

Yulin

玉林

The 1.5 million inhabitants of Yulin ("Jade Woods") City live in the rolling green hills of southeastern Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China. Apart from the overwhelming Han Chinese majority in Yulin, the city is also inhabited by 15,300 ethnic Zhuang people, 500 Yao and 250 Bouyei.

According to the 1990 national census, Yulin contained almost 100,000 more males than females - one of the largest gender variations of major cities in China. Yulin also has an extremely young population, with about 434,000 people aged under 15. This figure represents about one-third of the total population and is significantly higher than the national average.

Although Guangxi is officially labelled an "Autonomous Region" of the Zhuang minority group, the fact is that the majority of the population of Guangxi are Han Chinese.

The Zhuang are a Tai people group, historically related to the Thais of Thailand, the Lao of Laos, and other Tai-speaking minority groups in southern China such as the Dai, Bouyei and Li. Over the past

Population:
1,323,410 (1990)
1,495,453 (2000)
1,689,800 (2010)

Province:
Guangxi

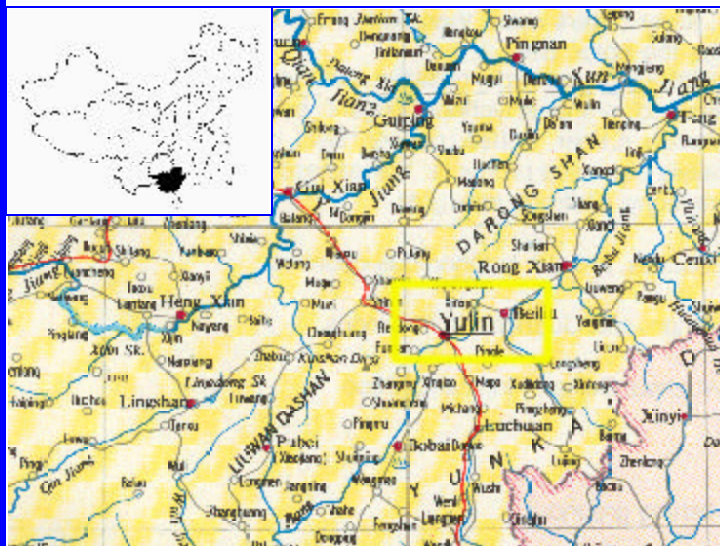
Major Ethnic Groups:

Han 98.6%
Zhuang 1.2%
Yao 0.1%
Bouyei 0.1%

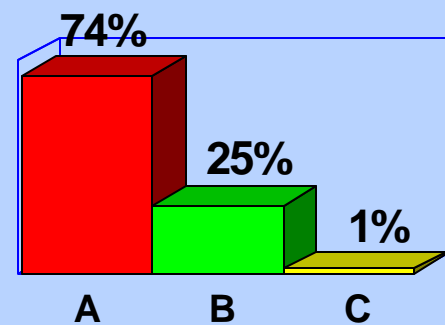
Christians:
12,000 (0.8%)

thousand years the Han pressed southward into Guangxi, fleeing war and overpopulation in the north. When they came to Guangxi they often found the tribal people in possession of the best land, and so engaged them in conflict and took over the fertile plains. Many fled into the remote mountains where they could be left alone. Their descendants today are mostly the Zhuang. The rural Zhuang today better retain their own culture and language, while those who decided to remain on the plains and coexist with the Chinese have found themselves gradually consumed by the all-pervasive Chinese culture, "in the same way that stomach juices treat a steak" according to one historian.

Consequently, many millions of Zhuang people today - including most of those living in Yulin City - are completely indistinguishable from the Chinese in dress and appearance. The assimilation of the Zhuang was so complete in some areas of Guangxi that when government experts started to classify them as a minority nationality in the 1950s some Zhuang clans even went so far as to



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



falsify their family names and ancestries to “prove” that they were Han Chinese. One source states, “of 152 clans examined in one district of Guangxi Province, not one claimed to be non-Han. Many are reported to be so anxious to be Chinese they have falsified genealogical records in order to find a suitable Han ancestor.” [Robert Ramsey, *The Languages of China*, p.167, 205]

The first Protestant missionaries to work in Yulin (then called Watlam) were members of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in 1904. The CMA were the main mission in Guangxi. They concentrated on Guangxi more than anywhere else in China and labored for many decades before they were expelled from China in the early 1950s. The CMA had a vision to establish teams of missionaries in every single city and county within Guangxi.

By 1922 the CMA had established one congregation in Yulin, containing 98 baptized believers. Today the number of Christians in Yulin City has grown, but they still represent less than one percent of the population. There are several Three-Self churches in the city, as well as Catholics. The house churches have very little work in Yulin, and indeed in most of Guangxi, compared to their broad influence in most other parts of China.

Pray for Yulin

- 1** Pray the Gospel will saturate Yulin City, changing the lives of people from every single ethnic group.
- 2** Pray the house churches will send able workers to Yulin and all of Guangxi.
- 3** Ask the Lord to make His Name great among the people of Yulin.

Overview of Yulin (based on 1990 census)

Pronunciation : “Yoo-lin”
Old Spelling : Watlam
Location : SE Guangxi Region, southern China
Population : 1,323,410 (1990 census)
Males : 709,550 (53.61%)
Females : 613,860 (46.39%)
Households : 284,178
Average Household : 4.7 people
Divorced People : 3,246
% divorced of Population: 0.25
Centurions (1990) : 17 people aged 100 or more
Immigrants to City : 26,133
From same province: 22,611 (86.5%)
From other provinces: 3,521 (13.5%)

Employed People : 730,311 (55.2% of total population)
Main Industries : Agriculture 82.1%, Industrial 5.9%
Education : University: 1.8%
(highest level attended): High School: 33.2%
 Primary school: 52.0%
 Never attended any school: 13.0%
Population under 15: 434,456 (32.8%)
Adult Illiteracy : 12.3% (men 5.9%; women 19.2%)
Major Nationalities : Han 1,306,670
 Zhuang 15,371
 Yao 496
 Bouyei 236
 Others 637 (20 groups)
Christians (2003) : 12,000 (0.8%)