

XINGYI

兴义

Slightly less than 800,000 people live in the city of Xingyi in the southwestern corner of Guizhou Province, some 160 km (100 miles) from the provincial capital Guiyang. Xingyi is near the juncture of the three Chinese provinces of Guizhou, Yunnan and Guangxi. The picturesque city is set among rolling hills and gushing streams.

Although more-than 80% of the population of Xingyi are Han Chinese, the city has a strong minority feel to it. Approximately 100,000 members of the Bouyei nationality live in Xingyi. The Bouyei are part of the great Tai race, which has spread out from southern China as far as northeast India. The Bouyei language even today is partially related to other languages in Northern Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. In China, it is most closely related to Zhuang. In addition to the Bouyei, there are significant numbers of Yi (7,500), Miao (5,000), Hui (2,500), Li (1,000), Zhuang (500), Shui (350), Mongol (320), Dong (300) and Tujia (250) in Xingyi. In total, 27 of China's official minority groups are represented in this remote yet strategic city.

Visitors to Xingyi feel they have arrived in a country town rather than a city. The economy of Xingyi is almost entirely agriculture-based, with almost 90% of the workforce being employed in that sector. The people of Xingyi pay little attention to China's one-child policy, especially

Population:
593,451 (1990)
797,500 (2000)
1,071,800 (2010)

Province:
Guizhou

Major Ethnic Groups:

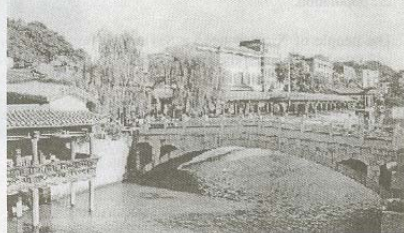
Han 81.6%
Bouyei 15.5%
Yi 1.2%
Miao 0.8%

Christians:
3,000 (0.4%)

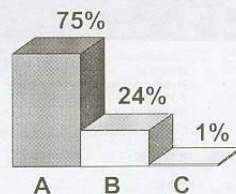
minority families. In 1990, each household contained an average of 4.56 people, and more than one-third of the population was aged under 15.

Illiteracy has been a major obstacle facing the local authorities in Xingyi. In 1990, only around 5% of women in the city were considered fully literate. Almost 200,000 were classified as either illiterate or semi-literate. This is not surprising when it is considered less than 20% of people in Xingyi advance in their education beyond Primary School level. More than 31% of adults surveyed in the city had never attended any level of school whatsoever.

Apart from farming, the people of Xingyi can gain employment by gold-mining, or working in 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



local sugar refinery or distillery. One of China's largest hydroelectric power stations, Tianshengqiao, is also nearby.

Few tourists travel to Xingyi, although the impressive Maling Gorge is nearby. The gorge is 15 km (nine miles) long and has a pathway along the sides. Most visitors to Xingyi simply enjoy the wooden houses and old-time atmosphere of the city, which seems to be 50-years behind most other places in China.

Missionary activity dates back to the 1800's. Catholic priests worked in the area from the 1830's, especially targeting the Bouyei. They suffered much persecution for their efforts. Several priests were murdered.

The first Protestant missionary known to specifically live in Xingyi City was a Rev. Waters in 1891. The mission station did not last long, however. Because of Xingyi's close proximity to the border with Guangxi, the missionaries were forced to abandon their mission at the request of local officials in 1902. Guangxi at the time was overrun by bandits and was a place of constant riots and violence. Back at that time, Xingyi was a seven-day horse-ride just from Anshun. Today, Anshun can be reached in a few hours by bus.

The name *Xingyi* means 'righteous revival'. Unfortunately, the name has been a misnomer throughout its history, as very few of the city's inhabitants have ever heard the Gospel. There are believed to be a few thousand believers within the city and its surroundings, especially among the Yi and Miao, but most people in Xingyi have never heard that Christ bore their punishment on the Cross.

Xingyi is full of friendly yet desperately needy lost souls. It also serves as an important gateway city to numerous unreached minority groups.



Numerous unreached minority groups inhabit the mountains around Xingyi City in Guizhou Province. Among them are the Bouyei. More than 100,000 Bouyei are located within the city itself.

Pray for Xingyi

- 1 Pray there will be blood-bought believers around the throne of God from among every tribe, nation, language and people in the Xingyi area.
- 2 Pray the Gospel would not bypass Xingyi City. Ask God to send workers to live in the city and be bold and effective witnesses for the Gospel.
- 3 Pray God would be glorified in Xingyi, and that many strong and evangelistic churches would soon be planted there.

Overview of Xingyi

Pronunciation	"Shing-ye"
Old Spelling	Hsing-i
Location	Guizhou Province, southwest China
Population	593,451 (1990 census)
Males	303,042 (51.06%)
Females	290,409 (48.94%)
Households	130,119
Average household	4.56 people
Divorced people	1,831
% of population	0.31%
Centurions (1990)	2 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City	1,821 per year
From same province	1,417 (77.8%)
From other provinces	404 (22.2%)

Employed people	330,495 (55.7% of total population)
Main Industries	Agriculture 89.5%; Professional 3.0%; Industrial 2.5%
Educational	University: 0.2%
Attainment	High School: 19.1%
(highest level attended)	Primary School: 49.4%
Population under 15	Never attended any level of school: 31.3%
Adult Literacy	33.5%
Major Nationalities	68% (men 80%; women 54%)
	Han 484,202
	Bouyei 91,867
	Yi 7,337
	Miao 4,884
	Hui 2,447
Christians	Others (23 groups): 2,714
	3,000 (0.4%)