

NANCHANG 南昌

More than 1.8 million people make their home in the city of Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province. The city is almost exclusively Han Chinese, with additional communities of 2,500 Hui Muslims, more than 1,000 Manchu, and small numbers of Zhuang, Tibetans, Mongols and She also present. The population of Nanchang is sharply increasing thanks to almost 40,000 immigrants per year settling in the city. The vast majority (85%) of the job seekers are from other parts of Jiangxi Province. By the year 2010 the city's population is expected to be nearly 2.5 million.

In other regions of China, people from Jiangxi are often thought to possess a stubborn streak, yet are also considered conservative with simple tastes. The Jiangxi businessman is traditionally viewed as too shrewd and greedy to be trusted.

Jiangxi was a sparsely populated part of China until the eighth century, when hordes of Chinese immigrants flooded into the area. Today, Jiangxi (which is approximately the size of Oklahoma) contains more than 40 million people.

Jiangxi is recognized as the starting point for Communism in China. The Jiangxi Soviet Republic was founded in 1927. The Communists, led by Zhou En Lai

Population:
1,369,171 (1990)
1,840,000 (2000)
2,472,800 (2010)

Province:
Jiangxi

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.5%
Hui 0.2%
Manchu 0.1%
Zhuang 0.1%

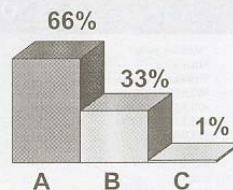
Christians:
14,500 (0.8%)

and Zhu De, seized Nanchang City on August 1st with the help of 30,000 soldiers. It was in Nanchang in the 1930's that the Communist leaders, including Mao Zedong, first worked out their strategy for taking the nation. After several years of military campaigns, the Kuomintang Army flushed the Communists out of Jiangxi. Mao's forces commenced the Long March, fleeing the Kuomintang armies and rousing support for their cause throughout the Chinese countryside.

Nanchang is flanked by the Gan River to the north and the Fu River to the west, which connects to the Gan. Not surprisingly, considering its recent history, Nanchang is home to many Communist memorials. The



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

Monument to the Martyrs is located on Renmin Square, as is the Memorial Hall to the Martyrs of the Revolution. Several other such nondescript buildings are located around the city, and are requested by hordes of Chinese tour groups.

Protestant mission history in Jiangxi Province dates back to 1867 when V. C. Hart and E. S. Todd of the Methodist Episcopal Church were sent to explore the province. They established the Central China Methodist Mission in 1875, with a view to evangelizing the province. Nanchang City, however, was neglected by missionaries for most of the 19th century. Ida Kahn, a Chinese doctor who had received her education in America, carried on a medical mission in Nanchang in the early 1900's.

Until the time missionary societies decided to increase their work in Nanchang, the Communist takeover of the city occurred, effectively closing the door to evangelistic activity in Nanchang until the present time. Several indigenous churches were planted by the "Little Flock", founded by Watchman Nee, prior to 1949. Fruit of these churches remains in Nanchang today, but the Little Flock has been strongly persecuted by the Chinese authorities.

Although there has been a sharp increase in the number of Christians in the southern and rural parts of Jiangxi Province, Nanchang City remains relatively untouched, with no more than 0.8% of the city's population professing to follow Christ.

Every Sunday, more than one thousand people cram into the Methodist Church, which was constructed in Chinese classical style in 1933. Although it was built to accommodate only 500 people, public address systems have been hooked up in the hallways and corridors of the church so that additional worshippers and inquirers can hear the preaching.



A restaurant owner in Nanchang City prepares eel and sea-snake for the lunch-time rush. Nanchang cuisine tends to be spicy and salty, similar to north China.

Pray for Nanchang

- 1 Although there seems to be a lot of interest in the Gospel among Nanchang's people, less than one percent have ever accepted Christ. Pray tens of thousands would soon receive eternal life.
- 2 Pray against the spiritual strongholds of Communism that had their origins in Nanchang and which still cause house church believers to be persecuted and harassed in Nanchang.
- 3 Pray a great outpouring of salvation would impact Nanchang, bringing revival in the birthplace of Chinese Communism.

Overview of Nanchang

Pronunciation	: "Nahn-chung"	Employed people	: 753,077 (55.0% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Nan-ch'ang	Main Industries	: Industrial 44.5%; Agriculture 16.7%; Professional 16%
Location	: Jiangxi Province, eastern China	Educational	: University: 5.0%
Population	: 1,369,171 (1990 census)	Attainment	: High School: 58.5%
Males	: 709,027 (51.78%)	(highest level)	: Primary School: 25.3%
Females	: 660,144 (48.22%)	Never attended any level of school:	: 11.2%
Households	: 342,416	Population under 15	: 22.7%
Average household	: 4.00 people	Adult Literacy	: 89% (men 94%, women 82%)
Divorced people	: 8,272	Major Nationalities	: Han 1,363,930
% of population	: 0.60%		: Hui 2,372
Centurians (1990)	: 5 people aged 100 or more		: Manchu 1,057
Immigrants to City	: 37,645 per year		: Zhuang 370
From same province	: 32,253 (85.7%)	Christians	: 14,500 (0.8%)
From other provinces	: 5,320 (14.3%)		: Others (32 groups): 1,128