

Yangjiang 阳江

With a population just over one million, Yangjiang ("Sunny River") is a fast growing city located on the southern coast of China, in Guangdong Province.

The ethnic makeup of Yangjiang is almost exclusively Han Chinese. The only minority group with a significant representation here are the 1,300 Zhuang people. Surprisingly, the third highest minority group in Yangjiang are the 49 Tibetan individuals who make Yangjiang their home; geographically and culturally as far from their homeland as is possible in China.

Although the recorded population of the city is just one million, Yangjiang also has jurisdiction over two counties, one district and Hailing Island. Altogether the population is 2.24

Population:
885,817 (1990)
1,000,973 (2000)
1,131,100 (2010)

Province:
Guangdong

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han	99.7%
Zhuang	0.1%
Yao	0.1%
Tibetan	0.1%

Christians:
13,000 (1.3%)

million people.

Yangjiang is a city of beaches. The business district and larger buildings are located just a short distance from the beach. Zhapo, Dongping Shapa, Xitou and Dui'an are among the fishing ports from which thousands of Yangjiang residents make their livelihood in the South China Sea.

Life is far from easy for the fishermen however. Yangjiang is situated right in the path of the many severe typhoons that lash the south China coastline every year. During one 24-hour period from June 7-8, 2001, Yangjiang recorded 650 mm (25 inches) of rainfall. At least 17 people

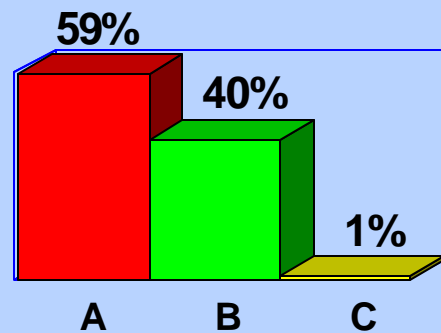
died in the storm. In 1998 more than 100,000 residents of Yangjiang were stranded by a flood which badly damaged 4,100 houses.

The main mineral resources found in Yangjiang are iron, copper, sulphur, tin, quartz sand, and gold ore. The city has announced a list of "ten pillar industries." They are: mechanics, electronics, building materials, metallurgy, refined sugar, food, hardware, textiles/clothing, and forestry. Yangjiang also has a large nuclear power plant that is presently under construction.

During the course of its 1,300 year history Yangjiang has gained notoriety in other parts of China for some of its distinctive local products. These 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 = Adherants to any form of Christianity



clude the Yangjiang pocketknife, lacquerware, and kites. Kite making has a long and distinguished history in the city. The annual kite festival attracts large crowds of people from all over China and overseas.

The economic progress achieved by Yangjiang City in recent years has come at a cost to many of its residents. Yan Wenya, a member of the Yangjiang City Party Standing Committee, was sentenced to 19 years in prison in 2000 for accepting bribes. Yan had accumulated a vast amount of money by corrupt means.

Although the first Protestant work in China took place in Guangdong in 1807, the province has fallen behind most other parts of China as far as the work of the Gospel is concerned. The first American Presbyterian missionaries arrived in Yangjiang in 1892. By 1922 they had established 22 churches with 1,235 converts.

Today most people in Yangjiang seem more concerned with accumulating wealth than in spiritual matters. The city has become highly secularized with little apparent interest in the Gospel. Most Christians in Yangjiang attend one of the several Three-Self churches in the city. House churches have made little impact in this part of Guangdong Province.

Pray for Yangjiang

- 1** Pray God would convict the people of Yangjiang of their sin, helping them see their need for Jesus' salvation.
- 2** Pray the house churches would send able workers to Yangjiang.
- 3** Ask the Lord to glorify His holy Name in every part of Yangjiang.

Overview of Yangjiang (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Yung-jeeung"	Employed People	: 458,397 (51.7% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Yangkiang Yeungkong	Main Industries	: Agriculture 72.2%, Industrial 10.0%
Location	: SW Guangdong Province, south China	Education (highest level attended):	University: 1.1% High School: 34.3% Primary school: 47.4% Never attended any school: 17.2%
Population	: 885,817 (1990 census)	Population under 15:	273,366 (30.9%)
Males	: 458,230 (51.73%)	Adult Illiteracy	: 17.6% (men 8.2%; women 27.4%)
Females	: 427,587 (48.27%)	Major Nationalities	: Han 884,228 Zhuang 1,310 Yao 86 Tibetan 49 Others 144 (17 groups)
Households	: 188,218	Christians (2003)	: 13,000 (1.3%)
Average Household	: 4.7 people		
Divorced People	: 2,986		
% divorced of Population:	0.34		
Centurions (1990)	: 9 people aged 100 or more		
Immigrants to City	: 15,170		
From same province:	10,365 (68.3%)		
From other provinces:	4,796 (31.7%)		