

# CHANGDE 常德

Changde City, home to approximately 1.6 million people, is located in the northern lakes area of Hunan Province, on the shores of Lake Dongting. Changde is actually a combination of two administrative units that were counted separately in the 1990 Chinese census. The Changde Dingcheng District contained a population of 965,000, and the Changde City Wuling District 267,000 people. For the purposes of this book we have combined the two neighboring populations into one. The population of Changde in the early 1920's was only about 60,000. It has grown more than twenty-fold in the intervening years.

<b>Population:</b>	
1,231,549 (1990)	
1,655,000 (2000)	
2,224,200 (2010)	
<b>Province:</b>	
Hunan	
<b>Major Ethnic Groups:</b>	
Han	98.0%
Hui	1.5%
Tujia	0.2%
Uygur	0.1%
<b>Christians:</b>	
3,500 (0.2%)	

Ninety-eight percent of the people in Changde are Han Chinese. More than 18,000 Hui Muslims make their homes in the city, as do 2,200 Tujia, 750 Uygurs and 700 Miao. The Uygurs living in Changde are the descendants of 29 Uygur clans who migrated to China proper during the Mongolian (Yuan) Dynasty (1271-1368). They have been thoroughly assimilated and are no longer able to speak their original Turkic language.

Changde is located 180 km (111 miles) northwest of the provincial capital, Changsha, and 195 km (120 miles) from one of China's most famous destinations, the Wulingyuan Scenic Spot. In ancient times the Chinese called the strategically-placed Changde "The throat of

Guizhou and Sichuan provinces and the door to Yunnan and Guizhou provinces."

Changde, which was founded in the second century BC, is blessed with fertile soil and bumper harvests. There are a total of 2,472 different kinds of fauna and flora in the city, including 17 rare plants and 24 protected animals.

A total of 432 rivers and streams run through the city and surrounding areas. The large Yuanjiang River divides the city into two. There are almost 100 different natural minerals in the ground around Changde, the main reserves being gold, antimony and tungsten. Diamonds, salt,

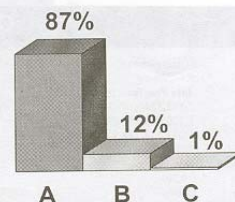
silicon, marble, granite, limestone and coal are also mined extensively.

Changde's output of grain, cotton and oil rank first in Hunan



Part of the central Changde city area.

## 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 = Adherents to any form of Christianity

Province. Other products that are exported around China and throughout the world include fruit (especially oranges), tea, sugar, tobacco, tortoise and pearls.

Hunanese people, also known as Xiang, have a reputation as the most independent, stubborn and hardest people in China. The province's most famous son is Mao Zedong. The Hunanese speak their own Chinese dialect that people from other parts of China find very difficult to comprehend. An estimated nine million people in Hunan Province perished during a severe famine in 1877-78.

During the 19th and 20th centuries when China was dominated by foreign powers, the character of the Hunanese struck back against foreign rule. Because of this independent streak, few Hunanese have ever accepted the Gospel, as they consider Christianity a form of foreign cultural imperialism, and to follow the foreigners God is considered an unforgivable disgrace. In 1861, Welsh missionary Griffith John met a Hunan military officer who "boasted of the glory and martial courage of the Hunan men, and said there was no danger of their ever believing in Jesus or of His religion taking root there." This pride has made Hunan the most statistically unreached province in China (except for Tibet).

In 1894 the Canadian Presbyterian Mission commenced work in Changde. The various mission agencies and denominations carved the province up among themselves and agreed to work in different cities, so as to avoid duplication and reach as many souls with the Gospel as possible.

Today, only about 3,500 people in Changde consider themselves Christians. That means just two out of every thousand people follow Christ. Changde is one of the most unreached cities in all of China.



An elderly lady knitting a sweater in Changde. Will she have a chance to hear about Jesus Christ before she meets Him on Judgment Day?

## Pray for Changde

- 1 "Changde" means 'often moral'. Pray the city would truly be moral and that thousands of people would soon submit to the Lordship of Christ in their lives.
- 2 Pray preachers would be sent to Changde from all over China, proclaiming the Gospel in an uncompromising manner with love and power.
- 3 Pray the Holy Spirit would break down the ethnic pride and arrogance that has kept many people in Hunan from Jesus Christ.

## Overview of Changde

Pronunciation	: "Chung-deh"
Old Spelling	: Ch'ang-te
Location	: Hunan Province, southeast China
Population	: 1,231,549 (1990 census)
Males	: 633,274 (51.42%)
Females	: 598,275 (48.58%)
Households	: 335,960
Average household	: 3.66 people
Divorced people	: 7,360
% of population	: 0.60%
Centurions (1990)	: 5 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	: 9,215 per year
From same province	: 7,903 (84.8%)
From other provinces	: 1,411 (15.2%)

Employed people	: 770,190 (62.5% of total population)
Main Industries	: Agriculture 71.6%; Industrial 13.7%; Professional 5.4%
Educational	: University: 0.4%
Attainment	: High School: 44.8%
(highest level)	: Primary School: 40.0%
attended)	: Never attended any level of school: 14.8%
Population under 15	: 22.0%
Adult Literacy	: 86% (men 92%; women 80%)
Major Nationalities	: Han 1,208,952
	: Hui 18,355
	: Tujia 2,262
	: Uygur 739
	: Miao 643
Christians	: 3,500 (0.2%)
	: Others (20 groups): 598

