



Population in China:

4,400,000 (1987)
5,143,600 (2000)
5,812,300 (2010)

Location: Hainan Island

Religion: No Religion

Christians: 92,000

Overview of the Hainanese

Countries: China, Vietnam, Laos

Pronunciation: "Hi-nahn"

Other Names: Chinese: Qiongwen, Qiongwen, Hainan Chinese

Population Source:

4,400,000 (1987 LAC);
Out of a total Han population of 1,042,482,187 (1990 census);
Also in Vietnam and Laos

Location: NE Hainan Island and along the coastline of most of the island except the northwest

Status: Officially included under Han Chinese

Language: Chinese, Qiongwen

Dialects (5): Fucheng, Wenchang, Wanning, Yaxian, Changgan

Religion: No Religion, Buddhism, Daoism, Christianity

Christians: 92,000

Scripture: None

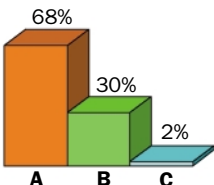
Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings:
Hainanese #00366

Christian Broadcasting: Available

ROPAL code: CFR04

Status of Evangelization



A = Have never heard the gospel
B = Were evangelized but did not become Christians
C = Are adherents to any form of Christianity



Paul Hattaway

Location: Five million Hainanese Chinese are concentrated in the northeastern parts of China's Hainan (South Sea) Island. They are located along the coast in a clockwise direction, from the northeast all the way to the west of the island.

Identity: Included as part of the Han nationality, the Hainanese are descended from Chinese who migrated from Fujian at various times over the last 15 centuries.

Language: Hainanese is related to the Min Nan language of Fujian. Hainanese "has evolved in unusual directions and is not at all readily understood by other Min Nan peoples."¹ Hainanese is also called *Qiongwen*. Qiongwen is widely spoken throughout 14 counties and cities of Hainan. Most Hainanese are bilingual in Mandarin, while many can also speak Cantonese.

History: *The Shang Dynasty (1700–1100 BC):* The second dynasty in Chinese history was the Shang, which lasted for 600 years. The ruling base at the time was the Yellow River basin in present-day Shanxi, Shaanxi, and Shandong. Archaeological finds from the Shang period have indicated the presence of "a caste of high priests who practiced divination using so-called oracle

bones. Associated with ancestor worship and divination are the Shang bronze vessels, the surfaces of which are covered with extraordinarily detailed linear designs."² The Shang Dynasty was overthrown around 1100 BC. Chinese have lived on Hainan Island since Madame Xian — a leader of the Yue minority tribes of southern China — pledged allegiance to the Sui Dynasty rulers in the sixth century AD.³

Customs: Most Hainanese earn their livelihood from fishing or agriculture. Severe and sudden storms lash the Hainan coastline every summer, causing massive damage to homes and boats. New industry and factories have sprung up on Hainan in the last decade. Significant numbers of Hainanese are

employed by the expanding tourist industry which has catered to a growing number of Chinese and foreign tourists since the early 1980s.

Religion: Severe persecution of all religious activity during the Cultural Revolution caused the demise of many traditional Chinese religious practices in the 1960s. Most of the current generation of Hainanese youth are nonreligious.

Christianity: The first mention of Christianity on Hainan was in 1630 when Jesuit priests came from Macau and constructed a chapel in Fucheng Township.⁴ The first Protestant missionary on the island was Carl Jeremiassen, a Danish sea captain, who was employed by the Qing government "to hunt down pirates and smugglers." Jeremiassen, however, "changed his mind and his profession upon reaching Hainan in 1881... distributing Bibles with one hand and dispensing medicines with the other."⁵ In 1992 there were at least 37,000 Protestants⁶ and 3,000 Catholics⁷ on Hainan Island, most of whom were Hainanese Chinese. In the six years since then, one church-planting movement has established 550 new house churches with 55,000 new believers on the island.