



The Hui of Beijing and Tianjin, China

The Hui (Hway) people constitute the third largest minority group in China. They are the largest Muslim nationality with an estimated 10.7 million people dispersed across the country. Of that total, 407,000 Hui live in the megacities of Beijing and Tianjin, in northeastern China. Less than 0.002 percent of the Hui are evangelized!

Ancestors of the Hui were Muslim Arab and Persian traders, merchants and officials who first came to China in the seventh century. Inter-marriage with Han women caused the Hui to grow in number and aided their assimilation into Chinese society. Renowned for their sharp business skills, the Hui are often willing to travel great distances to make a sale. Because of this, they have become scattered across China. The Hui generally remain socially segregated, however, in order to retain their religious purity and group identity.

In Beijing, Niujie and Madian are two established Hui enclaves, with the former enveloping the city's largest mosque and Islamic center. Tianjin boasts one of China's most famous mosques, the Great Mosque, where many valuable cultural relics are housed and where thousands of Hui worship weekly. Of the minority residents of Beijing and Tianjin, approximately 50 percent and 80 percent, respectively, are Hui Muslims.

Most Hui perform the Islamic duties, such as praying five times a day or fasting at certain times, as a traditional or cultural practice. However, the younger generation is often not as committed to carrying out these rituals and Hui university students have shown more openness toward the Gospel than those still living in Hui communities. Yet, throughout the whole country, there are less than 200 known Hui Christians!

Priority Focus People Group

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Map courtesy of The World Factbook 2010

Prayer Starters

- Because both the Han Chinese and the Hui speak Mandarin, Han Christians can more easily share the Gospel with the Hui than with many other minority groups. Ask God to give Han believers a strong desire to take the Good News to the Hui living in Beijing and Tianjin.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to break through the barriers of Islamic tradition and rain down upon the Hui the freeing salvation of Jesus.
- As more Hui migrate to Beijing and Tianjin in search of big city prosperity, pray that they will find spiritual prosperity in the riches of Christ.