Jing 京

Population in China:
18,915 (1990)
24,400 (2000)
31,470 (2010)
Location: Guangxi, Guangdong
Religion: Daoism
Christians: 600

Overview of the Jing

Countries: China

Pronunciation: "Jing"

Other Names: Gin, Vietnamese in China, Kinh, Ching

Population Source:
18,915 (1990 census);
11,995 (1982 census);
4,293 (1964 census)

Location: *S Guangxi*: The Jing inhabit three islands, Wanwei, Wutou, and Shanxin, immediately off the southern coast of Guangxi, within Fangcheng County; A few Jing live in *Guangdong*.

Status:
An official minority of China

Language: Austro-Asiatic, Mon-Khmer, Viet-Muong, Vietnamese

Literacy: 65%

Dialects: 0

Religion: Daoism, Buddhism, Animism, Christianity

Christians: 600

Scripture: Vietnamese Bible (not available in China)

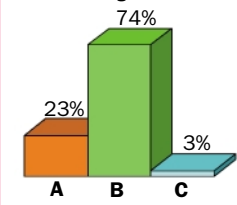***Jesus* film:**
Available (Vietnamese)

Gospel Recordings:
Vietnamese: North #00680

Christian Broadcasting:
Available (FEBC, TWR)

ROPAL code: VIE00

Status of Evangelization

74%

23%

3%

A   **B**   **C**

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 24,000 members of the Jing minority live in southern China, on the Shanxin, Wanwei, and Wutou islands. These three islands are within Fangcheng County in Guangxi.[1] Papaya, banana, and other varieties of tropical fruit grow abundantly. The Jing also eat horseshoe crabs and other delicacies which they gather from the sandy beaches. More than 700 species of fish live in the Beibu Gulf, "in addition to pearls, sea horses, and sea otters, which are prized for their medicinal value."[2] A small number of Jing live on the Chinese Mainland in Guangdong Province.

Midge Conner

Identity: The Jing are one of the 55 official minorities of China. Some scholars classify them simply as "Vietnamese in China." The name *Jing* comes from the word *Kinh* which is the self-name of the Vietnamese people. After more than 500 years of separation, however, the Jing now possess their own customs and traditions.

Language: The Jing language is similar to varieties of Northern Vietnamese but has many influences from Cantonese and Mandarin. "The Vietnamese language is undoubtedly Mon-Khmer; though it has undergone millennia of Chinese influence."[3] Because they do not understand the Vietnamese script, the Jing use Chinese characters for reading and writing. In the

past they claim to have had their own script, called *Zinan* or *Nanzi*, which was mainly used for religious purposes. The script was lost, possibly when they migrated to China.

History: The Jing are believed to have migrated to China from the city of Tushan and other places in northern Vietnam in the 1500s. When they arrived in southern China the mainland was already occupied by Chinese and Zhuang people, so they took possession of three unoccupied islands off the coast. Before 1958 the Jing were called *Yue*.

Customs: The Jing have developed many romantic traditions. "When a young man and girl are mutually attracted, they go the beach in the moonlight by tacit agreement. At a certain point, the man will cough loudly. This is the first signal of an intended proposal. On hearing it, the girl slows down her walking and waits for the man to catch her up. The man comes up and makes a small pile of sand with his feet which he then kicks in the direction of the girl who, if she is willing, stands her ground.... The girl, having no objection to the boy's proposal, gives him a smile and kicks back sand towards him."[4]

Religion: The main beliefs among the Jing are Daoism and animism. There are also many professing Catholics among them, but their worship is often mixed with Daoist and Buddhist idolatry.

Christianity: The first Protestant work among the Jing commenced in 1886 when E. G. Horder, an Anglican missionary, established the Pu Ren Hospital at Beihai in southern Guangxi. In 1991, 80 leper Christians still lived there, meeting in the *Simon Church*.[5] The great majority of Jing believers today are Catholic. They meet in both registered churches and independent house groups, and use Chinese Bibles, since they cannot read the Vietnamese script.