

# East Asia

**Countries:** China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea and Taiwan. Together, these countries have a population of 1.6 billion people.

"Christianity has been in China for a long, long time... Matteo Ricci [arrived] in 1582, but Christianity was outlawed... in 1724. Treaties in 1860 re-allowed missions, only to have all missionaries expelled by the Communist Party in 1953 and all religious groups banned by Chairman Mao in 1966. By 1979 approved religions were re-allowed..." The situation varies from tight control to greater freedom.

We go to all the world,  
With kingdom hope unfurled.  
No other name has power to save,  
But Jesus Christ the Lord.

○ Father who sustained them,  
○ Spirit who inspired,  
Saviour, whose love constrained them  
To toil with zeal untired.

Pray that the many  
Chinese students and  
workers who live abroad  
will meet believers and  
hear of Christ Jesus.

"Met for worship this morning with about forty believers in a house church that meets in an upper room on the back side of a restaurant, through a door marked by a simple paper cross". - August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025, nine Christians from China's Inner Mongolia Province were convicted of "illegal business operations" for distributing bibles. Their fines ranged from \$US 700 to \$US 136,000.

In 2024, some friends with connections to East Asia wrote;

- "Please pray for Y's family and church, and our other brothers and sisters in Christ in East Asia. More and more Christian leaders are being detained and questioned... Pray for the Lord's protection, that they will be firm in the faith... and wisdom."
- "B's husband... together with elders were detained for several months. After their release, the church members disagreed about how they should relate with the authorities moving forward, then sadly split into two."



In 2009, it was commonly acknowledged that "this past Sunday, it is possible that more Christian believers attended a Church in China than in all of Europe. In 1970 there were no legally functioning churches in China. Since the 1970s, the church in China has grown 60-fold."

Unlike South Korea, Japan has few professing Christians. Buddhism and Shinto are the two predominant religions in Japan... Adherence to these faiths is considered an essential aspect of being Japanese... One pastor notes that Japanese people still have a lot of respect for Christianity... but being baptised is often seen as a step too far and can lead to rejection... Japanese Christians can face strong social pressure to renounce Christ... One church leader's personal journey was that his entire family cut him off completely for three years following his baptism."



Pyeongyang, the capital of North Korea, was once called "the Jerusalem of the East." In 1907 there was a powerful revival known as the Korean Pentecost. Today, it is estimated that there are 80,000 to 120,000 individuals in political prison camps... tens of thousands of these prisoners are Christians. North Korea has a population of 26 million people. "Remember those who are in prison as though in prison with them..." - Heb. 13:3