



**Australian Government**  
**Refugee Review Tribunal**

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# Country Advice

## China

China – CHN39868 – Three Self Patriotic  
Movement (TSPM) – China Christian  
Council (CCC) – Shijiazhuang  
13 February 2012

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- 1. Please identify the location of any TSPM registered Christian churches in Shijiazhuang and any information regarding the level of attendance at such churches in this area. If possible, please plot any TSPM Churches on a map of the region.**

The Three Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) and the China Christian Council (CCC) are the two organisations which lead the official Protestant church in China. The TSPM is “an overtly political organisation which oversees church policy and monitors foreign relations”, while the CCC is “more pastoral and ecclesiastical in function”. Many leading figures hold positions in both of these organisations concurrently. The senior members are directly appointed by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.<sup>1</sup> A December 2009 report from *The Australian* indicates that “local churchgoers” consider the TSPM and CCC to be “effectively the same”.<sup>2</sup>

The website of the *Amity News Service*, which was established to provide the “news and views from the China Christian Council”,<sup>3</sup> provides a list of “Churches and Meeting Points”. One church based in Shijiazhuang is given on this list, the Shijiazhuang City Church.<sup>4</sup> The address and other contact details of this church are given as follows:

Shijiazhuang City Church  
No.94 Xinhua Road  
Shijiazhuang City 050000  
Hebei

Tel: 86-311-87022318 or 87028925

...Fax: 86-311-87022318<sup>5</sup>

A page on the Asia Harvest website<sup>6</sup> refers to a statistic provided by a 2002 “TSPM China Prayer Calendar” which refers to 9,400 TSPM Protestants in 31 churches in Shijiazhuang

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<sup>1</sup> Hunter, A. & Chan, K.-K. 1993, *Protestantism in Contemporary China*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 58-59.

<sup>2</sup> Sainsbury, M. 2009, ‘Persecuted in prayer’, *The Australian*, 24 December.

<sup>3</sup> ‘About Us’ (undated), *Amity News Service* <http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=460> – Accessed 31 January 2012.

<sup>4</sup> ‘Churches and Meeting Points’ (undated), *Amity News Service* <http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1233> – Accessed 31 January 2012.

<sup>5</sup> ‘Churches and Meeting Points – Shijiazhuang City Church’ (undated), *Amity News Service* <http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1233&recordID=157> – Accessed 31 January 2012.

<sup>6</sup> On its website, Asia Harvest describes itself as “an inter-denominational Christian ministry working in various countries throughout Asia to see effective churches planted among unreached people groups”: ‘Asia Harvest Mission Statement’ (undated), Asia Harvest website <http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/missionStatement.html> – Accessed 9 February 2012.

City.<sup>7</sup> However, no further information has been located in relation to the exact location of TSPM/CCC churches in Shijiazhuang.

A single source was located which makes specific reference to the level of attendance at a TSPM church in Shijiazhuang. This reference appears in an October 2010 article published on the “China Chatter” internet blog. The blogger was a Christian teacher from the United States<sup>8</sup> who, in her article, described her visit to a service held at the TSPM church in Shijiazhuang. She claimed that “[t]housands of believers attend this church”. She also referred to a baptismal service that was held following the morning service, in which “over 300 people” had participated. Aside from identifying the church she attended as a TSPM church in Shijiazhuang, no further details are provided regarding the location of the church.<sup>9</sup>

The Hebei Provincial Committee of the TSPM/CCC also has an office based in West Shijiazhuang. The address and other contact details of this office are given as follows:

Hebei Provincial CC/TSPM Committee  
No. 377 Yuhua Road West Shijiazhuang 050051  
Hebei

Tel: 86-311-85233703

...Email: hbjdj@btamail.net.cn<sup>10</sup>

In addition, the TSPM/CCC’s Hebei Provincial Protestant Christian Training Centre is located in Shijiazhuang. The address and other contact details of this training centre are given as follows:

Hebei Provincial Protestant Christian Training Centre  
Dong Gu Cheng Village North  
North Ringroad  
Shijiazhuang 050041  
Hebei

Tel: 86-311-6839011<sup>11</sup>

Shijiazhuang is the capital of Hebei Province,<sup>12</sup> which is reportedly “home to roughly a quarter of China’s 8-12 million Roman Catholics.”<sup>13</sup> A September 2010 report from *The Straits Times* states that “[m]embers of the underground Catholic Church are concentrated in

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<sup>7</sup> „Hebei’ (undated), Asia Harvest website

<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/Christians%20in%20China/Provinces/Hebei.htm> – Accessed 9 February 2012.

<sup>8</sup> „Blogger: User Profile: Julie Bungard’ (undated), Blogger website

<http://www.blogger.com/profile/1752093816613376777> – Accessed 8 February 2012.

<sup>9</sup> „Church in China’ 2010, China Chatter website, 23 October <http://china-chatter.blogspot.com.au/> – Accessed 8 February 2012.

<sup>10</sup> „China Christian Council/Three-Self Patriotic Movement Offices – Hebei Provincial CC/TSPM Committee’ (undated), *Amity News Service* <http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1231&recordID=13> – Accessed 8 February 2012.

<sup>11</sup> „Seminaries and Bible Schools – Hebei Provincial Protestant Christian Training Centre’ (undated), *Amity News Service* <http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1232&recordID=49> – Accessed 8 February 2012.

<sup>12</sup> „China to choose Catholic heads; Vatican ties tense’ 2010, *Associated Press*, 8 December.

<sup>13</sup> „China moves Tibet hardliner to heavily Catholic province’ 2011, *Reuters*, 29 August.

Hebei, Shaanxi, Guangxi, Gansu and Xinjiang.”<sup>14</sup> An October 2009 report from the Catholic news website *AsiaNews.it* states that “Hebei is the Chinese province with the highest concentration of Catholics, at least 1.5 million, mostly in underground communities.”<sup>15</sup> The US Department of State, in its 2009 *International Religious Freedom Report*, states that Hebei province is “traditionally home to many unregistered Catholics.”<sup>16</sup> The town of Donglu in Hebei province, where an apparition of the Virgin Mary was reported to have occurred in 1900, is reportedly “one of the strongholds of the unofficial Catholic Church in China.”<sup>17</sup> *Country Advice CHN17609* (completed on 24 October 2005) also provides information indicating that Hebei province has a comparatively large Catholic community and that many of these are in the underground Catholic Church rather than the state-sanctioned Catholic Patriotic Association.<sup>18</sup>

The Asia Harvest website provides a breakdown of the number of Protestants and Catholics throughout China. In one section, figures are provided for 149 counties and cities in Hebei Province. According to the figures provided, there are 20,216 Protestants in Shijiazhuang City, with 9,939 TSPM Protestants and 10,277 House Church Protestants. It is indicated that there are a total of 87,507 Catholics in the same city, with the total population of Shijiazhuang City being given as 2,160,669. The citation given for the number of TSPM Protestants is the aforementioned 2002 TSPM China Prayer Calendar which refers to 9,400 members in 31 churches. No citations are provided for the number of House Church Protestants, or for the number of Catholics.<sup>19</sup> The compiler of these figures, Paul Hattaway, indicates in an accompanying essay on the Asia Harvest website that his figures are his own estimate, based on sources he has collected over 20 years. He also states that “it is not possible to conduct an accurate nationwide survey of Christians in the present climate”.<sup>20</sup> A 2002 report from the Christianity in China website<sup>21</sup> stated that there were “at least 400,000” Protestant Christians in Hebei Province at the time of writing, with 80 percent living in rural areas.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> „House church in China refuses to register despite pressure – HK daily’ 2010, *The Straits Times*, 4 September.

<sup>15</sup> Cervellera, B. 2009, „In Hebei, underground bishop joins Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association’, *AsiaNews.it*, 29 October.

<sup>16</sup> US Department of State 2009, *International Religious Freedom Report for 2009 – China*, 26 October.

<sup>17</sup> „China has a number of Marian shrines’ 2004, *Sunday Examiner*, 6 January.

<sup>18</sup> RRT Country Research 2005, *Country Advice CHN17609*, 24 October.

<sup>19</sup> „Hebei’ (undated), Asia Harvest website

<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/Christians%20in%20China/Provinces/Hebei.htm> – Accessed 9 February 2012.

<sup>20</sup> Hattaway, P. (undated), „How Many Christians are there in China?’, Asia Harvest website

<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/Christians%20in%20China/christiansInChina2.html> – Accessed 9 February 2012.

<sup>21</sup> The Christianity in China website is California-based and states that its objective “is to promote a better understanding in the North American Church and the society at large regarding developments of the Church in China”: „About CIC’ (undated), Christianity in China website <http://www.christianityinchina.org/about.html> – Accessed 31 January 2012.

<sup>22</sup> „News from the Regions’ 2002, Christianity in China website, 17 October.

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<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/missionStatement.html> – Accessed 9 February 2012.
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<http://www.blogger.com/profile/17520938166133767777> – Accessed 8 February 2012.
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<http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1233&recordID=157> – Accessed 31 January 2012.
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<http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1233> – Accessed 31 January 2012.
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<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/Christians%20in%20China/christiansInChina2.html> – Accessed 9 February 2012.
- „Hebei’ (undated), Asia Harvest website  
<http://www.asiaharvest.org/pages/Christians%20in%20China/Provinces/Hebei.htm> – Accessed 9 February 2012.
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Sainsbury, M. 2009, „Persecuted in prayer’, *The Australian*, 24 December. (CISNET China CX238114)

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<http://www.amitynewsservice.org/page.php?page=1232&recordID=49> – Accessed 8 February 2012.