

Fengcheng 丰城

Despite being a little-known city in China, more than 1.2 million people live in Fengcheng in north-central Jiangxi Province in central China.

Fengcheng is located on the banks of the large Gan River, and lies about 60 km (37 miles) south of Nanchang, the provincial capital. Seven smaller rivers run through the city before joining the Gan. Many new expressways in the city have greatly improved transportation.

Fengcheng is home to some unique architecture. Stone, brick and wood homes surround the city. They are constructed with two shorter length walls adorned with horn-like protrusions.

People call Fengcheng "the coal bucket and rice bowl of Jiangxi." The literal meaning of 'Fengcheng' is "Harvest City." It is also known by the name of Jianyi, meaning 'sword'. In addition to rice, Fengcheng produces pork, chickens, beef, fish and shrimp. The city is famous for a special tea called *yun wu cha*, and a specially prepared duck meat. Natural gas is plentiful in Fengcheng, while the coal reserve is believed to be 670 million tons.

The 1990 census showed Fengcheng to have an extremely young population compared to most other cities in China. At the time 333,000 (30.6%)

Population:
1,090,020 (1990)
1,226,928 (2000)
1,381,000 (2010)

Province:
Jiangxi

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han	99.7%
Hui	0.1%
Miao	0.1%
Tujia	0.1%

Christians:
15,000 (1.2%)

of the city's residents were aged under 15. The race for economic progress in Fengcheng has been slowed by the high rate of illiteracy among the city's inhabitants, especially among women. In 1990, 119,000 women, or just under one-third of the adult female population, were unable to read.

In recent years several large-scale riots have occurred in Fengcheng because of disenchanting farmers and workers. In August 2000, 20,000 angry peasants rampaged throughout the city for five days, attacking government offices in protest over high and arbitrary taxation.

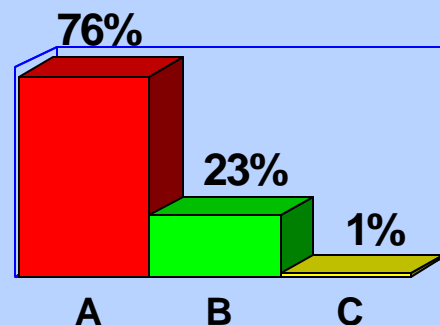
The riots were sparked by a ban on a booklet called 'The Farmer's Friend,' which listed the maximum agricultural taxes allowed by Beijing - tax levels regularly exceeded by the authorities in the Fengcheng area. The farmers were furious when written material which justified their complaints was suppressed.

The huge tax burden has resulted in thousands of farmers walking off their land in recent years, as they try for jobs in the cities rather than struggling for survival working seven days a week on the farm. Many experts are alarmed at the coming predicted food shortages in China due to the bulging urban population and the diminishing food production.

Fengcheng has some nice scenic spots and popu-



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



lar tourist places. Yunhua, the highest mountain in the city at 1,169 meters (3,834 feet) is covered with large pine trees over 200 years old. People call the trees here 'raining trees' because even in the summer heat a misty dampness can be felt while standing under their branches.

Jiangxi Province today contains one of the smallest percentages of Christians out of all of China's provinces and autonomous regions. The Catholic Church is quite strong here, but the Protestants, both Three-Self and house churches, have had minimal success.

Protestant missionaries first arrived in Jiangxi in 1866, when the Methodist Rev. V. C. Hart moved to Jiujiang. It was to be another 46 years before Fengcheng City experienced its first glimmer of Gospel light. In 1912 the China Inland Mission opened a station in the city. Workers with the Methodist Episcopal Mission followed shortly after.

The first ten years of Protestant work saw slow progress. By 1922 the missionaries reported just 80 Chinese converts in the city. Today Fengcheng remains an unevangelized city with only about one percent of the population claiming faith in Jesus Christ. Most people have never heard what God has done for them.

Pray for Fengcheng

- 1** Pray Fengcheng would become a spiritual "harvest city" with hundreds of thousands of redeemed Christians.
- 2** Ask the Lord to make His Name great in every home and street in the city.
- 3** Pray God's people will rise up and take Fengcheng for the King of Kings.

Overview of Fengcheng (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Feng-cheng"	Employed People	: 622,229 (57.1% of total population)
Old Spelling	:	Main Industries	: Agriculture 82.7%, Industrial 8.8%
Location	: central Jiangxi Province, central China	Education	: University: 1.0%
Population	: 1,090,020 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 28.0%
Males	: 560,943 (51.46%)		: Primary school: 51.7%
Females	: 529,077 (48.54%)		: Never attended any school: 19.3%
Households	: 238,600	Population under 15:	: 333,025 (30.6%)
Average Household	: 4.6 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 21.4% (men 11.2%; women 31.8%)
Divorced People	: 3,347	Major Nationalities	: Han 1,089,715
% divorced of Population:	: 0.31		: Hui 74
Centurions (1990)	: 0 people aged 100 or more		: Miao 50
Immigrants to City	: 14,826		: Tujia 38
From same province:	: 12,152 (82.0%)		: Others 143 (11 groups)
From other provinces:	: 2,673 (18.0%)	Christians (2003)	: 15,000 (1.2%)