and percentages to have the most Christians of any province in China with over 6% of the people claiming to be Christian! But despite this fact there are still a lot of people that need Jesus in Henan province. Think of the approximate 94% of the 94 million people that do not claim to be Christian. Please pray for laborers to be raised up to take the good news of the Gospel to them.





Hubei Province

Population = 58,160,000

The Yangtze River which is the largest river in Asia flows thru the middle of Hubei province. The large Three Gorges dam was built in Hubei province on the Yangtze River. The construction of the dam displaced approximately 1.3 million people. The city of Wuhan is the largest city in Hubei province with a population of over 10 million people. This city is a major transportation hub and center of activity for this area of China. The city has a long history of being a key city for many of the different dynasties and governments of China. Most recently it was the site of a major battle between the Japanese and Chinese in 1938 and was bombed by the US air force during WW2. The people in Hubei province need Jesus Christ. According to a survey in 2009, less than 1% of the people in Hubei province identify themselves as Christian. Would you pray that God would send forth laborers into the harvest fields of Hubei province?





Hunan Province

Population = 67,370,000

Hunan province is the seventh most populated province of China. Hunan province is the birthplace of Mao Zedong, the founding father of the People's Republic of China. The capital city of Hunan province is Changsha. This city has a population of over 7 million people. Liuyang fireworks is located in the city of Changsha and is a major maker of fireworks around the world. Hunan province is known as one of the most beautiful provinces of China. It has many beautiful mountains and waters. The people that live in Hunan province desperately need Jesus. The majority of people that live here either believe in no God, Buddhism or are involved in ancestor worship. Pray for the people in Hunan province to come to know Jesus Christ.





Guangdong Province

Population = 107,240,000

Guangdong province is the most populated province in the country of China. With over 100 million people it is larger than several countries around the world. If it were a country, it would be the 12th most populous country in the world having more people than any country in Europe. Please pray for Guangdong province. It is home to millions of people that desperately need the good news of Jesus Christ. The majority of people that live here do not know the Gospel message.





Hainan Province

Population = 8,900,000

Hainan Province is a big island that is known for its agriculture and tourism. You could call it the "Hawaii" of China. Several million tourists visit this beautiful island each year coming to see the lush forests and beautiful beaches. Hainan province has excellent air quality with little pollution. Despite the high number of tourists there are over 8 million people that call Hainan province home. They are known as the Hainanese people and they desperately need Jesus Christ. According to a survey done in 2009, less than 1% of the people in Hainan Province claim to know Jesus Christ. Please pray for laborers to be raised up to tell them the Gospel message.





Sichuan Province

Population = 81,100,000

Sichuan province is the 4th most populated province in China. It is historically known as the province of abundance because of it being one of the major agricultural production bases of China. An abundance of crops such as rice, wheat, oranges, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, peaches, and grapes are grown as commercial crops here. Sichuan province is also rich in mineral resources and natural gas reserves. While this province is rich in many agriculture and natural resources, it is poor in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Only a very small percentage of people in Sichuan province know Jesus Christ. Please pray for God to send laborers to Sichuan province to tell people the Gospel message.





Guizhou Province China

Population = 34,746,468

Guizhou province is one of the poorest provinces in all of China. It is a very undeveloped province and has the lowest per capita GDP of any province of China. Not only is the province very poor financially, but it is also poor in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Over 30% of the people are involved in the cult of ancestors. This means that they deify or make their ancestors like gods and worship them. Only about 1% of the people in Guizhou province would claim to be Christian. Would you pray for them to hear the good news of Jesus Christ?





Yunnan Province

Population = 45,966,239

Yunnan province has a very diverse landscape including high snow capped mountains and true tropical regions. Yunnan Province has less than 4% of the land of China, yet contains about half of China's birds and mammals. Many rare plant and unusual animal species including the Asian elephant live in this region. Many different ethnic groups live in the Yunnan province. They worship many different religions including Islam, Buddhism, Bimoism, Benzhuism, and Chinese folk religions. Only about 3% of the people in Yunnan province identify themselves as Christian. Please pray for people in Yunnan province to hear the Gospel!





Shaanxi Province

Population = 37,327,378

Shaanxi province is a very historic province in China. Its capital city Xian is the oldest of the four ancient capitals of China and is the starting point of the ancient silk road. The first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, made Xian the home of his magnificent grave guarded by an army of terra cotta soldiers. He believed that these soldiers made from earth would protect him in the afterlife. Sadly even after over 2,000 years many people living in modern day Xian still do not know the truth of the afterlife. Very few of them know who God is and how He is going to judge the world. They may not make clay soldiers to protect them, but they do not know Jesus Christ who is the only one who can make them safe in the life after death. Jesus can save them from hell and take them to heaven, but many people living today in Xian province do not know Him. Please pray for many souls in Shaanxi province to be reached with the Gospel.





Gansu Province

Population = 25,575,254

Gansu province is a province located in the center of China. Historically it has been the home of a large Muslim Population. Dunhuang located in Gansu province was an important stop on the Silk Road, an ancient trading route that connected Europe and Asia. The Yellow River, an extremely important river throughout Chinese history, also flows through Gansu province. People have been traveling through this province on the Yellow River and the Silk Road for centuries. Unfortunately, despite all the merchants that have travelled through this province over the centuries, the Gospel message has only been told by very very few. According to a 2012 survey, Christians only compromise 0.5% of the population. Please pray for people in Gansu province to hear the Gospel.





Qinghai Province

Population = 5,626,722

Qinghai province is a large but not very densely populated province of China. Its population is similar to the population of the US state of Wisconsin, but its land area is bigger than the US state of Texas. This province has several mountain ranges and has an average elevation of 9,800 feet above sea level. An animal called the Yak is native to Qinghai province and is widely used for meat and for transportation. Qinghai is also home to China's largest salt water lake called Qinghai Lake. Of the over 5 million people that live in Qinghai province over 2 million live in the capital city of Xining. The people living in Qinghai province need to know the good news of Jesus Christ. Only a small number are Christians while the main religions in Qinghai province are Tibetan Buddhism and Islam. Please pray for Qinghai province!





Beijing Municipality

Population = 19,612,368

The city of Beijing is one of China's 4 direct-controlled municipalities. This means even though it is a city, it functions as a province at the same time. It is the capital of the People's Republic of China. It has a population that is nearly equal or greater in number than the entire state of New York. It has a land area slightly smaller than the US state of New Jersey. According to the Chinese General Social Survey of 2009, Christians constitute only 0.78% of the city's population. There is a desperate need in Beijing for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray that God will raise up laborers to take the Gospel to Beijing Municipality!





Tianjin Municipality

Population = 15,469,500

Tianjin Municipality is a province of China that borders the province of Beijing Municipality. Like Beijing, it is one of China's four direct-controlled municipalities. Tianjin is a major seaport and a hub of advanced industry and financial activity. In August of last year, Tianjin suffered terribly from a number of explosions from a hazardous chemical storage facility. The dangerous chemicals were accidentally detonated, and the huge explosions that followed killed at least 173 people and injured many others. It is too late to tell these people that died the good news of Jesus Christ, but please pray that God would raise up more laborers to reach Tianjin for Jesus Christ!





Chongqing Municipality

Population = 30,165,500

Chongqing is a city in China. It is one of the four independently governed cities in China. This city is known as the fog city because it has many days of clouds and fog and very few sunny days. The city is a very beautiful city with a unique scenery of mountains, rivers, forests, springs, waterfalls, gorges, and caves. Despite the natural beauty of this city, the spiritual condition of Chongqing is very much not beautiful.

During the first decade of the 21st century, the city became notorious for its organized crime and corruption. According to a survey in 2009, only a little more than 1% of the people claim to be Christian. Please pray for laborers to be raised up to take the Gospel to this place that desperately needs it.





Shanghai Municipality

Population = 24,152,700

Shanghai is the most populated city in China (by urban area). According to some sources, it has more people in its urban area than any other city in the world. It is an old and famous city. Historically, it was a port city in China that was forced to be open to trade from other nations. It was an access point for people of other countries to live in China. Many missionaries throughout history came through or lived in Shanghai at some point in their missionary career. Despite the fact that Shanghai has seen many missionaries, it still desperately needs Jesus Christ. The majority of people in Shanghai are lost and without a Savior. Would you pray for these people to be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?





Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

Population = 46,026,600

Guangxi Zhuang is an autonomous region located in southern China. It borders the South China Sea and the country of Vietnam. On the border of Guangxi Zhuang and Vietnam is the famous Ban Gioc–Detian Water Fall. Guangxi Zhuang is an autonomous region instead of a province. The reason for this is the presence of a large minority group of people that are not Han Chinese. The Zhuang people are an ethnic group that live mainly in this province. Their population is estimated at 18 million making them the largest minority ethnic group in China. Most Zhuang people believe in the religion of Moism. In this religion people believe that spirits are present in everything. Please pray for the Zhuang people and all the other people that live in this province. Please pray that they would come to know the truth of Jesus Christ!





Tibet Autonomous Region

Population = 3,180,000

Tibet is a region of China and contains about half of the land occupied by people of Tibetan culture. The Tibet region of China has an extremely high altitude and is a very rugged terrain. Because of that, it is the least densely populated region of China. It is the home of China's portion of Mount Everest the world's largest mountain. The majority of people that live in the Tibet region are ethnic Tibetans and follow Tibetan Buddhism as their religion. Other Tibetans follow the religion of Bon which is a native religion that is older than Buddhism. For foreigners to get to Tibet they cannot just have a passport and visa but you must obtain a Tibet Entry Permit from a travel agency. You are only allowed to travel in groups and must be accompanied by a tour guide at all times. Please pray for the people of the Tibet Autonomous Region. Please pray for God to open doors so that they can be reached with the Gospel.





Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Population = 6,301,350

Ningxia Hui is an autonomous region in central China. In China, an autonomous region is similar to a province but it is different in the fact that it contains a higher population of a particular minority ethnic group. In Ningxia Hui, the particular minority ethnic group that has a high population are the Hui people. The Hui people usually are believers in Islam. In fact in Ningxia Hui, Muslims form over 34% of the population. Please pray for these people to be reached with the Gospel. Please pray for all the different ethnic groups in Ningxia Hui to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.





Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Population = 21,815,815

Xinjiang Autonomous region has the largest land area of any province in China. It has 1/6 of China's land area, and if it were its own country it would be about the size of the country of Iran. Xinjiang is home to the Uyghur people. They make up about 46% of the population and are ethnically, linguistically, and culturally Turkic. They speak a Turkic language called Uyghur which in written form is much more closely related to Arabic than it is to Chinese. The majority of Uyghur people believe in Islam and followers of Islam make up about 58% of the population of Xinjiang Autonomous Region. The vast majority of the remainder of the people in this region would follow Chinese folk religions, Buddhism or would be non-religious. Only a very small percentage of the people would claim to be Christian. Please pray for many laborers to take the Gospel to the people living in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.





Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region

Population = 24,706,321

Inner Mongolia is one of China's five autonomous regions. An autonomous region has a higher population of a minority ethnic group than does a regular province. In Inner Mongolia people belonging to the Mongol ethnic group account for over 17% of the population. In fact by law, signs in Inner Mongolia must be written both in the Mongolian language and in Chinese. These people need Jesus Christ. Approximately 80% of the people in this province claim to worship features of Chinese folk religions and Mongolian shamanism. One of the things they worship is a sacred heap of stones called an *ovoo*. You can see a picture of one below. Please pray for laborers to be raised up to take the Gospel to this province that so desperately needs the good news of Jesus Christ.





Hong Kong

Population = 7,234,800

Since 1997 Hong Kong has been under the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China. Though technically it is part of China, the Chinese government has allowed Hong Kong to maintain a separate political and economic system from China and also maintain its independent executive, legislative and judiciary powers. Quite simply, though part of China, Hong Kong operates as its own country. Because of this, Hong Kong has much more religious freedom than mainland China. People are allowed to worship freely. Sadly, though, even in spite of having religious freedom only about 12% of people in Hong Kong claim to be Christian in any way. This is only slightly higher than mainland China where about 5% of the population claims to be Christian. There are many people in Hong Kong that need to know the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pray that they can be reached with the Gospel.





Macao

Population = 647,700

Macao is the final region of China that I have left to write about in this series of articles on the different provinces of China. A former Portuguese settlement, Macao is similar to Hong Kong in that while it is technically part of China it is allowed to govern itself and has a large amount of independence from the government of China. It is the smallest administrative division of China with a land area of only 11.8 square miles and is the most densely populated region in the world. Unfortunately, it is known for its gambling industry and is one of the biggest gambling centers in the world. It is one of the richest regions in the world and also has one of the highest life expectancy rates in the world. People in Macao need to know about Jesus Christ. Most people are either non-religious or follow a Chinese or local folk religion. Please pray for people in Macao to hear the good news of Jesus Christ!

