

Hui, Panthay in Thailand



Photo: Leslie D. Montano



Map: Joshua Project / GMI / IMB

"Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

People Name	Hui, Panthay
Country	Thailand
Status	Unengaged Unreached
Population	82,000
Language	Chinese, Mandarin
Religion	Islam
Written Scripture	Yes
Oral Scripture	Yes
Jesus Film	Yes
Gospel Recordings	Yes
Christ Followers	No
Churches	No
Workers Needed	1
Workers Reported	0

IDENTITY

The Hui are an official minority of China. Their high cheekbones and round eyes give many Hui a very different appearance from the Han Chinese.

The Hui speak standard Mandarin; although, in some locations, Persian and Arabic words have been added to their vocabulary.

HISTORY

By the middle of the seventh century, Arab and Persian traders and merchants traveled to China in search of riches. In addition, in the thirteenth century the Mongols turned people into mobile armies during their Central Asian conquests and sent them to China. These civilians were expected to settle down at various locations to farm while maintaining combat readiness. As artisans, scholars, officials, and religious leaders, they spread throughout China. These people are the ancestors of today's Hui. One of the worst cases of genocide in history took place against the Hui in Yunnan from 1855 to 1873. One million Hui people were massacred.

CUSTOMS

The Hui are forbidden to eat pork, but that prohibition is often overlooked by calling the meat "mutton." A Chinese joke is that "One Muslim traveling will grow fat; two on

a journey will grow thin." The Hui are renowned as sharp businessmen. A Chinese proverb from the 1800s states, "A Chinese awake is not the equal of a Hui sleeping."

RELIGION

Almost all Hui are Sunni Muslims. They worship in thousands of mosques throughout China. Islam first came to China via Abu Waggas, one of Mohammed's contemporaries. He preached in southern China and had the Beacon Tower built in memory of Mohammed in AD 627. In recent years, an increasing number of Hui have traveled to Mecca for the annual Haj pilgrimage.

CHRISTIANITY

Mission work among the Hui in Ningxia commenced in 1885. A few Hui 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. Recently a mission team secretly distributed 35,000 gospel tracts and cassette tapes to the Hui. A large church has emerged in northern Ningxia, but almost all the believers are Han Chinese, and few of them have a desire to reach out to the Hui. Most Hui have yet to hear the gospel of Christ, but there are now a few thriving churches among the Hui.

PRAYER POINTS

* Pray for the Lord to thrust out workers to this people group. (Mt 9:37-38, Jn 4:35)

* Pray for the Holy Spirit to equip, empower, and guide these laborers to bear fruit through disciple-making and church-planting movements within this people group. (Mt 18:8, Mk 4:8, Jn 15:8)

* Ask the Holy Spirit to multiply these movements until there is no place left in this people group where Christ is not preached or known. (Mt 24:14, Mt 28:18-20, Acts 19:10, Rom 15:23)

* Ask that these movements transform this people group's culture to fully glorify God and represent His Kingdom on earth. (Mt 6:9-10, Rom 12:2, 2 Cor 3:18)

* Pray for every opposing spirit to give way to the liberating, life-giving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King. (James 4:7, 2 Cor 10:4-5, 1 Cor 15:58, Mt 18:18)