

Yueyang

岳阳

Yueyang ("High Mountain Sun") is a medium size city of approximately 900,000 people located in the extreme northeastern part of Hunan Province in south-central China. The whole Yueyang Prefecture is home to more than 5.1 million people. Yueyang is situated just a few miles away from the Hubei provincial border, on the northern bank of the huge Dongting Lake, which at 3,900 sq. km (1,521 sq. miles) is the second largest freshwater lake in China. Indeed, Hunan ("South of the Lake") takes its name from Dongting Lake's location in the north of the province.

Among those people living in Yu-

Population:
529,843 (1990)
875,332 (2000)
989,100 (2010)

Province:
Hunan

Major Ethnic Groups:

Han	99.7%
Tujia	0.1%
Hui	0.1%
Miao	0.1%

Christians:
13,500 (1.5%)

eyang City, more than 99% are Han. Minority groups are represented by 650 Tujia, 500 Hui, 450 Miao, 250 Manchu, 240 Dong, 200 Tibetans, 170 Zhuang and 100 Yao.

Yueyang is an ancient port city. It is connected to the rest of China by the Yangtze River that forms the borderline between Hunan and Hubei. Hundreds of boats and ferries ply the river between the massive cities of Chongqing to the west and Wuhan to the northeast.

At various times during its history Yueyang has been named Baqiu, Baling and Yuezhou. Today it is described by one guide book as having

"a working-class atmosphere, and its narrow, old backstreets are a colorful contrast to China's modernization drive." [China: Lonely Planet, p.592]

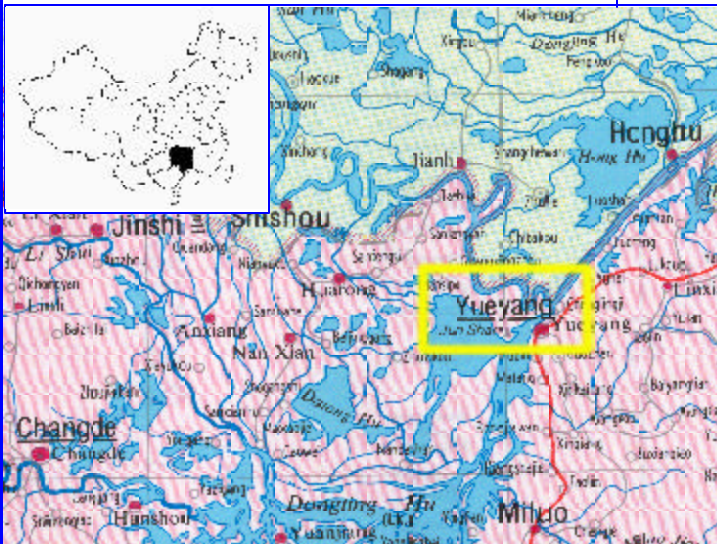
The Yueyang Tower is considered one of the great towers in China. Constructed in 716 AD and rebuilt on numerous occasions, the 20 meter (66 feet) high tower was made without the use of a single nail.

Yueyang is divided into two separate parts. Yueyang City proper is the main area on the banks of the Dongting Lake, while 17 km (11 miles) further north is Chenglingji, the city's main port on the Yangtze.

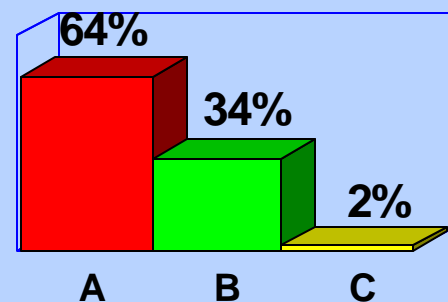
The economy in Yueyang is based on factories, fishing, and farming. Rice, cotton, oil, lotus, poul-



The 1,300 year-old Yueyang Tower



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



try and eggs are among the city's main products. Even though many office complexes, hotels and shops have sprung up in Yueyang, giving it a modern atmosphere, the city still manages to retain its character.

For countless centuries the people of Yueyang have been deeply religious. Fishermen pray for Buddha's protection and blessing before they start out on the Yangtze River or Dongting Lake. To this day, many fishermen observe the superstition of circling the front of the ship once before stepping on board, as well as avoiding many taboos relating to speech and the sleeping positions of crew members. All of these are designed to keep the spirits happy, to ensure a successful journey.

Several old Buddhist and Daoist temples and places of worship are found scattered throughout the streets and alleys of Yueyang, as well as shops that sell idols, lucky charms, and other religious paraphernalia (such as in the above picture).

The first Protestant mission to work in Yueyang was the London Missionary Society in 1902. Progress was slow. Twenty years later, in 1922, they reported only 243 church members in the city. Today most people in Yueyang have never heard about God's plan of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pray for Yueyang

- 1** Yueyang has a famous ancient tower. Pray the people will soon make Jesus Christ their strong tower and refuge.
- 2** Ask God to bless and empower the witness of Christians in Yueyang.
- 3** Pray tens of thousands of people in Yueyang would soon know Jesus.

Overview of Yueyang (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation	: "Yeew-yung"	Employed People	: 309,855 (58.5% of total population)
Old Spelling	: Yoyang Yochow, Yochau	Main Industries	: Industrial 33.5%, Agriculture 31.8%
Location	: NE Hunan Province, S-central China	Education	University: 6.1%
Population	: 529,843 (1990 census)	(highest level	High School: 53.3%
Males	: 280,478 (52.94%)	attended):	Primary school: 31.2%
Females	: 249,365 (47.06%)		Never attended any school: 9.4%
Households	: 140,129	Population under 15:	120,979 (22.8%)
Average Household	: 3.8 people	Adult Illiteracy	: 9.9% (men 5.3%; women 15.1%)
Divorced People	: 3,530	Major Nationalities	: Han 527,085
% divorced of Population:	0.67		Tujia 639
Centurions (1990)	: 0 people aged 100 or more		Hui 491
Immigrants to City	: 98,553		Miao 436
From same province:	80,384 (81.6%)		Others 1,192 (20 groups)
From other provinces:	18,158 (18.4%)	Christians (2003)	: 13,500 (1.5%)