

# JINGMEN

# 荆门

Jingmen City, located in the center of Hubei Province, is home to 1.5 million people. The population of the city is growing quickly, and is expected to surpass two million by the year 2010. Jingmen City is actually an administrative amalgamation of two districts: the larger Sha-yang District with 914,000 residents and the Dongbao District with 590,000. These figures include certain surrounding villages and communities up to a 50 km radius of the city itself.

Jingmen's population is predominantly Han Chinese, who make up more than 99% of the ethnic composition of the city. Approximately 5,000 Tujia and 1,500 Hui

**Population:**  
1,119,251 (1990)  
1,504,100 (2000)  
2,021,400 (2010)

**Province:**  
Hubei

#### Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.4%  
Tujia 0.4%  
Hui 0.1%  
Manchu 0.1%

**Christians:**  
6,000 (0.4%)

are also located here, although few Tujia are still able to speak their mother tongue. There are also several hundred Manchu and Miao in Jingmen. The workforce in Jingmen is dominated by laborers in the agricultural sector. Seventy-three percent have jobs in agriculture or fisheries. Eleven percent are employed by the industrial sector, a number that is on the rise as more engineering and heavy-industry companies expand into the area.

Life in Hubei has undergone dramatic change since the advent of Communism in 1949. Up until that time the province was largely rural, with family clans and local

warlords exerting powerful control over society. Since 1949 the trend has been for people to move into urban areas, leading to the development of numerous towns, especially in the densely-populated plains. Many of these towns grew to such an extent that they overlapped, leading to the establishment of cities that encompass several towns. Jingmen is one such amalgamation.

The rural people of Hubei are known as among the most superstitious in China. Each village used to have its own temple dedicated to a certain god or protective deity. During the Cultural Revolution many temples were demolished, but today there is a revival of the former beliefs in the countryside.

This fear of offending the ancient ways contributed to the slow growth of the Gospel in Jingmen. Although much evangelism was conducted, comparatively few people in the region were able to sever their links with their clan system and break into new life in Christ.

One of the most famous missionaries to labor in Hubei was Griffith John, a Welshman with the London Missionary Society who arrived in the province in 1861. John was instrumental in stirring up churches around the world for work among the masses of China. John wrote many books, articles and tracts relating to his passion for China's souls. He said, "Shall not China remain in its state of darkness and death because of the worldliness and deadness of the people of God? Shall not the cry which now goes forth from this land penetrate our universities, colleges, and churches, and elicit a response in many a heart devoted to Christ, worthy of the urgency and solemnity of the occasion?"

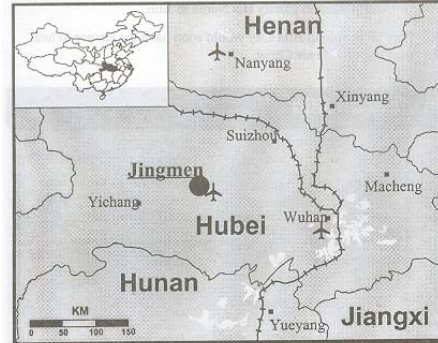
Today, only about 0.4% of the people in Jingmen claim to know Christ. Most people in the city have never even heard His Name.



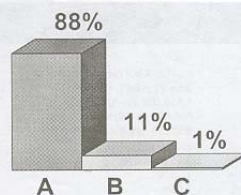
*Jingmen is home to 1.5 million souls for whom Christ died and wills that none would perish. Who will go and proclaim the day of Salvation has come?*

## Pray for Jingmen

- 1 The lament of Griffith John in the 1800's remains true for the church today. Pray God will light a fire under those who call on His Name, purging their sin and lack of motivation for lost souls.
- 2 Pray tens of thousands in Jingmen would soon come to know Jesus Christ. Pray God will bless the work of those in the city who desire to make Him known.
- 3 Pray for revival to spread throughout all of Hubei Province as it has in provinces further north.



## 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

## Overview of Jingmen

Pronunciation	"Jing-men"
Old Spelling	Ch'ing-men
Location	Hubei Province, central China
Population	1,119,251 (1990 census)
Males	588,957 (52.62%)
Females	530,294 (47.38%)
Households	264,419
Average household	4.23 people
Divorced people	5,765
% of population	0.51%
Centurions (1990)	0 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	12,815 per year
From same province	9,687 (75.6%)
From other provinces	3,126 (24.4%)

Employed people	634,810 (56.7% of total population)
Main Industries	Agriculture 72.8%; Industrial 10.9%; Professional 6.0%
Educational	University: 0.3%
Attainment	High School: 45.6%
(highest level	Primary School: 41.2%
attended)	Never attended any level of school: 12.9%
Population under 15	26.5%
Adult Literacy	85% (men 91%, women 78%)
Major Nationalities	Han 1,112,368
	Tujia 4,385
	Hui 1,278
	Manchu 506
	Miao 276
Christians	Others (19 groups): 438
	6,000 (0.4%)