

Uygur



Quick Facts

Population: 11,000,000

China: 10,500,000

Kazakhstan: 300,000

Kyrgyzstan: 38,000

Uzbekistan: 37,000

Religion: Sunni Islam

Believers: 0.006%

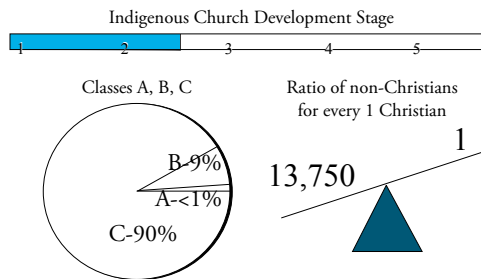
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 25+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: The Uygur are an eastern Turkic tribal confederation which have united themselves together under a common ethnic identity. (Their chosen ethnonym Uygur means unity.) Their tribal dialects are related to Uzbek and Kyrgyz. They claim to descend from intermarriage between a Turkic and Indo-European tribe. DNA samples, as well as appearance would seem to support this claim.

Lifestyle: At one time the Uyghurs were primarily a nomadic people. Almost all are now sedentary oasis farmers. Although the region in which they live (China's Xinjiang province) is mostly desert, through clever irrigation systems in which water is piped from mountain areas and underground reservoirs, they are able to grow melons, peaches, corn, wheat and cotton, as well as engage in animal husbandry.

Customs: The Uyghur have a tradition of being a fiercely independent people.

The encroachment of their land by the Han Chinese, and the attempt to turn their oasis settlements into communes, has provoked a strong, and sometimes violent, independence movement among them. They refer to their land as East Turkestan and have their own flag, which has been outlawed by the Chinese government. The controversial phrase East Turkestan has practically become synonymous with terrorism in China.

Religion: The Uyghurs converted to Sunni Islam between the 10th and 13th centuries. In the 14th century, Sufi orders became heavily active among them, and prospered from some 300 years under the royal patronage of the house of Timur. The Sufi orders active among them, such as the Naqshbandi, have association with their related orders throughout Central Asia.

Christian Outreach: In 1933 the entire Uygur Church was martyred (about 300

believers) by Abdullah Khan upon his succession to power, and all missionaries were expelled. Today the Uygur Church is slowly becoming a reality once again, with four fellowships in China, and an amazing breakthrough in Kazakhstan in which hundreds have come to faith in Christ in at least a dozen discipleship groups.

How to Pray:

☞ There has been massive migration of the Han Chinese in Xinjiang province, and there are now at least 400,000 believers among them. Pray that these believers will have a burden to reach their Muslim neighbors and for cultural sensitivity to their context.

☞ The New Testament is being updated in Uygur. Pray for God's blessing on the translation team and for permission to print and distribute it in China.

☞ The Uyghur church in Kazakhstan continues to grow. Pray that God will use these believers to evangelize their relatives across the border in Xinjiang.

☞ There is a daily 15 minute Uyghur Christian broadcast. Pray for creative programming and a widespread listening audience. Pray also

**Every year 100,000
 Uyghurs die
 without Christ.**