

GUIYANG 贵阳

Guiyang City, the capital of Guizhou Province in southwest China, is home to more than 2.2 million people, living in more than 400,000 households. With over 40,000 immigrants per year flooding into the city in search of work, the population of Guiyang is estimated to rise to just over three million by the year 2010. Guiyang lies at an elevation of 1,071 meters (3,541 feet) above sea-level and is located along the banks of the Nanming River.

Eight-six percent of the people in Guiyang are Han Chinese, but among them are several interesting groups of people, including the Chuanlan and the Chuanqing. These groups are the descendants of Chinese soldiers who were stationed in the area between the ninth and 13th centuries. They were given the task of quelling the frequent Miao rebellions against Chinese rule. After a time, the soldiers settled down and took local minority women as wives. Centuries later, when Chinese settlers entered the province en masse, they mistook the Chuanlan and Chuanqing for minority people and even persecuted them. As a result, these groups have fiercely opposed the government's official classification of them as part of the Han Chinese majority, believing themselves to be a distinct minority group.

Guiyang City contains more than 100,000 Bouyei—a Tai-

Population:
1,664,709 (1990)
2,237,200 (2000)
3,006,500 (2010)

Province:
Guizhou

Major Ethnic Groups:
Han 86.1%
Bouyei 5.8%
Miao 5.5%
Tujia 0.5%

Christians:
20,000 (0.9%)

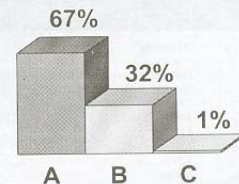
speaking people closely related to the Zhuang of Guangxi; 90,000 members of the Miao nationality, speaking diverse languages and dialects; in addition to 9,000 Tujia, 8,500 Dong, 5,500 Yi, 5,000 Hui, 3,000 Zhuang, 2,700 Manchu, 2,200 Gelao, 1,500 Bai and 1,100 Shui. In all, 37 of China's official 55 ethnic minorities are represented in Guiyang.

Guiyang has a reputation as one of China's poorest and most backward cities. The sky is often gray and gloomy in Guiyang, which some people say reflects the mood of the people. Compared to more calm cities like Kunming, Guiyang seems to be a city on edge, with frequent street fights and conflict between residents. This is reflected in the divorce rate for Guiyang, which is three times higher than many other cities in southern China. The city also has a reputation among travelers as the worst city in China for theft. The Chinese have a popular saying that in Guizhou Province, "There is not three li of flat land, three days of good weather, or three coins to rub together." The name *Guiyang* means 'Precious Sun'.

Although Guiyang has been in existence for about 1,000 years, it did not become a major center until the 1940's. The city was formerly surrounded by a wall which was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In 1913 the status of



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

Guiyang was elevated to capital of Guizhou Province for the first time. In 1939, Japanese planes bombed Guiyang, destroying one-third of the old city. Between 1944 and 1945 it became the base of the Kuomintang Army in its war against the Communists. People flocked to Guiyang from all over the nation.

There are few historic sights in Guiyang, although the Hongfu Temple, situated in Qianling Park in the northwest suburbs, is a Zen Buddhist structure built by a monk in 1673. During the eighth day of every fourth lunar month the Miao living in Guiyang and surrounding villages descend on Penshuichi Fountain in the center of the city. They remember Miao heroes who died in battles against the Chinese. The mythological Miao figure Yanu is believed to be buried near the fountain.

Early missionary work in Guizhou Province was hampered by lack of roads, bandits, the linguistic diversity of the province's peoples, and an atmosphere of anti-Western sentiment. Although an enormous revival broke out in the early 1900's among the Miao and Yi in northwestern Guizhou (the fruit of which still remains today), Guiyang never experienced such a move of God. Indeed, the overall number of Christians in Guizhou is inflated by the high concentration of minority believers from the northwest, giving some mission organizations the impression that Guizhou is not as unreached as other parts of China. In fact, Guiyang is less than one percent Christian, and many of the city's residents have never been exposed to the Gospel.

Few foreign or indigenous missionaries live in Guiyang. Many foreigners find other cities more comfortable to base in, a tragedy considering the needs of Guiyang and its extreme strategic value as a gateway city to countless unreached people groups.



For more than 1,000 years Guiyang has been a military outpost of the Chinese empire. Today, a number of training units of the People's Liberation Army and the Public Security Bureau are located in the city.

Pray for Guiyang

- 1 Pray Christians everywhere would be willing to put God's call above their own comfort and take the Gospel to the unreached masses of Guiyang City.
- 2 Pray the small number of Christians in Guiyang would be willing to risk persecution to take the Gospel to every section of their community.
- 3 Ask God to bring glory to His Name among the precious people of Guiyang City.

Overview of Guiyang

Pronunciation	"Gwai-yung"
Old Spelling	Kuei-yang
Location	Guizhou Province, southwest China
Population	1,664,709 (1990 census)
Males	880,037 (52.86%)
Females	784,672 (47.14%)
Households	403,812
Average household	4.12 people
Divorced people	18,652
% of population	1.12%
Centenarians (1990)	15 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	40,636 per year
From same province	28,037 (69.0%)
From other provinces	12,616 (31.0%)

Employed people	919,930 (55.3% of total population)
Main Industries	Agriculture 29.5%; Industrial 29.0%; Professional 13%
Educational Attainment	University: 3.7%
High School	50.4%
Primary School	31.5%
(highest level attended)	Never attended any level of school: 14.4%
Population under 15	22.2%
Adult Literacy	85% (men 91%; women 79%)
Major Nationalities	Han 1,437,133
Bouyei	96,140
Miao	90,815
Tujia	9,101
Dong	8,448
Others (33 groups)	25,072
Christians	20,000 (0.9%)