



**Population in China:**  
 7,526,000 (1987)  
 8,797,900 (2000)  
 9,941,600 (2010)  
**Location:** Fujian  
**Religion:** No Religion  
**Christians:** 400,000

## Overview of the Min Dong

**Countries:** China, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, Malaysia

**Pronunciation:** "Min-Dong"

**Other Names:**  
 Min Dong, Eastern Min

**Population Source:**  
 7,526,000 (1987 LAC);  
 Out of a total Han population of 1,042,482,187 (1990 census);  
 20,000 in Indonesia (1982);  
 15,000 in Singapore (1985);  
 6,000 in Brunei (1979);  
 Also in Thailand and Malaysia

**Location:** NE Fujian: From Fu'an to Fuzhou City

**Status:** Officially included under Han Chinese

**Language:** Chinese, Min Dong

**Dialects (3):**  
 Houguan, Funing, Manhua

**Religion:** No Religion, Buddhism, Daoism, Christianity

**Christians:** 400,000

**Scripture:** Bible 1884; New Testament 1856; Portions 1852

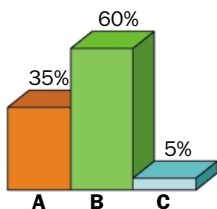
**Jesus film:** None

**Gospel Recordings:** Foochow Colloquial Chinese #00113

**Christian Broadcasting:** None

**ROPAL code:** CD000

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

**Location:** More than eight million Han Chinese in Fujian Province speak the Min Dong — or Eastern Min — language. It is spoken by people living in 19 cities and counties of Fujian, ranging from the town of Fu'an in northeastern Fujian to the large city of Fuzhou on the coast. Min Dong speakers are also scattered throughout Southeast Asia.

**Identity:** The Min Dong are part of the Min group of languages which are distinct from Mandarin and other Chinese varieties.

**Language:** The different Min vernaculars "seem to incorporate remnants of Sinitic offshoots that predate the Sui-Tang era [AD 589]. They may represent variations as old as the Han Dynasty itself — language forms set in place... during the Jin [AD 265–420]."<sup>1</sup>

**History:** *The Southern and Northern Dynasties (420–589):* China was reeling under the burden of war and had divided into two ruling kingdoms. Both the southern and northern kingdoms at this time were actually ruled by several different dynasties. In the fifth century the Tuoba tribe defeated all its opposition in the northern kingdom. New rulers solidified authority by introducing a land reform movement. Buddhism, introduced from India, flourished during this period.

**Customs:** Many Min Dong Chinese living along the coast are fishermen, earning their income from the bounty of the Taiwan Strait.

**Religion:** In the ancient past the Chinese appear to have

had a sense of love, kinship, and filial feeling for Shang Di, the Creator God. Each year the emperor gave the following recitation as he sacrificed at the Temple of Heaven: "You hear us and regard us as a Father. I, your child, dull and unenlightened, am unable to show forth my dutiful feeling. Your sovereign goodness is infinite. As a potter, You have made all living things. Your sovereign goodness is infinite. Great and small are sheltered (by your love). With great kindness You did bear with us, and not withstanding our demerits, do grant us life and prosperity."<sup>2</sup>

**Christianity:** Generally speaking, the Min Dong have proven more receptive to Christianity than Chinese in other parts of the country. In the thirteenth century Marco Polo came across a large body of

believers in Fugiu [now Fuzhou City]. "They had books... found to be the words of the Psalter.... And thus they had in a certain temple of theirs three figures painted, who had been three apostles of the seventy who had gone preaching throughout the world, and they said that those had taught their ancestors in that religion long ago, and that that faith had already been preserved among them for seven hundred years, but for a long time they had been without teaching and so were ignorant of the chief things."<sup>3</sup> Dr. Nathan Site, an American Methodist, arrived in Fujian in 1866. He was the first missionary to Fujian in the modern Protestant era. Today there are at least 400,000 Min Dong believers, including more than 100,000 in Fuqing County alone.<sup>4</sup>



Pauli Hattaway