

Beijing

Muslims in the ancient capital of China



Sept. 10, 2008

Day 10



Beijing Olympics 2008

Population: 15,380,000 (2005)

Ethnic Han Chinese: 96%

Major Muslim group: Hui people (approx. 2% or about 280,000)

There are about 12 million Hui in all of China.

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China. The city was founded more than 3,000 years ago and was regarded as the capital of China for over 850 years.

The Hui people trace their ancestors back to Muslim traders, soldiers, and officials who came to China during the seventh through fourteenth centuries. These men settled and married local native (Han) Chinese women. The Hui have so well assimilated into the Chinese society that they are almost indistinguishable from the Han Chinese, except in dietary and religious practices. There is a wide range of devotion to Islam among the Hui. In north-eastern China, they are more liberal. There they smoke, drink, and eat pork when away from home. Overall, the Hui are said to be among the least radical Muslims in the world.

One can find the Muslim Hui people all over the capital region, however they tend to congregate in certain streets as well as a few towns and villages around the city. A significant Hui community lives in the Niujiie Street area of central Beijing. Slightly over 11,000 Huis live in this area

of 1 mi² around the famous Niujiie Mosque, the biggest and oldest mosque in Beijing. It was built in 996 AD and was rebuilt and expanded later. It now covers 20,000 ft². Its architecture blends the beauty of both ancient Chinese palaces and Arabian mosques.

Believers: There is very little if any Christian witness to the Hui Muslims in general. There are no known believers among the Muslim Hui in Beijing.

For more info: <http://www.joshuaproject.org>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *May God open doors for Chinese believers in the Messiah to proclaim the Gospel to Muslims.*
- ▶ *May God cause the Muslim Hui people in the Beijing area to seek the true God.*
- ▶ *Pray that Chinese believers can be agents of blessing and positive change for the city and the Muslim population.*

PRAYER TIMES

Practising Muslims all over the world pray memorized ritual prayers toward the city of Mecca five times per day. This is done at appointed hours which are constantly changing by a few minutes each day depending on the calendar. Here are the prayer times for Beijing today: 5:50 AM, 12:11 PM; 4:41PM ; 6:32 PM and 8:02 PM. Some people will pray an optional sixth time at 4:09 AM.

