

# The Hui of China



Imagine being one of 10 missionaries trying to reach 1.5 million Muslims with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The numbers are staggering!

And yet, that is the scale of the challenge faced by roughly 80 foreign workers focused on reaching the Hui, China's largest Muslim people group. Of 12 million Hui, only an estimated 1,000 are Christians.

Clearly more prayer and workers are needed to share the hope of Christ with the Hui. Join us!

## World Team

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### To be Hui is to be Muslim

The Hui are almost exclusively Muslim and adhere to strict Islamic traditions. "To be Hui is to be Muslim" is a truth at the core of their identity.

Islam is more than just a set of religious beliefs, it informs their way of life. There is a spectrum of how the Hui practice their Islamic belief. In many places, their dress and dietary rules clearly set them apart from Han and other non-Muslim neighbors. In some places they simply blend in with the majority Han without being noticed.

While China is officially an atheist country, the Hui enjoy considerable freedoms for public worship and living out their faith. Mosques are prevalent in Hui villages and some metropolitan areas; men fill the streets in response to the call to prayer each Friday.

Hui communities can be found throughout China, but they are concentrated mainly in the northwestern provinces. They are descendants of Muslim traders, soldiers, and officials who came to China between the 7th and 14th centuries. They settled and intermarried with Arab Muslims and Han Chinese.

Over the centuries the Hui lost many of their ethnic characteristics and eventually adopted the Chinese language, but they retained their Islamic faith.

### Missionary Outreach

Mission work among the Hui in Ningxia commenced in 1885. A few converts were numbered among the Hui in Manchuria, Gansu, and Qinghai by the 1920s. In 1934 an American missionary known as Hai Chun Sheng baptized several Hui Muslim leaders in Qinghai. Today there are fewer than 1,000 known believers.

# Relationship building requires patience, love and faith!

## We Have a Message to Share

By a worker among the Hui

Many Hui families are plagued by the pain and suffering caused by domestic abuse and divorce. According to Islamic law, wife beating is necessary and permissible. As I tutor children, I gain the respect and trust of parents so that I can speak into their lives and offer hope to heal their brokenness.

Yun is 28 years old and this is her second marriage. Her first husband died three years ago and her in-laws pressured her to marry her late husband's younger brother. She knew the marriage would not work out but felt obligated to honor her in-laws' desire to keep the family together.

Their relationship is tense and stressful, but Yun has numbed herself to it. She intends to divorce him after her daughter—one of the students I tutor—grows older.

One day Yun and I talked about marriage and sexual purity. I brought up my phone app that has a contextualized version of the Bible in her language to show her what God said on the topic. As Yun browsed through different topics on the app, she was drawn to passages about inter-personal relationships. She resonated with verses in Galatians that describe how our sinful nature is in conflict with the Spirit, and what the scriptures say about the character of men and women.

Yun said she feels good reading these verses and asked me how she could get the app to have for herself! Pray for Yun and others seeking truth and hope for the future.

Join the Team!

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## Ministry Overview

People	Hui
Language	Chinese and local dialects
Location	Throughout China
Opportunities	Business Education Tutoring children University ministry

## Opportunity

World Team is committed to praying and partnering with others to reach the Hui for Christ. Do you have skills in business, university ministry, counseling, or family ministry? These are particularly useful in gaining and entrance to and serving Hui communities.

There are no short cuts in the work among the Hui—no canned evangelism programs. To build relationships that earn a hearing for the gospel requires patience, endurance, faith and love.

