

unite the Christian faith with the *genius* of their own people. In accepting Christ, local theologians can discover their own roots more deeply.

The tools that Aleni offered were, first of all, the example of his own personal life dedicated to Christ and his unfailing commitment to the propagation of the Gospel. Aleni also made a significant literary contribution. His books provide something of an itinerary toward a Christological spirituality.

One can object that Aleni offered a 'Jesuit' spirituality rather than a 'Christological,' one. He did, in fact, emphasized the elements typical of a Jesuit formation. He cannot be faulted for this since people give what they have and consider to be most precious and beautiful.

Facts about China

China's population has more than doubled in the past 44 years. It now stands at more than 1.2 billion people.

The Han Chinese make up at least 92% of China's population.

The official language in China is Mandarin but there are a number of other languages. The principal ones are Cantonese, Yue, Wu, Hakka, Xiang, Gan, Minbei, and Minnan.

The principal cities are Beijing, the capital; Shanghai, Tianjin, Shenyang and Guangzhou.

The life expectancy for males is 68 years and 71 for females.

China has a literacy rate of approximately 85%

In 1997:

2.56 million Mainland Chinese travelled abroad or to Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan for tourism, business, study, training and to visit relatives. Of these;

43,000 were given approval to go abroad for training or study.

122,000 were given permission to travel abroad for business or some form of negotiation.

50,000 were permitted to settle permanently in Hong Kong.

380,000 Mainlanders went to Hong Kong as tourists.

48,000 went to Taiwan for personal reasons.

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