

Liling

醴陵

Liling City, with a population of just under one million people, is located in the extreme east of Hunan Province in south-central China, near the border with Jiangxi Province. Liling is readily accessible to Changsha City about 80 km (49 miles) to the north-west, and the large Pingxiang City (more than 1.5 million people) within Jiangxi Province just 25 km (16 miles) east of Liling.

The population of Liling is almost exclusively Han Chinese, with only two minority groups - the Miao and the Tujia - recording over 100 residents in the city.

The Lu Shui River flows through Liling, joining up with the impressive Xiang River a short distance west of the city.

Hunan Province has a unique place in Chinese culture. Its language is different from other parts of the country, and its people are known as among the most stubborn, resistant to change, and patriotic of all Chinese.

Mao Zedong, a native of Hunan Province, knew the Liling area well, having first visited in 1927 and writing a report on the oppressed condition of the peasants there.

Although today Liling is a modern-looking city, it has a long history having been founded a century before the birth of Christ.

Population:
 936,626 (1990)
 983,324 (2000)
 1,032,300 (2010)

Province:
 Hunan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.6%
 Miao 0.1%
 Tujia 0.1%
 Zhuang 0.1%

Christians:
 14,000 (1.4%)

For the last 1,700 years of its history, Liling has forged itself a famous reputation on two counts. Firstly, it is widely known as a porcelain manufacturing city. There are more than 500 ceramic makers in Liling, employing a total work force of more than 50,000 people.

The porcelain produced here is mainly for household use, and is known for being "as white as marble, as thin as paper, bright as a mirror and clear-sounding when pinged." All different production stages are completed within Liling, before the finished porcelain is exported to more than 80 countries around the world.

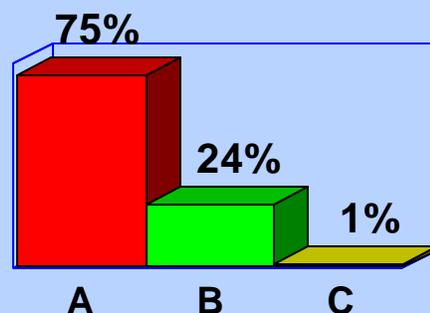
Liling is also known for its firework production, which started in 1851 during the Qing Dynasty. The fireworks are exported to more than 30 countries around the world, as well as used extensively inside China.

Liling remains, however, a predominantly agriculture-based economy. Main crops produced here include rice, wheat, corn, sorghum, millet, soybeans, sugar cane, cotton, and tobacco.

The average temperature in eastern Hunan Province ranges from 4 degrees Celsius (39 deg.F) in the winter to 26 deg.C. (79 deg.F) in the summer. Liling has a high annual precipitation, with more than 40% of rainfall between April and June each year.



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



Liling has one of the best literacy rates of any of the cities in this book. Just 7.8% of adults were found to be illiterate at the time of the 1990 census, including only 3.3% of men. These rates even compare favorably with Beijing - the academic heart of China.

Liling was little more than a small town until the 1950s when the government industrialized the city and numerous factories and processing plants sprung up. When the earliest Protestant missionaries first arrived in Hunan Province, Liling was so small that it didn't even appear on provincial maps.

The earliest Protestant missionary to enter Hunan was the Wesleyan Josiah Cox, who travelled through the province in 1865. In 1875 C. H. Judd of the China Inland Mission succeeded in renting a house only to be driven out by angry locals a few days later. Finally, in 1882 Adam Doward became the first Protestant to settle in the province and commence work. Progress was slow, however. By 1913 there were just 3,835 Protestant believers in the entire Hunan Province.

Liling has little Christian witness to this day, with only about 1.4% of the city's inhabitants confessing Christ.

Pray for Liling

- 1** Ask God to make Liling a city of praise and worship, one where the Word of God is cherished.
- 2** Pray the Holy Spirit will make the Liling Church a source of revival.
- 3** Pray a strong and clear Gospel witness will soon be established in Liling.

Overview of Liling (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Lee-ling"	Employed People	: 505,815 (54.0% of total population)
Old Spelling	:	Main Industries	: Agriculture 69.8%, Industrial 19.0%
Location	: Eastern Hunan Province, south China	Education	: University: 1.0%
Population	: 936,626 (1990 census)	(highest level attended):	: High School: 33.9%
Males	: 484,228 (51.70%)		: Primary school: 57.7%
Females	: 452,398 (48.30%)		: Never attended any school: 7.4%
Households	: 231,812	Population under 15:	: 266,183 (28.4%)
Average Household	: 4.0 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 7.8% (men 3.3%; women 12.7%)
Divorced People	: 4,269	Major Nationalities	: Han 936,137
% divorced of Population:	: 0.46		: Miao 126
Centurions (1990)	: 1 person aged 100 or more		: Tujia 104
Immigrants to City	: 8,363		: Zhuang 87
From same province:	: 4,864 (58.2%)		: Others 172 (18 groups)
From other provinces:	: 3,491 (41.8%)	Christians (2003)	: 14,000 (1.4%)