

Ezhou

鄂州

Ezhou City, containing more than one million people, is located in the eastern part of Hubei Province, on the southern bank of the Yangtze River. The provincial capital Wuhan is situated about 40 km (25 miles) to the west.

The Yangtze River (known in Chinese as *Chang Jiang*) is China's longest river and at 6,300 km (3,890 miles) is the third longest river in the world after the Nile and the Amazon. The river originates in the mountains of Tibet and flows through seven Chinese provinces before emptying into the sea just north of Shanghai. By the time it reaches Ezhou, however, it is a slow-moving muddy mass full of pollutants. The Yangtze has

Population:
906,426 (1990)
1,022,760 (2000)
1,154,000 (2010)

Province:
Hubei

Major Ethnic Groups

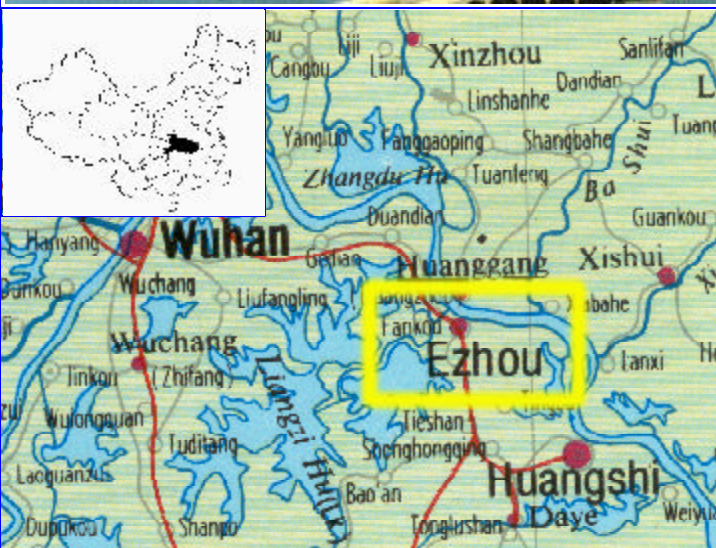
Han	99.7%
Tujia	0.1%
Hui	0.1%
Manchu	0.1%

Christians:
20,000 (2.0%)

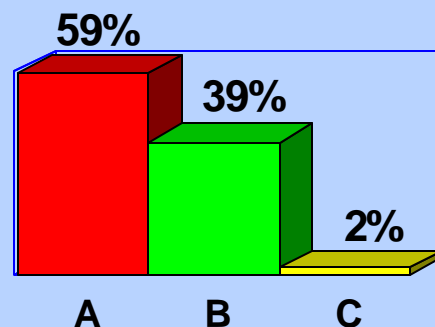
flooded numerous times over the centuries, causing millions of deaths and untold misery to the people of Hubei Province, including Ezhou. This propensity to flood is one of the main reasons for the construction of the Three Gorges Dam upstream.

There are six river ports in Ezhou City, including Echeng Port where 10,000-ton ships can dock. These ships transport the city's production of construction equipment, machinery, garments, textiles and chemicals. Ezhou is also a major producer of iron, gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, cobalt, and zeolite.

Ezhou is also famous for its porcelain and handicrafts. Chinese from afar call this city 'The hometown of the ancient bronze mirror'.



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



Although Ezhou is now a highly industrialized city with pollution problems, it also contains some beautiful spots. The West Hill, located in the center of Ezhou, is enjoyed by the city's inhabitants as are the three lakes: Liangzi, Yanglan and Honglian that surround the city.

Ezhou has been known by several different names throughout its long and distinguished history, including Exian, Eyi and Ejun. When the Han Dynasty began to weaken around 200 AD, many powerful feudal lords sprang up in China. In 220 AD the Han reign collapsed and China divided into three kingdoms, ruled by three dynasties (Wei, Shu, and Wu). During this period the king of Wu (Sun Quan) developed Ezhou as a political, military and economic base.

Although today most people in Ezhou are atheists, Ezhou is famous as being the birthplace of the Sukhavati sect of Buddhism.

Ezhou has a small number of churches. Many members of the banned South China house church network are from Ezhou. This group has recently faced horrendous persecution and torture, after the government labelled them an "evil cult." Its leaders were sentenced to death, reduced to life imprisonment in 2002.

Pray for Ezhou

- 1** Pray for Gong Shengliang, a brother serving life in prison on false charges. Pray his torturers would repent.
- 2** Ask God to mightily pour out His Spirit on all people in Ezhou.
- 3** Pray Christians in Ezhou would give up all they have to follow Christ.

Overview of Ezhou (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Erh-joe"
Old Names : Exian, Eyi, Ejun, Ichou
Location : eastern Hubei Province, central China
Population : 906,426 (1990 census)
Males : 461,159 (50.88%)
Females : 445,267 (49.12%)
Households : 218,887
Average Household : 4.1 people
Divorced People : 3,820
% divorced of Population: 0.42
Centurions (1990) : 0 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 14,718
From same province: 10,930 (74.3%)
From other provinces: 3,782 (25.7%)

Employed People : 524,896 (57.9% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 68.6%, Industrial 17.3%
Education : University: 1.9%
(highest level attended): High School: 35.3%
 Primary school: 43.2%
 Never attended any school: 19.6%
Population under 15: 134,391 (14.8%)
Adult Illiteracy : 22.1% (men 10.2%; women 34.1%)
Major Nationalities : Han 905,560
 Tujia 533
 Hui 107
 Manchu 65
 Others 161 (16 groups)
Christians (2003) : 20,000 (2.0%)