Han Chinese, Puxian 汉（莆田）

Location: Approximately two and a half million Puxian Chinese densely inhabit a relatively small area in eastern Fujian Province. The Puxian take their name from nicknames of the two counties they primarily inhabit: *Pu*tian and neighboring *Xian*you. Xianyou is also under the jurisdiction of Putian City. The Puxian language is spoken in an oval valley about 55 kilometers (34 mi.) wide and 100 kilometers (62 mi.) long.

Identity: Puxian people are often stereotyped by other Chinese as heroic and athletic people. Many of China's best track and field stars come from Putian.[1] In Southeast Asia the Puxian are known as the *Hinghua*.

Language: A Chinese proverb states for "every three *li* [about one mile], the dialect is different." The Puxian language is one such example of the linguistic diversity among the world's largest race. Puxian is lexically quite close to Min Nan, "but phonetically, it appears to be closer to Min Dong.... This group can be thus regarded as transitional between the Min Nan and Min Dong groups."[2]

History: *The Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty (1271–1368):* In 1213 the Mongols, led by Genghis Khan, broke through the Great Wall which had been designed to prevent them from entering China. The Mongols swept all opposition before them, winning more territory than any other kingdom in the history of world. Their realm stretched from Southeast Asia to Hungary in Europe. The Mongol armies were brutal, killing and plundering unmercifully wherever they went. One writer at the time recounted, "If anyone were to say that at no time since the creation of man by the great God had the world experienced anything like it, he would only be telling the truth.... The Mongols... spared none. They killed women, men and children, ripped open the bodies of the pregnant and slaughtered the unborn."[3]

Customs: Chinese leaders have long been diligent in numbering and classifying the people of China. Although vital statistics of the population date back as far as the Xia Dynasty (2200–1700 BC), the first recorded nationwide census in China was conducted in 789 BC under the reign of Emperor Zhou Xuan.

Religion: The implementation of Communist policies resulted in a ban on all religious activity across China between 1966 and 1976. Thousands of temples, mosques, and churches were smashed to the ground, and believers were forced to practice their faith in secrecy.

Paul Hattaway

Christianity: The Nestorian church disappeared from China in the fourteenth century, leaving almost no trace of its existence. The heads of 70,000 Christians were piled on a heap in Xian around 1300.[4] "This was the second disappearance of Christianity from China, and when it returned two hundred years later, the next wave of Christians seemed largely unaware that there had ever been Christians there before them."[5] Today approximately 100,000 (4%) of the Puxian Chinese are Christians — including more than 30,000 in Putian City alone,[6] and 90,000 in the whole of Putian County.[7]

Population in China:
2,253,000 (1987)
2,633,700 (2000)
2,976,100 (2010)
Location: Fujian
Religion: No Religion
Christians: 100,000

Overview of the Puxian Chinese

Countries: China, Singapore, Malaysia
Pronunciation: "Pu-shee-un"
Other Names: Putian, Pu-Xian, Xinghua, Hinghua
Population Source:
2,253,000 (1987 *LAC*);
Out of a total Han population of 1,042,482,187 (1990 census);
6,000 in Singapore (1985);
Also in Malaysia
Location: *E Fujian:* Putian and Xianyou counties

Status: Officially included under Han Chinese
Language: Chinese, Puxian
Dialects (2): Putian, Xianyou
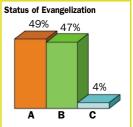**Religion:** No Religion, Buddhism, Ancestor Worship, Christianity, Daoism
Christians: 100,000
Scripture: Bible 1912; New Testament 1900; Portions 1892
***Jesus* film:** None
Gospel Recordings:
Hing Hwa #00421
Christian Broadcasting: None
ROPAL code: CPX00

Status of Evangelization

49%   47%

4%

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