

LEIYANG 耒阳

Leiyang City, situated on the banks of the Lei Shui River in southeastern Hunan Province, is home to almost one-and-a-half million people.

The population of Leiyang is almost completely Han Chinese. There are no minority groups in the city represented by more than 100 individuals. The city has a markedly rural feel about it, despite its large population. This is borne out by the 1990 census which showed that 85% of workers in Leiyang are employed in the agricultural sector. The population of Leiyang is much younger than most of the other cities profiled in this book, with more-than 31% of the city's inhabitants aged under 15. With an average size household of 3.89 people, it is clear that many families in Leiyang have flaunted the 'one-child policy'. Leiyang City appears to be a much smaller city than Hengyang to the north or Chenzhou to the south. The official government population given for Leiyang City may include a number of nearby districts, in addition to the city area.

Hunan Province has a character and history all of its own. About 2,000 years ago Hunan was part of the State of Chu, which flourished in central China. During this period Leiyang City gained notoriety by producing Cai Lun. Cai invented the first piece of paper using bark and

Population:
1,112,470 (1990)
1,495,000 (2000)
2,009,200 (2010)

Province:
Hunan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.7%
Miao 0.1%
Yao 0.1%
Tujia 0.1%

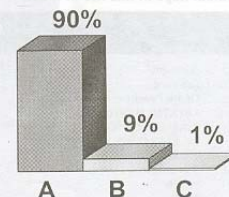
Christians:
3,000 (0.2%)

rag pulp in the first century AD. Although Cai Lun remains probably the most renowned person to have come out of Leiyang to this day, Hunan Province is famous for producing Mao Zedong. Mao was born in the Hunan village of Shaoshan, not far from Changsha, in 1893. By the time of his death in 1976 he had led a collection of poorly-equipped peasants to take over the largest country in the world. They imposed Communism across China, and ruled the nation for 27 years. Mao is also noted for killing at least 15 million people during the Cultural Revolution from 1966-76.

Like many cities today in China, Leiyang



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

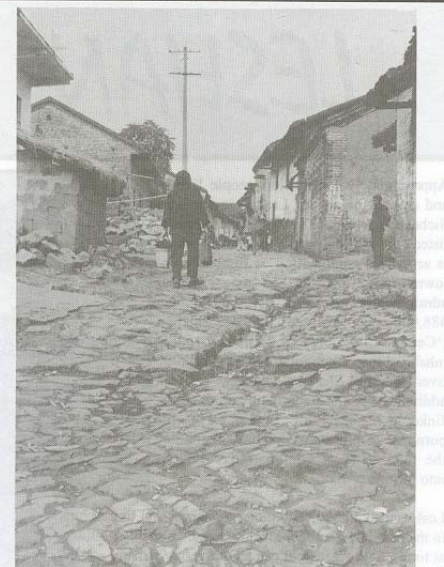
did not experience such rapid economic and population growth until the railway was built through the area. Today, Leiyang is one of the stops on the Changsha to Guangzhou line.

Although Catholic priests had already resided in Hunan Province for more than a century, the first Protestant missionary did not arrive until 1865 when Josiah Cox, a Wesleyan, traveled through the province. It was not until 1877 that the China Inland Mission succeeded in establishing a firm base of operations in the province.

In 1879, Adam Dorward of the CIM made the first of several pioneer trips into Hunan. He and his co-workers struggled against great opposition to gain a foothold for the Gospel in the province. In 1882, Dorward "rented a home and resided for short intervals when not away on one of his extensive journeys. After being driven out of Hungkiang he rented premises in Hsingshih, from which again he was soon driven out by a riot. In the meantime, Mr. Dick joined Mr. Dorward. Mr. Archibald of the Scottish Bible Society and Dr. Griffith John also made repeated journeys into Hunan about this time. Though these pioneers reported a series of unsuccessful attempts to gain entrance into the larger cities, their journeys nevertheless were effective as opening wedges. Gradually the opposition of the people was worn down, and opportunities increased to distribute Bibles and to secure a permanent foothold for Christian work." (The Christian Occupation of China, p.92)

The people in Hunan Province have long had a reputation as the most stubborn and closed to change of any provincial people in China. They especially opposed the attempted introduction of Christianity into their midst. Consequently, today only about 0.4% of the population are Christians of any kind, making it among the two or three most unreached provinces in China.

Leiyang is an unevangelized city. Only about 3,000 people in the city profess to follow Christ—just one out of every 500 people.



Despite boasting almost 1.5 million people, parts of Leiyang remain a poor city with a distinctly rural feel.

Pray for Leiyang

- 1 Most people in Leiyang have absolutely no awareness of the Gospel or the Name of Jesus Christ. Pray this would soon change, for the glory of God.
- 2 Pray Leiyang would be saturated with the Word of God, helping thousands of people come to Christ and put their confidence in Him.
- 3 Pray Christians would be obedient to God's call to take the Gospel to Leiyang and other neglected cities in Hunan Province.

Overview of Leiyang

Pronunciation : "Lay-yung"
Old Spelling : Lei-yang
Location : Hunan Province, southeast China
Population : 1,112,470 (1990 census)
Males : 584,491 (52.54%)
Females : 527,979 (47.46%)
Households : 285,957
Average household : 3.89 people
Divorced people : 3,330
% of population : 0.29%
Centurions (1990) : 3 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 4,665 per year
From same province : 4,084 (87.5%)
From other provinces : 578 (12.4%)

Employed people : 616,970 (55.4% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 85.7%; Industrial 7.0%; Professional 3%
Educational : University: 0.1%
Attainment : High School: 27.2%
(highest level) : Primary School: 54.0%
Never attended any level of school: 18.7%
Population under 15 : 31.4%
Adult Literacy : 80% (men 89%; women 69%)
Major Nationalities : Han 1,112,033
Miao 98
Yao 81
Tujia 75
Zhuang 64
Others (13 groups): 119
Christians : 3,000 (0.2%)