

Baoshan

保山

Baoshan, which means “Mountain of Protection,” is strategically located in western Yunnan Province about 100 km (62 miles) from China’s south-western border with Myanmar (Burma). The city is home to approximately 850,000 inhabitants from a wide range of ethnic groups.

Baoshan has an airport just outside the city, with small airplanes that fly to and from Kunming daily.

Baoshan has long been a Han Chinese bastion in the midst of minority peoples. Baoshan first came under direct Chinese control in 69 AD. As early as the 5th century AD the area was a key stop on the southern Silk Road that linked southwest China and India.

Today 86.8% of the city’s population are Han. Many of the minority groups who formerly lived in today’s city area were forced off their land and into the hills surrounding the city, where today the percentage of minority people remains much higher than in the urban areas. Still, Baoshan today contains families from 26 of China’s 55 officially-recognized ethnic minorities. The largest communities are the 32,500 Yi people, 30,800 Bai, 16,200 Dai, 7,000 Lisu, 3,800 Miao, 3,000 Hui, as well as between 500 and 1,000 each of the Manchu, De’ang and Wa nationalities. The De’ang are a staunchly Buddhist people group with

Population:
728,950 (1990)
829,567 (2000)
944,000 (2010)

Province:
Yunnan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han	86.8%
Yi	4.5%
Bai	4.2%
Dai	2.2%

Christians:
16,000 (1.9%)

small numbers in China, but large across the border in Myanmar, where they are more commonly known by the Burmese name of Palaung.

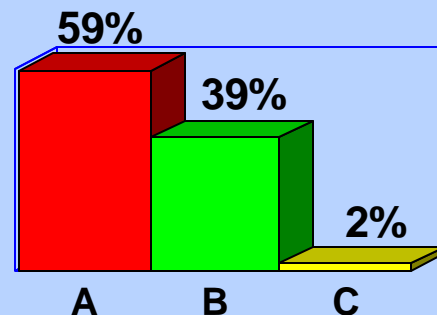
Because of its relatively close proximity to Myanmar, quite a few people from that country reside in, or come through, Baoshan. During World War II, Baoshan was a vitally important location along the ‘Burma Road.’ U.S. and Allied forces used this rough road to transport supplies, weapons and troops from northern Burma (now Myanmar) into southwest China to assist China’s war against the Japanese. Many Western pilots who flew overloaded supply planes

over ‘the hump’ crash landed in the mountainous terrain. Because of its importance, Baoshan was frequently bombed by Japanese airplanes, leaving the entire town in ruins. Tens of thousands of refugees gathered up their possessions and headed into the hills to escape the bombing raids.

A look at the census statistics from Baoshan reveals the city to be highly focused on agriculture, with 88.5% of the workforce employed in the agricultural sector in 1990, including factory workers in food processing plants. The census also revealed low education and literacy rates for the people of Baoshan, with a mere 21% of school-age and above people having made it as far as high school. Twenty-nine



Status of Evangelization
(Awareness of Christ and the Gospel)



A = have never heard the Gospel or the Name of Christ
B = were evangelized but have not yet become Christians
C = Adherants to any form of Christianity



percent of Baoshan adults reported having never attended school at any level at all, not even at primary level. Not surprisingly then, 31.9% of the adults in Baoshan were found to be illiterate (20.5% of men and 43.3% of women).

Baoshan has been the target of both Protestant and Catholic missionaries since the late 1800s, yet despite some limited success it must be said that the residents of the city largely ignored the missionaries efforts to evangelize them. Today there are an estimated 16,000 confessing Christians (less than 2%) among the population of Baoshan, but this figure is ethnically lopsided. The 7,000 Lisu who live in the city, for example, are at least 50% Christian, while other groups such as the Dai, Hui, and De'ang minorities have barely a handful of believers among them.

The city of Baoshan was a base for successful missions activity in the 1920s to 1950s. Among the city's residents was the famous James O. Fraser of the China Inland Mission. He and many other workers experienced tremendous revival among the Lisu populations living north of Baoshan in the Salween and Nu River Valleys, where thousands of Lisu being baptized in a short period of time.

Pray for Baoshan

- 1** Pray the fire of the Gospel would spread to all people in Baoshan, including the Han Chinese majority.
- 2** Ask God to make the church in Baoshan a hub for outreach to the lost.
- 3** Pray the Baoshan Christians will be strong in God's Word.

Overview of Baoshan (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Baow-shahn"	Employed People	: 450,033 (61.7% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Paoshan	Main Industries	: Agriculture 88.5%, Professional 3.1%
Location	: western Yunnan Province, SW China	Education	University: 1.7%
Population	: 728,950 (1990 census)	(highest level	High School: 19.4%
Males	: 366,727 (50.31%)	attended):	Primary school: 49.9%
Females	: 362,223 (49.69%)		Never attended any school: 29.0%
Households	: 165,934	Population under 15:	188,276 (25.8%)
Average Household	: 4.4 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 31.9% (men 20.5%; women 43.3%)
Divorced People	: 2,524	Major Nationalities	: Han 632,594
% divorced of Population:	0.35		Yi 32,572
Centurions (1990)	: 1 person aged 100 or more		Bai 30,821
Immigrants to City:	12,237		Dai 16,177
From same province:	9,815 (80.2%)		Others 16,786 (23 groups)
From other provinces:	2,357 (19.3%)	Christians (2003)	: 16,000 (1.9%)