

# Pray for the world in 2012!

The following pages of maps and flags and other information were compiled in December 2011 and January 2012. The information was accurate at the time of compilation, but details (names of presidents, kings, etc.) may change during the course of the year.

Sources include [www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com), <http://education.nationalgeographic.com>, [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com), and [www.kidsofcourage.com](http://www.kidsofcourage.com).

The prayer requests are from the 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar. You can use this information to pray for the world with or without the calendar.

## WILL YOU PRAY?

### The 2012 VOM Prayer Calendar

The Voice of the Martyrs' 2012 Prayer Calendar will help you fellowship with and pray for these persecuted believers, sharing in their trials and being encouraged by their tremendous faith. The calendar features photos and brief stories of persecuted Christians, many of them youths, who exhibit an unwavering trust in Christ despite persecution.

The prayer calendar makes an excellent gift for family and friends, serving as a daily reminder to pray for the persecuted church. For as little as \$4, you can give the gift of prayer to the persecuted church while giving family and friends the opportunity to fellowship with those persecuted for their faith.

But Jesus called them unto Him, and said,  
"Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not:  
for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16 (KJV)

Visit

[http://etools.vomusa.org/a/vomso/bg\\_vomso\\_wdbm-20111205-PrayerCalendar\\_443.html](http://etools.vomusa.org/a/vomso/bg_vomso_wdbm-20111205-PrayerCalendar_443.html)

to request your 2012 Voice of the Martyrs Prayer Calendar.

[www.scripturemelodies.com](http://www.scripturemelodies.com)

# An Introduction to China

## (People's Republic of China)

China is the world's fourth largest country (after Russia, Canada, and US)



**Area:** 9.6m square km (slightly smaller than the US)

**Coastline:** 14,500 km

**Climate:** extremely diverse, ranging from tropical in the south to subarctic in the north

**Terrain:** mostly mountains, high plateaus, deserts in west; plains, deltas, and hills in east

**Highest point:** Mount Everest 8,850 m (world's tallest mountain)

**Natural hazards:** frequent typhoons (about five per year along southern and eastern coasts), floods, earthquakes

**Population:** 1,321,851,888 (July 2007)

**Language:** The official language is Mandarin

**Government:** Communist

**Capital:** Beijing



China's national flag was adopted in September, 1949. This flag was first flown in Tiananmen Square on October 1, 1949 - the day of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The rectangular flag has a red field with five golden-yellow stars (each with five points) in the upper left corner. The star on the left is larger than the other four.

The red color of the flag symbolizes revolution. The large star symbolizes the Communist Party (which rules China) and the smaller stars represent the people of China.

## ***A Special Sister and Brother***

(from [www.kidsofcourage.com](http://www.kidsofcourage.com), , May 1, 2008)



Before the 2008 Olympics, weather officials in China practiced shooting weapons at clouds to control the rain. Officials shut down factories to control pollution. They removed people from their homes to make more space for Olympics activities.

China's government likes to control things. They even try to control the public worship of God by making rules for Christians and churches about what they can and cannot do.

China's government wants families to have only one child. They hope to control the population so that it quits growing. China has more than 1 billion people.

Donna lives in China. She has something none of her friends have. She has a brother!

When Donna was 2 years old, she tried to climb a ladder that led to the roof of her house. She fell and hurt her head. Her brain was damaged in the fall.

The government allowed Donna's parents to have another child because no one thought Donna would ever be able to do the things other children do. The family happily welcomed a new baby boy into their lives.

Then something unusual happened. Donna's brain healed from the injury! She grew strong, healthy, and very smart.

Donna and her brother had a special relationship. They knew they were blessed to have each other as brother and sister.

Donna still loves her brother. But now he is upset and confused. Donna learned about Jesus from one of her school teachers. She was happy to find forgiveness for her sins and to follow Jesus as her Lord. Her brother does not understand her new faith. Most people in China are not Christians.

Donna is praying that her brother will want to follow Jesus, too. Thank God for healing Donna and pray her life and good example will bring her brother, her parents, and others to Him.

## **Ling Gets a Bible**

(from [www.kidsofcourage.com](http://www.kidsofcourage.com), January 27, 2012)

Ling left her home in China at the age of 17. She believed that God had called her to share the message of Jesus with people in the villages of China. When she left home, she had no food, very little money, and no Bible.

Few people in the region where she lived had Bibles. Some people borrowed Bibles and copied verses from them by hand or memorized the verses. The few Bibles available had been smuggled into the area at great risk to the smugglers.

Ling walked from village to village telling people about Jesus. Sometimes she met someone who owned a Bible. She memorized verses from their Bible to share in the next village. Ling prayed that God would provide her with a Bible of her own.

One day, Ling heard about a woman four miles away who had some Bibles. The Bibles had been smuggled to China by missionaries. Ling hurried to find the woman. "No!" said the woman when Ling asked her for a Bible. "These Bibles are very valuable. How do I know you are even a Christian?"

Ling pleaded with the woman. Finally the woman said she would give Ling a Bible if Ling could say the Lord's Prayer without making any mistakes. Ling went to another village to visit a man with a Bible. The man had copied his entire Bible by hand. His hands were bent from the thousands of hours he spent copying the treasured words.

Ling memorized the Lord's Prayer from the handwritten Bible and returned to the woman's house. The woman gave Ling a Bible! She told Ling that some Christians had died getting the precious books to Chinese Christians.

### ***Thank You Note from China***

(from [www.kidsofcourage.com](http://www.kidsofcourage.com), January 10, 2012)

A Christian from China recently sent the following thank you note to The Voice of the Martyrs after receiving a Bible from a VOM contact in their country.

"To tell you the truth, we live in a mountain area which has inconvenient traffic. We used to constantly pray for Bibles which we lack. I even thought we were forgotten by the love of God. I am grateful that God heard our prayers. Everyone has their own Bibles by your loving dedication. When I hold this brand new precious Bible, you can tell my thanks from my heart. Firstly, I want to thank God for hearing our prayers. Secondly, I want to give thanks to you for your loving help. We will use these Bibles a lot to re-know God and work for him. Thanks for your dedication and may blessing be with you!"

**Learn more** about VOM's Bibles Unbound program at [www.biblesunbound.com](http://www.biblesunbound.com). **Find out** about VOM's Bibles for Captive Nations project at [VOMBooks.com](http://VOMBooks.com).

Pray for China.

1 – Pray for Brother Yang and other Christians blessed through Voice of the Martyrs' Bibles Unbound program.

2 – Pray that house church leaders will resist the pressure to join the state-run church.

3 – House churches account for about 90 percent of China's Christians. Pray for trained pastors.

4 – Pray for Alimujiang Yimiti, imprisoned since 2008 for preaching to ethnic Uyghurs.

5 – Pray for the families of Christian prisoners arrested for their faith.

6 – More Christians are imprisoned for their faith in China than in any other country.

7 – The unregistered Linfen Fushan Church was raided in 2009. Pray for church leaders who remain in prison.

8 – Pray for Christian lawyers who work for justice.

9 – Pray for Christian outreaches to the Chinese military.

10 – Pray for President Hu Jintao.

Link to map:

[http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?map=China&ar\\_a=1](http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/mapping/outline-map/?map=China&ar_a=1)