

# FULING 涪陵

Fuling City has a population of more than 1.3 million people. It is located within the newly-formed Chongqing Municipality, which was carved out of Sichuan Province and made into its own administrative unit in 1997. Some Westerners have incorrectly called Chongqing the largest city in the world, as the population of the municipality exceeds 30 million people. In fact, Chongqing City itself contains "only" about 4.5 million souls. The newly-formed municipality covers a large geographical area of and includes 27 districts and townships, of which Fuling is one.

Fuling is situated east of Chongqing City, at the confluence of the Yangtze and Wu rivers. Its economy is overwhelmingly agriculture-based, with more than 82% of workers employed in the agricultural sector. Fuling is known throughout many parts of China for its hot-pickled mustard. In recent years, the industrial sector in Fuling has experience rapid progression, with coal, hydropower and natural gas adding to the gross domestic product.

Fuling has come to prominence in the past decade because it is located near the center of the Three Gorges Reservoir area, due to be completed in 2003. The Three Gorges Dam is a controversial project to build the world's largest hydroelectric dam on the Yangtze River. For

<b>Population:</b>	
1,018,146 (1990)	
1,368,200 (2000)	
1,838,800 (2010)	
<b>Province:</b>	
Chongqing Municipality	
<b>Major Ethnic Groups:</b>	
Han	99.6%
Tujia	0.2%
Miao	0.1%
Hui	0.1%
<b>Christians:</b>	
10,000 (0.7%)	

centuries the Yangtze has been known as the River of Tears to countless Chinese who have to put up with its regular floods, which are estimated to have killed more than one million people this century.

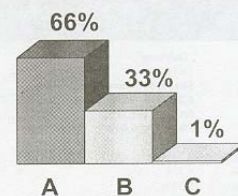
Emperors, presidents and Communist officials have dreamed about controlling the flow of the Yangtze, something that has only recently become technically possible. Quite simply, the Three Gorges Dam is one of the largest projects ever undertaken in the history of mankind. The dam will create a reservoir 650 km (400 miles) long and 186 meters (610 feet) high, permanently submerging 150,000 acres of



The beautiful Three Gorges area near Fuling.



## 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

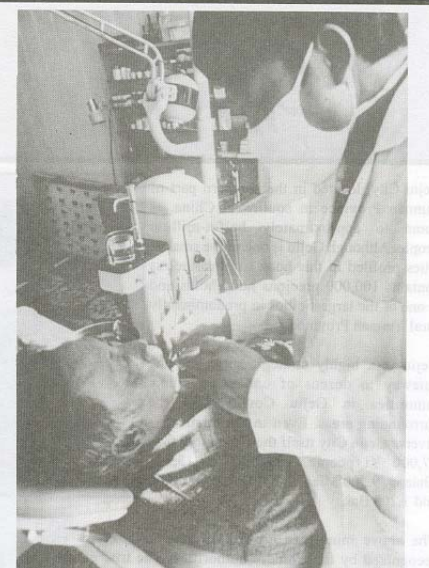
land, including 160 towns and over 18,000 factories. The dam wall will be five times wider than Hoover Dam in the United States, while it is estimated the amount of building materials needed will be 44 times that used in the construction of the Great Pyramid in Egypt.

Critics of the dam point to its poor safety record (it is being built on an earthquake fault-line), destruction of many natural and archaeological sites, and perceived human rights abuses as 1.3 million people have been required to leave their homes and relocate to newly built cities above the water-level.

Although the impact of the Three Gorges Dam on the people of Fuling is major, the Gospel has yet to make much of a penetration into the hearts of the 1.3 million souls in the city. Catholic missionaries first started working in Chongqing in the 1640's. They included Fuling on the route of their itinerant work. Han and Hakka Catholics from other parts of China migrated to Fuling in the 18th and 19th centuries, forming the basis of a Catholic community in the city that continues today.

Protestant work in this region commenced in 1869, when Griffith John entered the province. It was not until 1877 that Rev. McCurdy of the China Inland Mission opened a base in Chongqing that Protestantism started making an impact on Fuling City. Foreign missionaries generally had a difficult time in Sichuan Province. The people were steeped in idolatry and exhibited more of an anti-foreign and anti-Christian disposition than most other areas in China.

Today, there are about 10,000 professing Christians in Fuling, which amounts to only 0.7% of the total population. The majority of believers belong to the Catholic church. Most people in the city have yet to hear the Gospel.



A road-side dentist extracts a tooth in Fuling City. Tens of thousands of people are migrating to Fuling before the flooding of the nearby Three Gorges Dam forces them out of their homes.

## Pray for Fuling

- 1 Fuling needs a flood of God's Word to engulf its inhabitants. Pray the spirits of pride, arrogance and self-sufficiency would fall so the people of Fuling would humbly see their need for salvation.
- 2 Pray as thousands of rural people move to Fuling they would be confronted with the Gospel and be overwhelmed by God's love for them.
- 3 Pray Christians from Chongqing would heed God's call to take the Gospel to the people of Fuling and other nearby cities.

## Overview of Fuling

Pronunciation	: "Foo-ling"
Old Spelling	: Fu-ling
Location	: Chongqing Municipality, southwest China
Population	: 1,018,146 (1990 census)
Males	: 522,340 (51.30%)
Females	: 495,806 (48.70%)
Households	: 257,706
Average household	: 3.92 people
Divorced people	: 3,251
% of population	: 0.32%
Centurions (1990)	: 8 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	: 4,874 per year
From same province	: 4,154 (85.2%)
From other provinces	: 720 (14.8%)

Employed people	: 691,665 (67.9% of total population)
Main Industries	: Agriculture 82.1%; Industrial 7.8%; Professional 3.6%
Educational	: University: 0.3%
Attainment	: High School: 39.3%
(highest level)	: Primary School: 45.7%
attended	: Never attended any level of school: 14.7%
Population under 15	: 18.8%
Adult Literacy	: 84% (men 91%; women 77%)
Major Nationalities	: Han 1,014,688
	: Tujia 2,358
	: Miao 880
	: Hui 77
	: Manchu 44
Christians	: Others (15 groups): 99
	: 10,000 (0.7%)