

Jiangyou

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More than 870,000 people inhabit the city of Jiangyou in northeast Sichuan Province. Jiangyou, which was formerly called Zhongba, is located on the banks of the Fu River.

Sichuan was formerly the most populated province in China, with well over 100 million people, until China split the province in 1997, taking the eastern portion of Sichuan and forming it into the new Chongqing Municipality. As a result, the population of Sichuan “dropped” by more than 30 million and today the honor of China’s most populated province belongs to Henan.

Jiangyou is situated on the Jiangzhang plain, some 150 km (93 miles) north of Chengdu City. The city has a long history, and has produced a number of famous Chinese. Li Bai, a celebrated “master poet” during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD), lived in Jiangyou. More than 1,000 of his poems are still existent. Some other famous figures from Jiangyou include the Buddhist abbot Hai Deng, the world weightlifting champion Liu Shoubin, and many other names dear to the Chinese.

Jiangyou was included among the first batch of cities selected by the Sichuan government for promotion to overseas tourism and investment. As a result, it has developed quickly and today is

Population:
825,521 (1990)
871,142 (2000)
919,300 (2010)

Province:
Sichuan

Major Ethnic Groups:
Han 99.7%
Hui 0.1%
Manchu 0.1%
Qiang 0.1%

Christians:
18,500 (2.1%)

among China’s list of 100 wealthiest cities. It has become an important center for scientific research, and a key manufacturing base. The Jiangyou Industrial Development Zone was opened in 1992 and houses high-tech enterprises such as the China Spaceflight Industry Corporation.

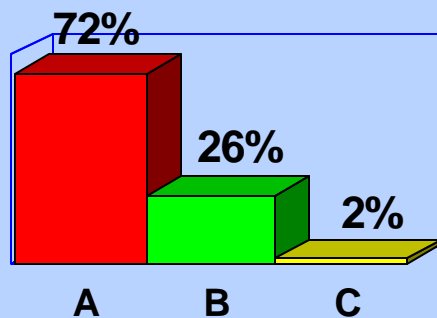
The climate of northeast Sichuan is temperate and its soil is rich. The main crops produced in Jiangyou are rice, wheat, rapeseed oil and commercial cereals. Fruit includes apples, oranges, and tangerines. The name ‘Jiangyou’ means “River of Oil.” This refers more to the abundance of rape-

seed oil produced in the area than to present pollution problems!

Economic advancement in the city has been slowed, however, by the low levels of education and the high illiteracy among the population. According to the 1990 census, 23% of adults in Jiangyou had never attended any school whatsoever (not even primary school). Only one-third of adults attended high school. While the overall adult functional illiteracy level for Jiangyou was 25.7%, the disparity between men and women was startling 34.5% of the city’s women were unable to read in 1990, compared to 17.6% of men. That meant 107,825 women in the city could not read, compared to 60,441 men.



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



Considering its size, Jiangyou is a popular city for migrant workers, with more than 34,000 people having moved to the city seeking employment.

Many ancient Buddhist and Daoist temples are scattered in the Jiangyou area. Douchan Hill, situated 25 km from downtown on the east bank of the Fu River, has three temples built on three separate hills. Two of the temples are connected by a scary iron chain suspension bridge.

Northeast Sichuan is one of the most Gospel-starved areas in China, especially among regions with a majority Han Chinese population. Missionary work made little impact in Jiangyou prior to 1949, although a few small churches were established.

Christianity first reached Sichuan Province by the 12th century. When Marco Polo came to China in the late 1200s he reported the existence of Nestorian churches in Sichuan. The Catholic Church also had an early start in Sichuan. By 1643 the Paris Foreign Missionary Society considered Sichuan the main center of their work in China.

Today there are about 18,500 Christians of all descriptions living in Jiangyou. This number amounts to only two percent of the city's population. Most people have no understanding of the Gospel message.

Pray for Jiangyou

- 1** Jiangyou means "river of oil." Pray the city would know God's river of life and salvation through Jesus Christ.
- 2** Pray the Gospel would spread throughout Jiangyou like wild fire.
- 3** Ask God to send workers to Jiangyou who have a heart after Him.

Overview of Jiangyou (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Jeeung-yooh"	Employed People	: 554,029 (67.1% of total population)
Old Spelling	:	Main Industries	: Agriculture 75.1%, Industrial 13.7%
Location	: NE Sichuan Province, West China	Education	: University: 2.0%
Population	: 825,521 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 30.4%
Males	: 431,033 (52.21%)		: Primary school: 44.6%
Females	: 394,488 (47.79%)		: Never attended any school: 23.0%
Households	: 226,235	Population under 15:	: 169,978 (20.6%)
Average Household	: 3.6 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 25.7% (men 17.6%; women 34.5%)
Divorced People	: 4,697	Major Nationalities	: Han 823,579
% divorced of Population:	: 0.57		: Hui 1,096
Centurions (1990)	: 10 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 269
Immigrants to City	: 34,032		: Qiang 246
From same province:	: 28,118 (82.6%)		: Others 331 (20 groups)
From other provinces:	: 5,745 (17.4%)	Christians (2003)	: 18,500 (2.1%)