

Changsha 长沙

Changsha City is the capital of Hunan Province in south-central China. Its population of 1.8 million is predominantly Han Chinese, in addition to 4,500 Tujia, 2,400 Miao, 2,300 Hui, 1,200 Manchu, and 1,000 Dong people who make their homes in Changsha, which means "Long Sand."

Although the official figure given for Changsha is currently just 1.8 million, the population for the greater Changsha area numbers approximately six million.

The 1990 census revealed there were 65,000 more males than females in the city. This is mostly due to the high number of immigrants who travel to Changsha looking for work. The majority of migrant laborers tend to be men.

Changsha has a reputation for being a well educated and cultural city. This is backed up by statistics that show 14.2% of all adults in Changsha have attended university or another tertiary institution. This ranks Changsha among the nation's best. Accordingly, the city also has one of the highest literacy rates in China. Just 5.2% of adults were illiterate in 1990, including only 1.8% of men.

The city's history dates back 3,000 years. It was an important center of the Southern Chu state during the Warring States period (5th - 3rd cen-

Population:
1,376,403 (1990)
1,754,142 (2000)
2,235,500 (2010)

Province:
Hunan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han	98.8%
Tujia	0.3%
Miao	0.2%
Hui	0.2%

Christians:
30,000 (1.7%)

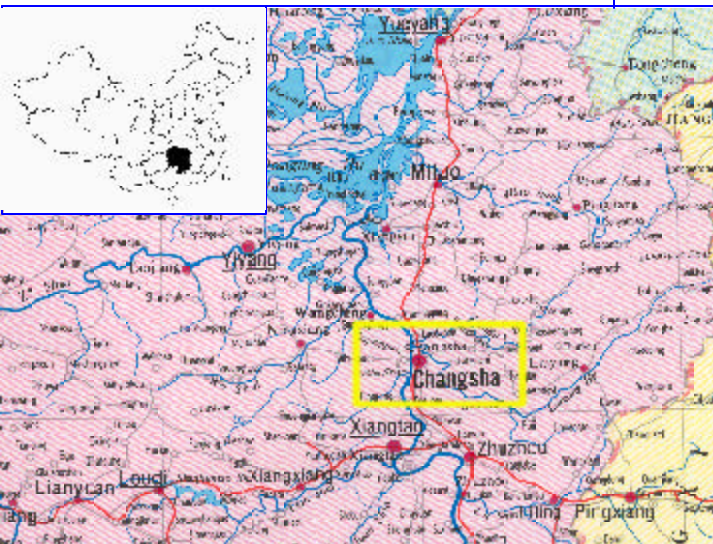
tury BC). In 331 BC Changsha Prefecture was established after the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty unified China.

During the early missionary era Changsha was an elusive city. The people stubbornly resisted outside influence and refused to open their gates to foreigners until the late 1800s, when European and American traders and missionaries were first given permission to take up residence in Changsha. The locals rioted against the foreigners' presence, and published vile booklets slandering the missionaries and their God.

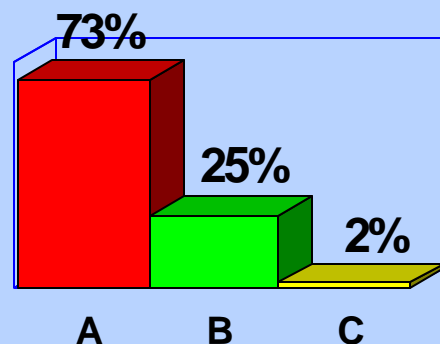
Nineteenth century missionaries such as Welshman Griffith John did manage to conduct some outreach in Changsha, but they invariably met with fierce resistance. On one occasion he met a military mandarin who "boasted of the glory and martial courage of the Hunan men, and said there was no danger of their ever believing in Jesus or of His religion taking root there."

Hudson Taylor, the great founder of the China Inland Mission, had a heart of compassion for Changsha and managed to set up a mission station there. Taylor died in Changsha in January 1905 and remains buried in the city to this day.

In 1918 Changsha was linked by rail to Hangzhou, and later Beijing. Its economy began to



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



flourish and it took its place as one of the great cities in China. Food products, textiles, paper, lacquerware, jewelry and furniture led the industrial sector.

During the Japanese occupation Changsha was the scene of much bitter fighting especially from 1939 to 1941. The Kuomintang successfully defended Changsha against the Japanese until 1944, even though the rest of the province had fallen into their hands.

Many would-be church planters have found the cultural and linguistic peculiarities of the people in Changsha a struggle to break through, and while the peoples' legendary stubbornness may have subsided a little since the 19th century, the Xiang Chinese are still very slow to accept change and wary of outside ideas.

Only in the past ten or fifteen years has Christianity started to make a more significant impact on Changsha, thanks largely to the indefatigable efforts of house church evangelists from other parts of China.

Today there are an estimated 30,000 Christians in Changsha, distributed among Three-Self, Catholic, and house churches. This amounts to a mere 1.7% of the population. Changsha remains one of the most desperately unreached cities in China.

Pray for Changsha

- 1** Pray against the spirit of stubbornness that has slowed down the advance of the Gospel in Hunan Province.
- 2** Pray for Biblical unity among the churches in Changsha.
- 3** Ask God to strengthen and envision the Church in Changsha for outreach.

Overview of Changsha (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Chung-sha"	Employed People	: 766,120 (55.7% of total population)
Old Spelling	:	Main Industries	: Industrial 36.9%, Professional 19.3%
Location	: NE Hunan Province, S-Central China	Education	: University: 14.2%
Population	: 1,376,403 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 54.7%
Males	: 720,509 (52.35%)		: Primary school: 25.4%
Females	: 655,894 (47.65%)		: Never attended any school: 5.7%
Households	: 377,185	Population under 15:	: 251,043 (18.2%)
Average Household	: 3.6 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 5.2% (men 1.8%; women 8.9%)
Divorced People	: 13,686	Major Nationalities	: Han 1,362,403
% divorced of Population:	: 0.99		: Tujia 4,504
Centurions (1990)	: 5 people aged 100 or more		: Miao 2,384
Immigrants to City	: 211,584		: Hui 2,348
From same province:	: 169,207 (80.0%)		: Others 4,971 (33 groups)
From other provinces:	: 42,295 (20.0%)	Christians (2003)	: 30,000 (1.7%)