

Yueyang



At the place where the famous Yangtze River joins China's second largest lake, lies the lakeside city of Yueyang, China. Situated in northeast Hunan province, Yueyang is the second largest city in Hunan after the capital, Changsha. Yueyang City is an urban area, with over one million people, that is within a county with over five million people spread over six districts.

The city did not come to be named Yueyang until 1911, however, the area now called Yueyang has been inhabited by people for over 3,000 years. It was originally established as a city in 210 BC and was heavily fortified with walls 4 miles in circumference. Traditionally Yueyang has been the transportation hub for travel and commerce in and out of Hunan province and has been a strategic stronghold during most conflicts in the Yangtze River Basin.

Spiritual Background

In most of Yueyang's long history, it has been in complete spiritual darkness. The Spiritual strongholds of Buddhism and animism have held the hearts and minds of the people of Yueyang for centuries. Hunan province has traditionally been a very difficult province for any outsider to enter and it remained cut-off from the gospel message for centuries.

Early missionaries had limited success bringing the gospel to Yueyang. Hudson Taylor tried to plant a church in Hunan Province for over 30 years before he found success in the provincial capital of Changsha. In 1905 he died in Changsha at the age of 73 after China Inland Mission planted two churches there. Although he tried, he never managed to plant a church in Yueyang.

Following the Communist takeover in 1949, each city and village across China was thoroughly purged of Christians. Scores of Christians were executed or sent to labor camps. From 1949 until the late 90's there had not been any outside Christian witness in Yueyang.

Today, most people in Yueyang consider themselves to be non-religious.

Yueyang has never been targeted for a sustained and focused movement of prayer and evangelism until now.

Christianity in Yueyang

Today in the entire Yueyang area, including all six districts, there are very few known Christians. While some Christians meet in officially registered churches and meeting points, most fellowship in unregistered meeting points also known as house churches.

These faithful believers are primarily living in the rural areas of Yueyang. The urban area of Yueyang City has a much lower percentage of Christians. Faithful believers in the house churches of Yueyang operate in a climate of persecution and hardship.

Prayer Points

☐ Pray that the Holy Spirit would prepare the hearts of the people of Yueyang to accept the gospel message.
Romans 9:18

☐ Pray that the gospel would be made known to all the people of Yueyang in this generation, and that they would be saved.
Luke 19:10

☐ Pray that the Lord will raise up local willing partners, people in Yueyang who will catalyze a movement of massive gospel sharing and church planting.
Ephesians 4:11

Urban Population:	1.3 Million
County Population:	5.5 Million
Location:	Central China / Hunan Province
Language:	Chinese (Mandarin)
Ethnicity:	99% Han, 1% Tujia, Miao
Religion:	Non-religious, Buddhism, Animism
Christians:	less than 1%

