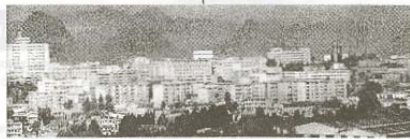


# LIUPANSHUI 六盘水

The city of Liupanshui (also spelt Lupanshui) in northwest Guizhou Province is home to more than 2.4 million people. Lupanshui is actually an amalgamation of several neighboring towns and districts. The name *Liupanshui* comes from the names of the three major towns: *Liuzhi*, *Panxian* and *Shuicheng*. Liupanshui has been given the official administrative title of a 'municipality' by the Chinese authorities. The municipality is spread out over an area of 9,900 sq. km (3,800 sq. miles).

Being the second largest city in impoverished Guizhou Province, Liupanshui only came to prominence in the last few decades when the area was transformed from a sleepy town to a major industrial center. The main mineral deposit found in the area is coal. Northwest Guizhou is sometimes described as a "sea of coal". A massive steel and iron plant was constructed in Shuicheng in 1966. It employs more than 20,000 people, drawn from all parts of China.

Economic development in the area will be further enhanced when the railway line from Liupanshui to Baiguo is completed soon. Work on the track has been



**Population:**  
1,844,471 (1990)  
2,478,800 (2000)  
3,331,200 (2010)

**Province:**  
Guizhou

**Major Ethnic Groups:**  
Han 82.9%  
Yi 7.7%  
Miao 3.8%  
Bouyei 2.8%

**Christians:**  
39,000 (1.6%)

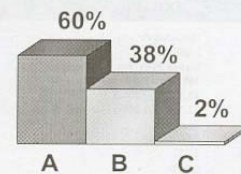
arduous due to the mountainous terrain. One-hundred-and-one bridges and 56 tunnels are being built along the 121 km (75 mile) line.

Around 83% of the population of Liupanshui are ethnic Han Chinese. The municipality also contains significant communities of Yi (140,000), Miao (70,000), Bouyei (52,000) and Bai (18,000). Other nationalities with more than one thousand people in Liupanshui include the Hui, Manchu, Mongol, Shui, Gelao, Li, Dong and Tujia. Overall, Liupanshui is one of the most ethnically-diverse cities in China. The prevalence of minority people in Liupanshui has contributed to its ranking of one of the lowest rates of literacy in the nation. More than 40% of adults are unable to read or write, including 57% of all women.

Despite its size, Liupanshui is not noted as a place frequented by tourists. It has the reputation as a somewhat ugly, polluted industrial site. The weather is also not appealing for most people. Continual rain and overcast skies can last weeks at a time, while in winter a freezing fog descends on the city, which,



## 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

when mixed with coal smoke, makes breathing difficult.

Despite its unpleasant image, Liupanshui is home to masses of lost people for whom Christ died. There are an estimated 39,000 Christians in the city (1.6% of the population), but this figure needs to be viewed by ethnic composition. The majority of the believers are from the Miao minority, members of the Gha-Mu ethnic group, whom early missionaries frequently called them the 'Small Flowery Miao'. A revival broke out in the early years of the 20th century among the Gha-Mu, resulting in the majority of them still being Christians today. A number of Yi believers also live in Liupanshui, fruit of Samuel Pollard's laborers a century ago.

Among the Han Chinese majority and the other ethnic minorities in Liupanshui, however, there is little knowledge of Christianity and few believers. The Miao and Yi Christians are handicapped in their attempts to share the Gospel by language, cultural and ethnic barriers that have existed between themselves and the Han for generations. Even among different subgroups of the same minority in China there are often large barriers of language or prejudice that the Gospel has struggled to overcome. The Gha-Mu have been unsuccessful in their attempts to reach the Hmong Vron, a small tribe in their area who also belong to the official Miao nationality.

Catholic missions work started in Guizhou Province in the 1600's. Today there are more than 150,000 Catholic believers in the province, with a number of churches and meeting places in Liupanshui City. Protestant believers have been persecuted by local authorities, who appear desirous to stamp out Christianity in the area. The church in Liupanshui, especially among the Han, is weak and in need of renewal. The city is a strategic gateway to impact dozens of unreached people groups in nearby areas.



Most of the Christians in Liupanshui belong to the Gha-Mu, or Small Flowery Miao minority group. The majority of other people in Liupanshui have never heard the Gospel.

## Pray for Liupanshui

- 1 Pray for a concerted effort to be mounted to take the Gospel to every community in Liupanshui. Pray the Christians in the city would be greatly moved of God to become bold and zealous.
- 2 Pray the minority Christians in Liupanshui would find ways to overcome the barriers that keep them from sharing Christ with the Han Chinese. Pray God would use them mightily.
- 3 Ask God to raise up a triumphant and God-glorifying church from all across Liupanshui City.

## Overview of Liupanshui

Pronunciation	: "Loo-pahn-shway"
Old Spelling	: Liu-pao-shui
Location	: Guizhou Province, southwest China
Population	: 1,844,471 (1990 census)
Males	: 963,211 (52.22%)
Females	: 881,260 (47.78%)
Households	: 414,427
Average household	: 4.45 people
Diversed people	: 6,834
% of population	: 0.37%
Centurions (1990)	: 12 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	: 11,760 per year
From same province	: 8,380 (71.3%)
From other provinces	: 3,371 (28.7%)

Employed people	: 959,592 (52.0% of total population)
Main Industries	: Agriculture 76.7%; Industrial 12.8%; Professional 4.2%
Educational	: University: 0.3%
Attainment	: High School: 23.9%
(highest level attended)	: Primary School: 38.5%
Population under 15	: Never attended any level of school: 37.3%
Adult Literacy	: 35.4%
Major Nationalities	: 60% (men 76%; women 43%)
	: Han 1,530,001
	: Yi 141,350
	: Miao 70,051
	: Bouyei 51,412
	: Bai 17,559
Christians	: Others (21 groups): 34,098
	: 39,000 (1.6%)