

Population in China:
 683,000 (1987)
 798,400 (2000)
 902,200 (2010)
Location: Fujian
Religion: No Religion
Christians: 35,000

Overview of the Min Zhong

Countries: China

Pronunciation: "Min-Jong"

Other Names: Central Min

Population Source:
 683,000 (1987 LAC);
 Out of a total Han population of
 1,042,482,187 (1990 census)

Location: *Central Fujian:* Around
 Yong'an, Sanming, and Shaxian
 townships

Status: Officially included
 under Han Chinese

Language: Chinese, Min Zhong

Dialects: 0

Religion: No Religion, Buddhism,
 Daoism, Christianity

Christians: 35,000

Scripture: None

Jesus film: None

Gospel Recordings: None

Christian Broadcasting: None

ROPAL code: CZ000



Paul Hattaway

Location: The Min Zhong (or Central Min)
 numbered 683,000 speakers in 1987,
 making them one of the smallest of the
 Chinese language groups in the country.
 Min Zhong is spoken in the central part of
 Fujian Province, especially around the towns
 of Yong'an, Sanming, and Shaxian.

Identity: The Min Zhong are part of the Min
 group of Chinese languages, all of which
 are considered part of China's Han
 nationality.

Language: Fujian has been called "The
 province of a hundred dialects." Missionary
 J. E. Walker, after an 1878 trip through
 Fujian, wrote, "What a Babel of brogues,
 and dialects there is among those wild
 mountains! A native can hardly pass the
 limits of his own village but his speech will
 betray him.... The tones seem utterly
 lawless. They shoot up to the sky, then
 plunge into the bowels of the earth, they
 stiffen straight out, then double up and
 twist about; they sing, cry, whine, groan,
 scold, plead."¹

History: *The Tang Dynasty (618–907):* The
 Tang Dynasty is considered the most
 auspicious and glittering period in history
 by the Chinese. China was again united,
 and a strong military extended China's
 borders to its largest extent: encompassing

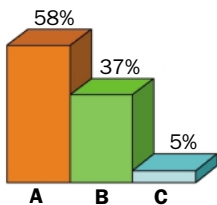
parts of present-day Central
 Asia, Russia, Myanmar,
 Vietnam, Tibet, Nepal,
 Bhutan, and northern India.
 For the first time China was
 divided into 300 prefectures
 and 1,500 counties, which
 mirror the present boundaries
 remarkably closely. Following
 the collapse of the Tang
 Dynasty in 907, China again
 entered into a period of
 discord and war.

Customs: The Grand Canal,
 constructed over a period of
 1,000 years, linked four of
 China's major rivers: the
 Yangtze, Yellow, Huai, and
 Qiantang. Between Beijing and
 Hangzhou the canal measured
 1,800 kilometers (1,110 mi.).
 It opened up China's trade
 and caused the inland
 provinces to flourish.

Religion: Recently there has been
 speculation claiming the wise men who
 visited Bethlehem may have come from
 China. The Chinese were using the
 compass 1,000 years before the birth of
 Christ. Maps have been found from that
 time which show a clear passage from
 China to the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient
 Chinese astrologers discovered a star they
 called the "King Star." "They believed
 whenever this star appeared, a king was
 born. Chinese history says it was at its
 most brilliant peak during the Han Dynasty
 [time of Christ]."² One of the main
 astrologers during this period was Liu
 Shang, who disappeared from China for
 over two years at the time of Christ's birth.

Christianity: An eighth century Chinese
 Nestorian church leader claimed the Magi,
 returning from Bethlehem, had brought the
 first news of the Savior to China.³ By the
 thirteenth century, Christians numbered in
 the hundreds of thousands throughout
 China and Mongolia. In 1330 the
 Nestorians were described as having "very
 handsome and devoutly ordered churches
 with crosses and images in honour of God
 and the saints. They hold sundry offices
 under the Emperor and have great
 privileges from him."⁴ Today about 5% of
 Min Zhong Chinese profess to follow Christ.

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