

Qianjiang

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At the time of the 1990 census the population of Qianjiang City was just under 874,000 people. By 2000 it had grown to more than one million, an annual growth rate of 1.5%

Qianjiang ("Hidden River") is located in south-central Hubei Province in central China. It is in the flood belt in Hubei, just south of the Han Shui River and about 50 km (31 miles) north of the Yangtze River.

Qianjiang has a settled history dating back to its founding in 965 AD, but recent archaeological excavations reveal a much older occupation. In late 1999, archaeologists working at Dragon Bay, 30 km (18 miles) southwest of Qianjiang, unearthed 19 palatial buildings covering an area of 210 sq. km (82 sq. miles). Remains of three shell-studded roads as well as fragments of pottery and copper were found. Scientists dated the Longwan Palace back to the late Spring and Autumn Period (770 - 476 BC). The find surprisingly revealed the existence of comprehensive underground sewerage pipes and roof beams, rarely seen elsewhere in China during that era

Approximately 55 km (34 miles) northwest of Qianjiang lies the southern walls of Ying, the capital of the Chu State around 200 AD. Further finds establish this region as one of the cradles of civi-

Population:
873,894 (1990)
1,006,201 (2000)
1,158,500 (2010)

Province:
Hubei

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.6%
Hui 0.2%
Manchu 0.1%
Miao 0.1%

Christians:
13,000 (1.3%)

lization in Hubei Province.

Today Qianjiang is a fairly nice place to visit, with many gardens, trees and waterways adorning the city.

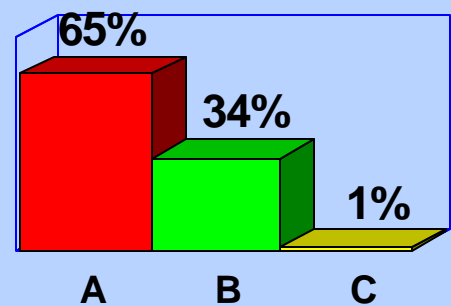
Although many efforts have been made to modernize the city's economic infrastructure, the work-force of Qianjiang is still strongly based around agriculture. In 1990, 68.7% of the total work-force were employed in the agricultural sector. Rice and cotton are the main crops, while there are numerous fish farms. Qianjiang also possesses strong petroleum and mechanical industries.

Economic development in Qianjiang has been uneven. While the rich have got richer, the poor have been left behind in the rush to capitalism.

Between 14-19 May, 1997, nearly 120,000 unemployed and disenchanting peasants in central Hubei Province staged demonstrations and parades. Qianjiang was one of the main centers for the protesters, who accused the authorities of "exploiting and fleecing the peasants." When the protestors saw their actions were not making progress with the local government officials, rioting erupted. Cars belonging to Communist Party officials were set ablaze. More than 50 people were injured during the clashes with the police, and as many as 100 of the protestors were arrested.



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



Protestant missionary work in Qianjiang didn't commence until 1919 when the Swedish Missionary Society employed one Chinese evangelist and sent him to the city to open an evangelistic center. In the first three years he was unable to report a single convert to Christ. Qianjiang contained few Christians until the mid-1980s, when some signs of encouraging growth appeared. House church evangelists from other parts of China, primarily Henan and Anhui provinces, came to the city and found their efforts blessed by the Holy Spirit. Dozens of house church believers soon became hundreds, and now thousands, although the vast majority of residents in Qianjiang today remain unevangelized and with little knowledge of the Gospel.

As in all other parts of China, rapid growth of Christianity has occurred simultaneously with persecution by the authorities. Several key house church leaders from Qianjiang have been imprisoned, while others have been arrested, beaten, and fined. One Qianjiang leader arrested in 1999 was Hu Shou Bin. He was sentenced to prison with hard labor and is now detained at the Shayang Labor Camp.

Pray for Qianjiang

- 1** Pray for house church Christians and their efforts to reach Qianjiang City. Pray they will bear much fruit.
- 2** Ask the Lord to save to the uttermost multitudes of people in Qianjiang.
- 3** Pray many people in Qianjiang would seek God with all their hearts.

Overview of Qianjiang (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : "Cheeun-jung"
Old Spelling : Tsien-kiang
Location : central Hubei Province, central China
Population : 873,894 (1990 census)
Males : 442,824 (50.67%)
Females : 431,070 (49.33%)
Households : 207,616
Average Household : 4.2 people
Divorced People : 2,264
% divorced of Population: 0.26
Centurions (1990) : 0 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 22,839
From same province: 14,458 (63.3%)
From other provinces: 8,376 (36.7%)

Employed People : 521,137 (59.6% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 68.7%, Industrial 14.5%
Education (highest level attended):
 University: 3.1%
 High School: 37.7%
 Primary school: 41.2%
 Never attended any school: 18.0%
Population under 15: 239,202 (27.4%)
Adult Illiteracy : 21.1% (men 8.8%; women 33.5%)
Major Nationalities : Han 870,301
 Hui 2,118
 Tujia 872
 Miao 152
 Others 451 (17 groups)
Christians (2003) : 13,000 (1.3%)