

Hengyang 衡阳

More than 800,000 people live in the city of Hengyang in central Hunan Province in south-central China. For many centuries Hengyang has been an important trade city on the Xiang River that flows almost the entire length of the province. Hengyang also sits at the mouth of the Lei River, which intersects with the Xiang just northeast of the city. Hengyang was formerly known as Hengzhou.

The overwhelming majority of Hengyang residents are ethnic Han Chinese. A number of minority nationalities have small communities of people in the city, including 730 Hui people, 690 Tujia, 610 Zhuang, 530 Miao, 330 Manchu, 320 Yao, and 230 Dong.

Although the population of Hengyang City is less than one million, the larger Hengyang Prefecture contains almost seven million people, ranking only behind Changsha in size within Hunan Province.

Hengyang also sits at a key railway juncture. Trains running from Beijing to Guangzhou (Canton) pass through the city on the north to south trunk line, while the Guilin to Changsha line also passes through Hengyang. The city's position as a communication and travel hub has made it a place where many people come searching for jobs. In the 1990 census, 83,100 of the city's residents

Population:
711,004 (1990)
800,555 (2000)
901,300 (2010)

Province:
Hunan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.5%
Hui 0.1%
Tujia 0.1%
Zhuang 0.1%

Christians:
15,500 (1.9%)

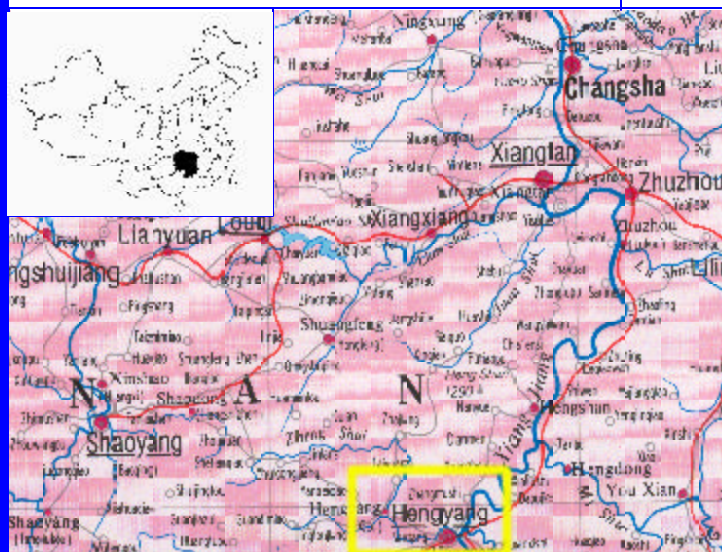
stated they were immigrants to the city. Eighty-five percent of those immigrants came from other places within Hunan Province, and only 15% from other areas in China.

About 40% of the work force in Hengyang are employed in the industrial sector, compared to 21% in the agricultural sector, 12% in the professional sector, and 11% are engaged in commerce. The city's main goods include chemicals, agricultural and mining equipment, textiles, paper, and processed food. The chief natural resources are lead, zinc, tin and coal.

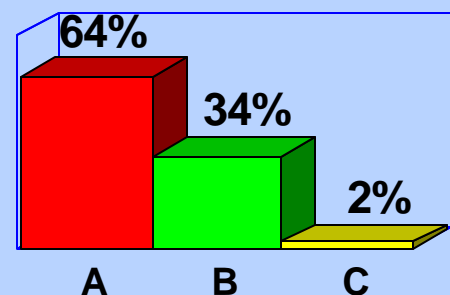
More than one million foreign and Chinese tourists pass through Hengyang every year, but few come to see the city. Most stop at Hengyang on their way to Hengshan Mountain, a range of 72 "graceful, mysterious, breathtaking and exotic" peaks located 45 km (28 miles) north of the city.

Hengshan, also known as Nanyue, or "South Mountain", is considered one of the five sacred mountains in China. Many Chinese consider it to be the holiest and most significant religious mountain in the nation. Centuries ago emperors hunted on the mountain slopes and offered sacrifices to the god of heaven.

Today numerous Buddhist and Daoist temples are nestled in the hills of Hengshan. On occasions seri-



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



ous Buddhist and Daoist worshippers can be seen offering their devotions, but the visitor these days is much more likely to see hordes of gawking tour groups and laughing school children following their guides through the 1,000-year-old temple complexes.

Over the past half century the rise of Communism and materialism in China have eroded some of the influence of Buddhism and Daoism in the everyday lives of most Chinese people, but their influence remains strong and continues to blind hundreds of millions of people to the truth and light of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Hengshan should be considered one of the most important spiritual strongholds in Chinese history, yet few Christian intercessory or spiritual warfare teams have ever visited this part of China.

The first Protestant missionaries commenced work in Hengyang in 1905. By 1922 there were four different missions operating in the city. Between them they numbered 614 baptized converts in six churches.

Today about two percent of the people in Hengyang confess Christ as Lord and Saviour. This number is divided between Catholics, Three-Self, and house churches. Most people in Hengyang go about their daily lives completely ignorant of the existence of Jesus Christ.

Pray for Hengyang

- 1** Ask the Holy Spirit to empower the Christians in Hengyang to share the Gospel with all segments of society.
- 2** Pray Jesus' salvation would spread through all parts of Hunan Province.
- 3** Pray Jesus would be exalted above every home in Hengyang City.

Overview of Hengyang (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Heng-yung"	Employed People	: 405,719 (57.1% of total population)
Old Name	: Hengchow (Hengzhou)	Main Industries	: Industrial 39.5%, Agriculture 21.2%
Location	: central Hunan Province, central China	Education	: University: 6.5%
Population	: 711,004 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	High School: 53.2%
Males	: 369,534 (51.97%)		Primary school: 30.6%
Females	: 341,470 (48.03%)		Never attended any school: 9.7%
Households	: 194,340	Population under 15:	: 158,244 (22.3%)
Average Household	: 3.7 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 9.9% (men 5.2%; women 15.0%)
Divorced People	: 4,965	Major Nationalities	: Han 707,289
% divorced of Population:	0.70		Hui 729
Centurions (1990)	: 1 person aged 100 or more		Tujia 687
Immigrants to City	: 83,096		Zhuang 612
From same province:	70,540 (84.9%)		Others 1,687 (23 groups)
From other provinces:	12,543 (15.1%)	Christians (2003)	: 15,500 (1.9%)