

# Xiaogan

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Xiaogan is a little known city in central China, even though it is home to approximately 1.5 million people. Located in the center of Hubei Province, Xiaogan is dwarfed by the provincial capital Wuhan, which sits about 60 km (37 miles) to the south-east of Xiaogan.

Xiaogan City is also a prefectural seat. It governs four other smaller cities and three counties. The entire Xiaogan Prefecture contains a total of 5.8 million people, making it a large strategic city for evangelism and church planting.

Xiaogan has a remarkably high number of youth. According to the 1990 census, almost 404,000 people were aged under 15, representing 31% of the population.

## Population:

1,302,061 (1990)  
1,471,328 (2000)  
1,662,600 (2010)

## Province:

Hubei

## Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 99.7%  
Hui 0.1%  
Tujia 0.1%  
Manchu 0.1%

## Christians:

19,000 (1.3%)

This percentage is significantly higher than the national urban average.

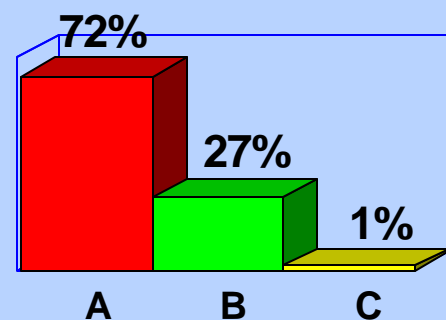
The city also has a high rate of illiteracy. In 1990, 23.6% of adults were unable to read. There was a large discrepancy between genders, with just 12.1% of men found to be illiterate compared to a whopping 35.3% of women. Although government programs throughout the 1990s have probably improved this figure somewhat, there is still a high level of illiteracy found among the people of Xiaogan.

Xiaogan ("Filial Piety") gets its name from a moving legend from the Eastern Han Dynasty (206 BC - AD 200).

A young but pious peasant named Dong Yong sold himself into slavery in order to pay for the burial of



## 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



his dead father. His deed of filial piety is said to have moved heaven.

The wider Xiaogan area is highly dependent on the agricultural sector, with 85% of the work-force employed directly or indirectly from the land. Xiaogan's fertile soil is ideal for the production of cotton, grain and oil. Over the past two decades the leaders of Xiaogan have also focused the city's economic development on the production of farm products, automobiles, optics, electronics, and phosphate chemical industries. The Xiaogan City Hightech Industrial Development Zone was set up in 1989. Today more than 260 foreign investment enterprises are working in the city.

Although Catholic missionaries have been active in Hubei Province since the 1600s, the first Protestant missionaries to start work in Xiaogan were members of the London Missionary Society in 1894. Progress was slow, and reaction to the Gospel hostile. By 1922 (twenty-eight years of labor later), Xiaogan boasted just 385 baptized Protestants, and 12 full time Chinese evangelists.

For the past decade house church evangelists have been working in Xiaogan. Today there are a total of about 19,000 Christians in the city, which is just 1.3% of the population.

## Pray for Xiaogan

- 1** Pray against the demonic structures that have kept the Gospel away from the people of Xiaogan for centuries.
- 2** Ask the Lord to bless and anoint His children in Xiaogan for evangelism.
- 3** Pray God's Kingdom will soon come with mighty power in this needy city.

## Overview of Xiaogan (based on 1990 census)

**Pronunciation** : "Sheeow-gun"  
**Old Spelling** : Hsiao-kan, Siaokan  
**Location** : central Hubei Province, central China  
**Population** : 1,302,061 (1990 census)  
**Males** : 664,902 (51.07%)  
**Females** : 637,159 (48.93%)  
**Households** : 294,598  
**Average Household** : 4.4 people  
**Divorced People** : 3,224  
**% divorced of Population**: 0.25  
**Centurions (1990)** : 0 people aged 100 or more  
**Immigrants to City** : 18,486  
**From same province**: 13,974 (75.6%)  
**From other provinces**: 4,508 (24.4%)

**Employed People** : 751,643 (57.7% of total population)  
**Main Industries** : Agriculture 85.8%, Industrial 4.1%  
**Education** : University: 1.9%  
**(highest level attended)**: High School: 35.0%  
 Primary school: 42.2%  
 Never attended any school: 20.9%  
**Population under 15**: 403,748 (31.0%)  
**Adult Illiteracy** : 23.6% (men 12.1%; women 35.3%)  
**Major Nationalities** : Han 1,301,074  
 Hui 446  
 Tujia 268  
 Manchu 102  
 Others 171 (20 groups)  
**Christians (2003)** : 19,000 (1.3%)