

# LIANYUAN

# 涟源

The city of Lianyuán is located in the central part of Hunan Province in southeast China, about 250 km (154 miles) west of the provincial capital Changsha. In 1990, Lianyuán was home to just over one million inhabitants, of which the vast majority are Han Chinese. By the turn of the millennium the population of Lianyuán is estimated to be 1.35 million, and will increase markedly to 1.8 million by the year 2010.

Apart from the Han majority, there are a few hundred members of the Miao, Dong and Tujia minority groups in Lianyuán. These people no longer display their ethnicity, however, and now dress, speak and live the same as their Han neighbors.

**Population:**  
1,006,665 (1990)  
1,352,800 (2000)  
1,818,000 (2010)

**Province:**  
Hunan

**Major Ethnic Groups:**  
Han 99.7%  
Miao 0.1%  
Dong 0.1%  
Tujia 0.1%

**Christians:**  
3,000 (0.2%)

than 160,000 women in the city are either illiterate or semi-literate.

Hunan Province has a reputation as the most clannish and conservative of areas in China. The province is rich in mineral resources, many of which remain untapped. The primary minerals in Hunan include antimony, manganese, mercury, tungsten and phosphates. Rice in the summer and wheat in the winter are the leading crops.

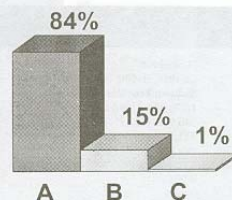
Hunan is sometimes called Ch'u as a nickname. The powerful kingdom of Ch'u was based in the province until it was



Over 30% of people in Lianyuán are aged under 15 years-old.



## 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

overthrown and annexed in 221 BC by the Qin Dynasty. The Qin went on to create the first unified Chinese state in history. Between 1910 and 1949 Hunan experienced a lot of peasant unrest. Numerous riots and strikes took place against landowners and local officials. One peasant-boy from a small village in Hunan, Mao Zedong, rose up against the injustice and became the famed leader of the Chinese Communist Party.

At its peak, more than twenty different missionary organizations and denominations were working in Hunan. Hudson Taylor, the great founder of the China Inland Mission, died in Hunan in 1905 at the age of 73.

Missionary work in Hunan was very fruitful, until the Communist Party came to power. They methodically went through the towns and villages, purging Christians from among the people. Thousands were killed for their belief in Christ, while many others renounced their faith. Scores more were sent to labor-camps to be "re-educated", some for 20 years or more. Although the church in Hunan is once again growing, there are deep schisms among churches and the presence of Chinese indigenous cults has taken a great toll on the believers. Today, as many as 90% of believers in the province live in the countryside. The cities, including Lianyuán, almost seem to be devoid of Christianity.



Rural believers in Hunan Province.



Hunan Province is the home of Mao Zedong. Consequently, the church faced massive persecution after 1949. Today, cities like Lianyuán have very little Christian presence. Few have ever heard the Gospel.

## Pray for Lianyuán

1. Pray the youth of Lianyuán would not perish without a Gospel witness like the previous two generations. Pray the Chinese church would focus on planting evangelistic churches in the city.
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to destroy the works of Satan in Lianyuán and other cities in Hunan Province. Pray people's hearts would be receptive to the claims of Christ.
3. Pray a large and healthy church would soon emerge in Lianyuán City, one in which people worship in Spirit and in Truth.

## Overview of Lianyuán

Pronunciation	"Leeun-Yooahn"
Old Spelling	Lien-yuan
Location	Hunan Province, southeast China
Population	1,006,665 (1990 census)
Males	518,919 (51.55%)
Females	487,746 (48.45%)
Households	270,524
Average household	3.72 people
Divorced people	3,635
% of population	0.36%
Centurions (1990)	2 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	3,199 per year
From same province	2,851 (89.1%)
From other provinces	347 (10.9%)

Employed people	545,150 (54.1% of total population)
Main Industries	Agriculture 84.1%; Industrial 8.4%; Professional 3.6%
Educational	University: 0.1%
Attainment	High School: 38.1%
(highest level)	Primary School: 49.4%
attended	Never attended any level of school: 12.4%
Population under 15	30.7%
Adult Literacy	86% (men 94%, women 77%)
Major Nationalities	Han 1,005,506
	Miao 312
	Dong 310
	Tujia 207
	Bai 72
	Others (16 groups): 258
Christians	3,000 (0.2%)