

PANZHIHUA 攀枝花

More than 800,000 people live in Panzhihua City in the southern extremity of Sichuan Province. The city has a diverse collection of ethnic minorities, and is a gateway to dozens of small people groups, living in scattered communities throughout the mountains of southern Sichuan and neighboring northern Yunnan. In addition to the Han Chinese majority in Panzhihua, more than 41,000 members of the Yi nationality reside in the city. The Yi are far from being one cohesive people group. Even among the Yi in Panzhihua there are approximately ten different tribes represented, each possessing different customs, traditional dress and language. They range from Nosu people who have come down from the Daliangshan ('Big Cold Mountains') to live in Panzhihua, to their former slaves the Bai Yi, who were freed only when the Communists finally succeeded in abolishing the slave system in the late 1950's.

Panzhihua is also home to 1,800 Lisu, 1,600 Hui, 1,600 Dai, 1,300 Manchu, 1,000 Bai, 850 Tujia, 800 Naxi and 600 Miao people. In total, members of 33 of China's officially-recognized 55 minority groups are found in Panzhihua.

Panzhihua is not a particularly attractive city. Although it

Population:
631,752 (1990)
849,000 (2000)
1,141,000 (2010)

Province:
Sichuan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 91.9%
Yi 6.5%
Lisu 0.3%
Hui 0.3%

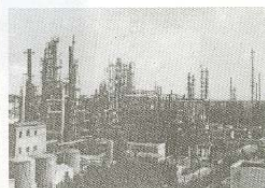
Christians:
4,000 (0.5%)

is nestled in a mountainous area, the hills conspire to trap much of the suffocating pollution caused by the numerous factories and the iron, steel and titanium manufacturing-plants operating in the city. Panzhihua has boomed in the past twenty years, as it became an important stop on the Chengdu-Kunming trainline. In fact, many people know Panzhihua by the name Jinjiang, which is the part of the city where the train station is located.

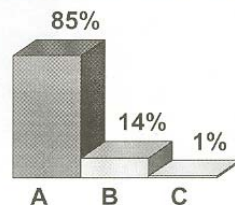
The 1990 national census revealed some interesting facts which show the composition of Panzhihua's society. In 1990, 55.6% of the population were males, and only 44.4% females. This has come

about because of the sudden economic growth and the type of big industry which usually requires male labor. In 1990, construction was the second largest employment sector in

Panzhihua. More than 52,000 people were employed as builders in the city. Many of these are working at the 33-billion Yuan (US\$ 4.12 billion) Ertan Hydro-Power Station.



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

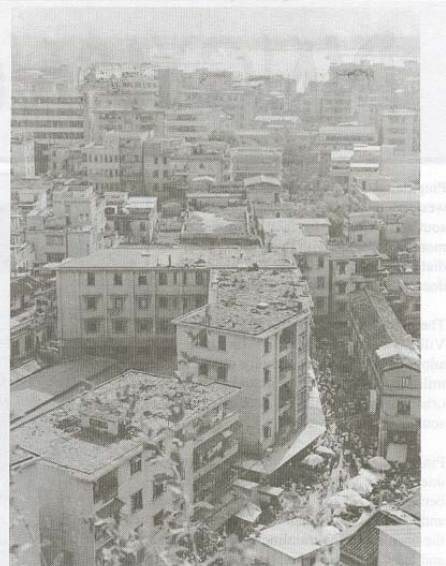
Panzhihua has the lowest proportion of children of any of the cities profiled in this book, with just 12.5% of the population being aged under 15. This statistic again shows how Panzhihua has suddenly emerged as an economic boomtown with little previous foundation or sense of community.

In stark contrast to many other Chinese cities, with histories dating back thousands of years, Panzhihua was constructed only in 1966. Before that time it was a desolate ferry point along the upper Yangtze River. While the rest of China was being quagmired in the forgettable Cultural Revolution, Panzhihua was being settled by migrants from around the country.

Although the economic boom in Panzhihua is of some interest, our primary concern is for the more-than 800,000 souls who have come from all over the nation and from many different ethnic backgrounds to work in Panzhihua. It is a strategic city because of its variety and potential widespread impact for the Gospel.

There are a small number of churches in Panzhihua, mostly formed by immigrants who had earlier been converted in their home towns. Many of the Lisu in Panzhihua are followers of Christ, as are members of the Lipo ethnic group, whom the government officially includes as part of the Yi nationality. Overall, however, the several thousand Christians in Panzhihua represent only about one out of every 200 of the city's residents. Many of the construction workers and factory laborers work 70 hours per week or more, making it difficult for believers to find an opportunity to share their faith.

Panzhihua represents a key city for the worker who wants to see all segments of Chinese society reached with the Gospel, as well as the Christian who is eager to reach out to multiple small ethnic groups for Christ.



Panzhihua is a booming new city on the banks of the Yangtze River in southern Sichuan Province. Buildings are being erected rapidly all over the city.

Pray for Panzhihua

- 1 Millions of men in China are migrant laborers, traveling around wherever they can get jobs. Pray God's people would reach out to these precious souls, including the many thousands in Panzhihua.
- 2 Ask God to give strategies to His people in Panzhihua to reach out to the lost. Pray Christians would see the souls of their lost neighbors as their primary objective in life.
- 3 Pray a revival would start among workers in Panzhihua which would end up impacting numerous other cities across China.

Overview of Panzhihua

Pronunciation : "Pahn-jih-wa"
Old Spelling : Pan-chih-wa
Location : Sichuan Province, southwest China
Population : 631,752 (1990 census)
Males : 351,281 (55.60%)
Females : 280,471 (44.40%)
Households : 148,288
Average household : 4.26 people
Divorced people : 3,976
% of population : 0.63%
Centurians (1990) : 2 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 21,742 per year
From same province : 18,234 (83.9%)
From other provinces : 3,431 (15.8%)

Employed people : 386,298 (61.1% of total population)
Main Industries : Industrial 31.2%; Agriculture 28%; Construction 13%
Educational : University: 1.2%
Attainment : High School: 48.0%
(highest level) Primary School: 37.7%
attended) Never attended any level of school: 13.1%
Population under 15 : 12.5%
Adult Literacy : 86% (men 91%; women 80%)
Major Nationalities : Han 580,149
Yi 40,852
Lisu 1,767
Hui 1,593
Dai 1,551
Others (29 groups): 5,840
Christians : 4,000 (0.5%)