

Email

Dear Friend,

China has the world's largest population, totalling over 1.4 billion people. Approximately 73% of the population are either non-religious or practice Chinese folk beliefs, 16% are Buddhists, 2% are Christians, 1% are Muslims and 8% adhere to other religions. Although Muslims make up a very small minority, they represent 30 million people. There are two main Muslim groups that need our prayers; the Hui and Uyghur people. They remain largely unreached by the gospel. This week we are going to focus our intercession on the Hui people.

May God bless you as you pray and intercede this week.

For His glory in the nations,

Kathryn

Head of Prayer Mobilisation

Monday 1st August

Who are the Hui?

The Hui, one of China's 56 officially recognized ethnic identities, are Sunni Muslims who speak a form of Mandarin. Some Hui are quite integrated with the majority Han even though they are not ethnically Han. Other Hui are very distinct from the Han both culturally and socially. Hui lineage is most often traced back to Persian traders who entered China along the Silk Road in the 7th century AD. The majority of the 14 million Hui live in four provinces in Northwest China, though there are also large communities of Hui in some central and southern provinces. They are also found in smaller communities in every province in China.

There are four rival Hui sects. The Gedimu are the largest and have the longest history, but their influence is declining amid successive reform movements. These three movements were founded by Hui who brought ideas from the Middle East. The earliest, the Sufis, encourage

mystical practices. Near the end of the 19th century, the Yhewani reformers were influenced by Wahhabi thought. In the 20th century, the Salafiya also sought to "purify" Hui religious thought and practice.

You might want to watch this moving and inspiring video from Prayercast about the Hui.

<https://www.prayercast.com/hui.html>

- Pray for millions of Hui to have access to the Good News and turn to the one true God.
- Pray for courage and wisdom to follow Jesus while still being Hui.
- Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to the Hui communities throughout China.

Source:

<https://www.prayercast.com/hui.html>



Tuesday 2nd August

What are the Hui's greatest struggles?

The Hui are traditionally herders and farmers, and the majority still live in rural areas. A growing mining industry has brought considerable economic development to China's Northwest, so increasing numbers of Hui are working outside of their traditional rural occupations. Many Hui have excelled in the food industry, for example, and Hui-owned halal-beef noodle restaurants are famous across China.



Unlike the Muslim Uyghur in North-western China, there is no independence movement among the Hui. Thus, they encounter less government opposition and have more freedom to practice Islam, to keep Ramadan, to build mosques, and even to go on Hajj. This does not mean they enjoy full religious freedom, as recent government actions have placed greater restrictions on the Hui, and there is growing concern about the government's agenda regarding Hui faith practices.

We know that God is the God of the impossible. He can move and act where we cannot. Below is a link to a worship song 'All the Heavens.' May you be blessed and uplifted as you listen and remember the nation of China and the Hui people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoQj7Q2UjE>

The lyrics of this song include the words: "let the nations rise to give honour and praise to your name." God's Word says, *"Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name."*

Psalm 18:49

We can declare this truth over the nation of China and the Hui people.

- Pray that the people in the nation of China will rise to give honour and praise to the name of Jesus.
- Pray that the Lord's face will shine on every person in China, especially among the Hui people.

Source:

<https://www.prayercast.com/hui.html>

Wednesday 3rd August

What is God doing among the Hui?

The more religious a Hui person is, the more resistant to the Gospel they tend to be. Today, there are hundreds of scattered individual Hui believers, and there are a few small groups of believers. In only one or two places are larger groups of believers known to be gathering regularly.

When Hui who identify more closely with the Han become Christians, they often attend Han churches. Believers from the Hui who identify more closely with their ethnic and Islamic roots tend to keep their faith in Christ quiet to avoid shaming their families or being expelled from their communities.

The entire Bible is available in the Hui dialect of Mandarin and is available for download via a phone app. This Hui Bible is being read and regularly downloaded across China.

There are few expatriate workers among the Hui. Some Han churches are beginning to minister to the Hui, but their witness tends to display limited sensitivity to Hui culture and Islamic beliefs.

- Pray for millions of Hui to have access to the Good News and turn to the one true God.
- Pray for courage and wisdom to follow Jesus while still being Hui.
- Pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers to the Hui communities throughout China.
- Let's thank God for the growing church and the many faithful prayer intercessors in China.

Source:

<https://www.prayercast.com/hui.html>

Thursday 4th August

China

2 Peter 3:9

“He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent.”

From the highest mountain in the west to the eastern plains and hills, from the nearly sub-arctic north to the rain forests of the tropical south, China's diversity and immensity is astounding.

The people are as diverse as the landscape; there are 500 indigenous ethnic groups scattered over 3.7 million square miles. Some live in enormous modern industrial cities, while others make their living on the land in sparse rural communities. This immense nation's diverse culture and natural beauty has captivated hearts and minds for thousands of years. Yet the nation of China is a land of huge and urgent human need, where many can live under what is seen as an oppressive regime, where cultural and religious freedoms can be restricted.

In the 14th century, the church had almost disappeared in China due to persecution. Beginning in the 1950's, a radical movement began that has resulted in as many as 100 million

believers today. The gospel continues to be a powerful force and the church is continuing to grow. However, Christians represent only a small percentage of the population and they are not distributed evenly throughout this vast land. Few gospel workers have been able to remain, but Chinese believers take bold risks to share their faith.

- Pray for the believers in China to have perseverance, but also for political leaders to have a change of heart.
- Pray house churches would flourish across the country and for new leaders to step up to lead these churches and reach out to the local Muslim population.
- Pray that the gospel would transform China and change its reputation to one of oppression and fear to one of freedom and abundant life.
- Let's thank God for the growing church and the many faithful prayer intercessors in China.



Friday 5th August

Mei Mei's story

I am a university student. My days are filled with classes and tutoring other students. Every activity that I am involved in plays a part in shaping my future. I want to be successful.

I came to college a year ago. I am studying psychology, but I hope to major in English soon, so I can become a translator. My dream is to be a translator in a big city, but my parents don't want me to go anywhere else. They didn't even want me to come here to study.

I understand why though. I am from a small village, and my family is very set in its ways. My parents have worked very hard to provide for me and my brother. Life in my hometown is very difficult, and it is very different from here at school. In my hometown, many people are Hui, just like my family. At college there are other religions.

I have started hearing about this man named Jesus who died for me. I have even spent some time studying the Holy Bible. I have heard the news of Jesus many times. I am very interested, but I am Hui. To be Hui is to be Muslim, and to abandon Islam would mean that I would abandon my family's religion.

If I choose to believe, will they love me anymore?
Will they abandon me?

- Pray that as students move to bigger cities for college, that they would hear the gospel! Pray that believers on campus would be emboldened to share the good news.
 - Pray that Mei Mei's family and those in the village would hear the gospel and respond.
 - Pray that Mei Mei would have a desire to study the Bible again. Pray that she would recall the stories that she has read before and that she would long to learn more.
- Source:
<https://pray4hui.com/day-16-choose-to-believe/>
- Pray that Mei Mei would realise that following Jesus is worth it. Pray that she and others like her, would long to know the truth of the gospel in a place where it is not usual.

Saturday 6th August

As we end this week's prayer for China and the Hui Chinese people, let's pray and proclaim God's Word over them from Psalm 67.

"May God be gracious to China and bless her and make His face shine upon the Hui peoples, so that your ways may be known in China and your salvation among all Chinese Muslims.

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the Hui people praise you.

May China be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

May all China praise you, O God; may all Hui people praise you.

Then China will yield its harvest and God, our God, will bless China.

God will bless China and all the ends of the earth will fear him."

