

PROVIDENCE CHURCH Prayer for the Nations

CHINA**General Information**

- Christianity has existed in China since at least the seventh century and has gained influence over the past 200 years.
- Many Chinese Christians meet in "unregistered" house church meetings. Reports of sporadic persecution against such Christians in Mainland China have caused concern among outside observers.
- It is unknown how many believers are in China, but estimates are over 100 million.
- Robert Morrison was a prominent missionary to China, arriving in Macau on 4 September 1807. Morrison produced a Chinese translation of the Bible. He also compiled a Chinese dictionary for the use of Westerners. The Bible translation took twelve years and the compilation of the dictionary, sixteen years.
- J. Hudson Taylor (1832–1905, Plymouth Brethren) arrived in China in 1854. Historian Kenneth Scott Latourette wrote that "Hudson Taylor was ...one of the greatest missionaries of all time, and ... one of the four or five most influential foreigners who came to China in the nineteenth century for any purpose...". The China Inland Mission was the largest mission agency in China and it is estimated that Taylor was responsible for more people being converted to Christianity than at any other time since Paul the Apostle brought Christian teaching to Europe.
- The People's Republic of China was established in October 1949 by the Communist Party of China, led by Mao Zedong. Under Communist ideology, religion was discouraged by the state and Christian Missionaries left the country in what was described by Phyllis Thompson of the China Inland Mission as a "reluctant exodus."
- The official Protestant Church is growing faster than Catholicism. Tim Gardam from the BBC reports: "On Easter morning, in downtown Beijing, I watched five services, each packed with over 1,500 worshippers. Sunday school was spilling on to the street. However, these numbers are dwarfed by the unofficial "house churches", spreading across the country." See: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-14838749>

Prayer Focus—

1. Pray theologically sound churches will grow
2. Pray for those evangelizing and ministering in this vast country.
3. Pray the Communist government will continue to loosen its restrictions.

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_China

