

# PINGXIANG 萍乡

Pingxiang City is located in the extreme western part of Jiangxi Province in southeast China. In fact, Pingxiang has more in common with the culture, food and dialect of nearby Hunan Province than it does with other people in Jiangxi.

The name *Pingxiang* means 'Duckweed Village' in Chinese. Although the administrative area of the city contains 1.8 million inhabitants, the actual immediate urban area is home to perhaps 100,000 souls.

Pingxiang, which was founded in 250 BC, is one of the major stops on the trainline between Nanchang (the capital of Jiangxi) and Changsha in Hunan. Like many other cities in China, the opening of the trainline placed Pingxiang on the map and led to a rapid population increase for the city. In the 1920's the population of Pingxiang did not exceed 40,000. It has grown more than thirty-fold in the decades since. Today, the city's inhabitants are almost solely Han Chinese. There are just a small number of minority people living in Pingxiang, but they do not form any significant visible communities in the city.

Most Han Chinese living in Pingxiang City are speakers of the Gan language. Gan, spoken by more than 35 million people in China, is the main Chinese language

**Population:**  
1,388,427 (1990)  
1,865,900 (2000)  
2,507,500 (2010)

**Province:**  
Jiangxi

## Major Ethnic Groups:

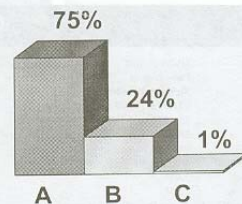
**Han** 99.7%  
**Yao** 0.1%  
**Hui** 0.1%  
**Manchu** 0.1%

**Christians:**  
5,000 (0.4%)

spoken in Jiangxi Province, as well as parts of neighboring Hubei, Hunan, Anhui and Fujian provinces. Gan is only partially intelligible with Mandarin and Wu Chinese as spoken in Shanghai. There are significant pronunciation and grammar differences between Gan and Mandarin. The majority of Gan speakers, however, are now adequately bilingual in Mandarin because of the influence of the national education system and media, which is all done using Mandarin. The linguistic uniqueness of Jiangxi in the past, however, created obstacles to missionaries and slowed down the advance of the Gospel among the people. There are also a significant number of Hakka living in



## 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



Pingxiang. The Hakka were officially counted as part of the Han Chinese nationality.

Jiangxi Province, especially the western part where Pingxiang is located, did not fully come under the control of the Chinese empire until the Three Kingdoms Period (220-264 AD). The Gan River Valley was captured and the minority peoples who largely inhabited it were conquered. From the third to the sixth centuries, thousands of Han families migrated into the newly subjugated lands, fleeing the barbarian invasions along China's northern borders.

Jiangxi Province is famous for its abundance of silver. Extensive mining in the past gave rise to a wealthy ruling class. These days Pingxiang is known as an industrial city with an emphasis on factories that produce textiles, iron and paper. Traditionally, Jiangxi is famous in China for producing porcelain, ramie cloth, fruit, tea, tobacco and forest products.

Although Protestant missionary work in Jiangxi commenced in 1869, it was primarily focused on Nanchang and the eastern part of the province. Few workers ever made it as far as Pingxiang. Christianity in Jiangxi has therefore spread unevenly. Whereas it is especially strong around Poyang Lake in the north, cities like Pingxiang have received little Gospel witness.

The Little Flock, a denomination started by Watchman Nee, established a church in Pingxiang before 1949. The believers were severely persecuted during the 1950's and '60's. Today there are still a few churches remaining open in Pingxiang, but most are filled with elderly women. The faith does not appear to be transferring to the younger generation.

Pingxiang contains more than 300,000 needy households, teeming with souls for whom Christ died that they may know Him.



Each home in Pingxiang City contains an average of 4.6 people, showing that many people here pay little attention to China's 'one-child' policy.

## Pray for Pingxiang

- 1 Pingxiang City and surrounding areas are filled with countless lost souls. Pray Christians would take up the challenge to take the Gospel to every part of Pingxiang.
- 2 Pray the Name of Jesus would be deeply honored and respected among the people of Pingxiang. Pray thousands would soon call upon His Name and be saved.
- 3 Pray Jesus Christ would be lifted up above Pingxiang, that all people would be drawn to Him.

## Overview of Pingxiang

Pronunciation	: "Ping-shee-ung"	Employed people	: 718,209 (51.7% of total population)
Old Spelling	: P'ing-siang	Main Industries	: Agriculture 65.9%; Industrial 21.2%; Professional 5.7%
Location	: Jiangxi Province, southeast China	Educational	: University: 0.2%
Population	: 1,388,427 (1990 census)	Attainment	: High School: 40.3%
Males	: 715,382 (51.52%)	(highest level)	: Primary School: 49.8%
Females	: 673,045 (48.48%)	attended)	: Never attended any level of school: 9.7%
Households	: 302,539	Population under 15	: 31.6%
Average household	: 4.59 people	Adult Literacy	: 90% (men 94%; women 86%)
Divorced people	: 4,101	Major Nationalities	: Han 1,387,942
% of population	: 0.29%		: Yao 117
Centurions (1990)	: 3 people aged 100 or more		: Hui 84
Immigrants to City	: 3,035 per year		: Manchu 82
From same province	: 1,714 (56.5%)		: Zhuang 42
From other provinces	: 1,319 (43.5%)	Christians	: 5,000 (0.4%)
			: Others (17 groups): 160