

THIRTY DAYS IN CHINA

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Like all ^{C?} Communist countries, ninety five percent of the population is controlled by a privileged class of people; namely, the Communist Party ^Mmembers. Only a small segment of the population is allowed to belong to the party. Communist dictators have discovered that about five percent ^{of} the privileged can effectively control the lives of the underprivileged. ^{the} party owns everything including the ^{and}, the buildings, and the factories and the best jobs go to the communist elite.

Nepotism abounds. If the top official is the director of some institution, you can bet that his wife is his deputy. Perks go along with these jobs. Government vehicles are also used for private use and the Communists enjoy privileges at the stores. The Communists use two types of money. There is the "peoples" money" and the "Communist's" money. The Communist's money has FEC (~~F~~ Foreign Exchange Certificate) value and can be exchanged for U.S. dollars and other foreign currency. This opens the door for the ruling class to put FEC money in secret Swiss bank accounts.

^{restate} Loyalty to the hierarchies, of course, maintained by the better jobs and perks that party members have over the common man.

One person, a Captain, is the watch dog over about twenty people. One of his main responsibilities is to see that parents have only one child. The people that Ida-Rose and I met generally resented this restriction. If a woman becomes ^{pregnant} present with a second child, she is forced to have an abortion. ^{or lose her job.}

The Captain has considerable power and in one instance where our permanent guide, "Chen" ^W wanted to take us to his home for a visit, the Captain would not allow it.

In the rural areas on farms you may have two children. If you are lucky enough to have twins, you do not have to kill one of them.

However the strong Chinese preference for male children does lead to some dastardly deeds such as killing a female baby. In this respect, a recent the Readers Digest article has detailed the the tragic results of China's one child only policy. ^{should policy be in reg type?}

^{If} you somehow escape your Captain's notice and have more than one child you are in serious trouble and may be fined and even lose your job. ^{getting} a new job may be next to impossible.

China's population is enormous. One quarter of the world's total population (one billion people) live in China.

As an aside, the subject of the Aids disease came up in one conversation where there were three Chinese men and three Chinese

women present and Ida-Rose asked if this disease had reached China. The answer was "yes". Ida-Rose then said, "Well you know how to keep from getting it don't you? You don't have sex before marriage and you remain faithful to your spouse after marriage. Our church teaches that."

In one voice, the Chinese incredulously exclaimed, "What, no sex before marriage!" As a result there are many pre-marriage pregnancies.

Thirteen and fourteen year old pregnancies are common in the rural areas of China as is also the case in the communist country of Zimbabwe where Ida-Rose and I served as missionaries. However in this country, girl babies are favored because of the Labola Tradition (buying the bride). Tribal rules preclude marriage before the labolla is fully paid. It sometimes takes twenty years for the father to pay-off his father-in-law and by then the couple may have a dozen children. There is a further difference in Zimbabwe in that polygamy is often practised there.

Interestingly, in light of the Mormon tradition of plural marriage in the past, a man with more than one wife cannot be baptized into the Mormon Church.