

GONGZHULING 公主岭

The 1990 census listed a population of almost one million people living in Gongzhuling City in the western part of Jilin Province in northeast China. Formerly part of Manchuria, the area was invaded by the Japanese and occupied between 1933-45. The population of Gongzhuling has mushroomed since the opening of the Changchun to Shenyang railway. The railroad has transformed Gongzhuling from a sleepy town to a bustling city. By the turn of the millennium the population of Gongzhuling is expected to surpass 1.3 million, and nearly 1.8 million by the year 2010.

Population:
987,908 (1990)
1,327,600 (2000)
1,784,200 (2010)

Province:
Jilin

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 96.4%
Manchu 2.7%
Korean 0.4%
Hui 0.2%

Christians:
5,000 (0.4%)

Gongzhuling is primarily an agricultural-based city with some 69% of the workforce engaged in agriculture-based jobs. Maize is the primary crop grown throughout the region. Production in the prefecture reaches an annual output of five billion kg (11 billion pounds). Gongzhuling has not developed at the same rate as many other cities in the northeast. The result is one of the lowest employment rates of any of the cities profiled in this book. Jobless men and women can often be seen on the streets of Gongzhuling with small signs offering themselves for work. The high rate of unemployment prevails despite the rich mineral deposits found

in the region. Many of those who do have jobs are employed in industries designed to process minerals such as tabular spar, marble, quartz and natural gas.

As with most cities in China's northeast, the Manchu once dominated the culture and politics of Gongzhuling. The Manchus broke through the Great Wall

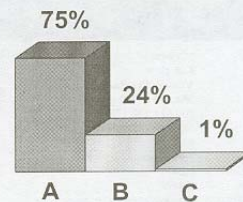


Located only 65 km (40 miles) southeast of the provincial capital Changchun, Gongzhuling is part of Siping Prefecture, an administrative unit that contains 3.5 million people living in Gongzhuling City, Lishu County, Shuangliao City and Yitong County. Siping City itself is located further south of Gongzhuling, near the provincial border between Jilin and Liaoning. The area is well-watered with thirty-five different rivers coming down out of the mountains to the east of the plain.

In addition to the Han Chinese majority, who comprise 96% of the city's population, Gongzhuling contains more than 27,000 ethnic Manchus, 4,000 Koreans, 2,000 Hui Muslims, and 1,600 Mongols.



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

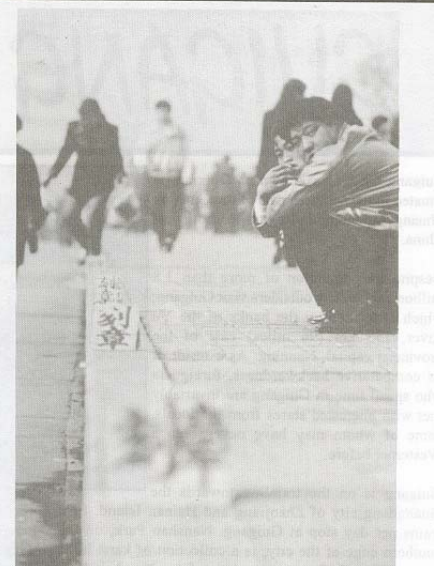
and seized control of China, establishing the Qing Dynasty between 1644-1911. Their domination was purchased at the cost of the ethnic identity, however. Today, just a small number of Manchu are able to speak their



language, which is a member of the Tungus branch of the Altaic family, believed to be distantly related to Mongolian and Korean. Today, the majority of Manchu are culturally and linguistically indistinguishable from the Han Chinese. The Manchu in Gongzhuling speak the northeastern dialect of Mandarin.

Missionaries worked in nearby Changchun City from the 1880's until the 1950's when all foreigners were expelled from China by the Communist government. At that time, there were eight different churches in Changchun from six denominations: Baptist, Lutheran, Seventh-Day Adventist, Presbyterian, the True Jesus Church and the Little Flock. Although there is no record of specific outreach to Gongzhuling, which was then an insignificant farming town, the Christians in Changchun may have influenced their neighbors and relatives in Gongzhuling.

Today, there are just a few small churches in Gongzhuling. The majority of the city's inhabitants have no awareness of the message of the Gospel, and live their lives outside the realm of all Christian influence. Gongzhuling is one of the neediest cities in the whole of northeast China.



Unemployed men daily line the streets of Gongzhuling and many other cities in China, displaying small signs asking for work.

Pray for Gongzhuling

- 1 Gongzhuling has grown from a sleepy town to a large city, but the church has not grown with it. Pray Gongzhuling would soon hear of the Savior who died to set them free.
- 2 Pray God would raise up workers from other parts of China to travel to Gongzhuling and preach the Gospel to the city's inhabitants. Pray many churches would soon be planted.
- 3 Pray Jesus Christ would be lifted up above Gongzhuling, that all people would be drawn to Him.

Overview of Gongzhuling

Pronunciation : "Gong-joo-ling"
Old Spelling : Gong-chiu-ling
Location : Jilin Province, northeast China
Population : 987,908 (1990 census)
Males : 504,364 (51.05%)
Females : 483,544 (48.95%)
Households : 249,293
Average household : 3.96 people
Divorced people : 4,190
% of population : 0.42%
Centurions (1990) : 0 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 3,685 per year
From same province : 2,683 (72.8%)
From other provinces : 1,002 (27.2%)

Employed people : 413,837 (41.9% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 68.8%; Industrial 13.4%; Professional 6.8%
Educational : University: 0.3%
Attainment : High School: 39.9%
(highest level) Primary School: 45.1%
Never attended any level of school: 14.7%
Population under 15 : 28.8%
Adult Literacy : 85% (men 90%; women 81%)
Major Nationalities : Han 953,290
Manchu 26,837
Korean 3,963
Hui 2,052
Mongol 1,598
Others (16 groups): 168
Christians : 5,000 (0.4%)