

China

- The official language of China is Mandarin Chinese.
- Fifteen countries touch China's borders—Mongolia, Russia, North Korea, Myanmar, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Laos, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan. Wow! That's a lot of neighbors!
- China has more people than any other country in the world.
- Only two countries have more land than China: Russia and Canada.
- Even though China is very large, much of the land is desert and mountains and can't be used for farming.
- Chinese people are a mix of unreligious, Buddhists, Christians, and folk religions.
- Chinese Christians are badly persecuted and many meet in hidden house churches so they are free to worship without being controlled by the government.
- Because many Christians hide in house churches, no one really knows how many there are. But it is said that 1,200 people come to Christ every half hour in China!
- The Great Wall of China is about 5500 miles long!



Story: Too Crowded

In Chinese, Huan-yue means joyful. That is exactly how Huan-yue felt as she sang to the Lord at the top of her lungs. She knew she was to sing quietly, but she had so much to be thankful for.

Huan-yue was the second child born into her family. In her city of Beijing, China, each family was allowed to have only one child. And it was considered better to have a boy than to have a girl. But the local authorities who made sure each family had only one child never discovered her. Many mothers in their church had been forced to give up their babies. She had even heard stories that some babies were killed. Huan-yue had been taught by her father and mother that all children were precious in the sight of God.

Recently, the Family Planning Department of Shaoyang City, China was accused of taking away babies by force from dozens of families in order to meet the requirements of China's one-child policy. The babies were placed in an

Story cont . .

orphanage, then sold abroad to people who would adopt them. According to reports, some of the adopted babies were not “abandoned” as the department claimed, but actually kidnapped from their parents.

China’s one child policy became law over 30 years ago to help control the booming population. This made Chinese parents very sad. China is now thinking of relaxing the law to allow for two children, but it is estimated that over 300 million babies were never born because of the law.



Recipe: Almond Cookies

2 1/2 cups sifted flour	1 egg
3/4 cup sugar	2 tablespoons water
1/4 teaspoon salt	1 teaspoon almond extract
1 teaspoon baking powder	1/3 cup blanched almonds

Sift together flour, sugar, salt and baking powder. Cut in shortening with a pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles corn meal. Add egg, water and almond extract and stir until mixture comes away from sides of bowl.

Knead with the hands until smooth. Chill dough 1 hour.

Pinch off balls of dough the size of walnuts. Roll and flatten with hands to about 1/2 inch thickness. Press an almond in the center of each cookie.

Bake in a moderate oven (350° F) 20 to 25 minutes.

Activity: Throwing Fists

This traditional Chinese game can be played by two or more players. On the count of 3, the children throw their fists out in front of them with anything from 0 fingers to 5 fingers extended. At the same time, one child (take turns) calls out a number. If the fingers extended add up to that number, the child wins.

Obviously, the child must call out a number which might come up. So if 2 children are playing, the numbers can be between 0 and 10; if 3 children are playing, between 0 and 15, and so on. Children must be careful to throw their fists on time, too, so that no child can be accused of changing her fingers after the number is called!

