



The Uyghur of China

Unrest in the Region

Xinjiang is home to some 11 million Uyghurs, most of whom are Muslim. Islam is an important part of their life and identity, even though many practice folk Islam which emphasizes fortune-telling, amulets, and other protections against evil spirits and curses. Though Chinese by nationality, they have retained their unique language, culture, and pride.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, the Uyghur pushed for independence as did many other Muslim groups in Central Asia, but the Chinese government suppressed demonstrations and increased control of the region.

Since then, millions of Han Chinese have resettled in Xinjiang; to the Uyghur's great distress. Simmering tension between the two groups sometimes boils over into violence. Many Uyghur still long for autonomy from China. Unlike China's other Muslim minority groups, the Uyghur enjoy few religious freedoms.

Missionary Outreach

In the late 1800s Swedish missionaries brought the gospel message and baptized hundreds of Uyghur believers. The work ended tragically in 1938 with the martyr or forcible remarriage of these Christians to Muslims. In the last 20 years missionaries have once again made their way to China's far northwest to reach the Uyghur.

Of Xinjiang's 11 million Uyghurs, approximately 800 are Christians. Some people might describe the Uyghur as forgotten or overlooked, but their Creator knows them and has a plan to make them his own. Won't you join us in this great work?

Thousands of years ago caravans travelling the ancient Silk Road encountered the Uyghur in oasis cities and discovered their love for music, dance, and hospitality. Arab traders taught them a greeting you'll still hear today: "Asalaam aleykum," meaning peace be with you. The Arabs also taught them a new religion—Islam.

Uyghurs are descendants of ancient Turkic tribes and live in what is known today as the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region of northwest China. The region has had intermittent autonomy, but came under Chinese rule in the 18th Century and officially became part of Communist China in 1949.



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Kind Words Shine Light in the Darkness

Kind Words Spoken

“My friend Mohamet is a Uyghur doctor trained in western medicine. He hates his job because he thinks the hospital where he works will ruin his reputation.

But he works hard because he wants to be successful and take a wife to satisfy his parents. He bought a house and is having it decorated in preparation.

My wife and I met Mohamet for lunch one day. As I finished speaking to my wife, Mohamet said, “You speak to your wife so kindly. Why? We only speak to women that way before we marry them.”

Young men and women face many societal and familial pressures to marry young and be successful. Sadly, relationships are often marred by divorce, marital strife, and abuse.

Our hope is to bring the Uyghur into relationship with Christ, the one who can change hearts and heal broken relationships.



Opportunity

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

Is God calling you to bring “streams of living water in the desert” to the Muslim Uyghur of China?

Glorifying God by working together to establish reproducing churches focusing on the unreached peoples of the world.

Ministry Overview

People	Uyghur
Language	Uyghur
Location	Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in NW China
Opportunities	Business Counseling Teaching English language Campus outreach Prayer ministry

You, Creator, were among your creation,
But many didn't realize (it).
Though you did many miracles,
People didn't know.
All praise to you, my God;
Forgive us - we completely repent.
Unfortunately, we are very late
in believing.

- Worship song written by a
Uyghur believer



Join the Team!

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