

8. Houston, TX – 114,140
(or 5.8% of HO population of 1,953,631)
9. Seattle, WA – 84,649
(or 15% of SE population of 563,374)
10. Fremont, CA – 80,979
(or 39.8% of FR population of 203,413)

(Note: In 2004, Asian residents of Las Vegas, Nevada increased dramatically that by the next Census, it will have a marked Asian population growth).

7. **Asian Americans Are Embracing the American Dream**
– Getting a good job, owning a home and obtaining college education for their children (and helping relatives back in Asia) is generally the dream of Asian Americans. Recent surveys show that Asian Indians are generally the richest; while the Laotians and Cambodians are generally the poorest.
8. **Asian Americans Are Bi-Cultural**
– They are loyal American citizens who imbibe American culture but also look back to their Asian cultures and heritage which they do not want to lose.
9. **Asian Americans Are Bi-Lingual**
– They speak English at school and at work but speak in their native tongue at home or with relatives and country-mates.
10. **Asian Americans are open to hospitable Churches**
– Asian immigrants are receptive to the Church that meets their needs for family support, community belonging, language and cultural sensitivity and friendly hospitality.

V. ROLE OF EAM MISSIONER

I see myself as a visionary leader, a broad-caster of visions of Asian congregations, encourager, enabler, and equipper. I see the main task of Missioner as “midwifery”---assisting in giving birth to Asian American missionary creativity, productivity and effectiveness.

VI. EAM STRATEGIES

(Our Mission Priorities = CAST):

1. Congregational Development – planting, developing and growing churches
2. Advocacy – clergy and lay involvement in Church Life, social justice and anti-racism
3. Support for Clergy, youth, women, seminarians
4. Training for leadership and theological formation both clergy and laity

VII. ROLE OF EAM COUNCIL

The EAM Council serves as an Advisory Board of the national Asian American Missioner and assist in the planning and implementation of EAM Consultations and other programs and projects.

VII. NEW THRUSTS TO REACH GOALS

In addition to national consultation and diocesan partnership events and ministries:

1. Clergy Collegiums – for fellowship, mentoring and theological reflection
2. YEAST – Young Episcopal Asians Standing Together for recruitment and training for the next generation of leaders.
3. Asian American Ministry Training Center –for Leadership and Church Growth.
4. Renewal of Concordats with Asian Churches (IFI, Mar Thoma, CSI) and exploration of new Convocations (India, Pakistan, Burmese?)

VI. RESOURCES

1. Renewed Website & ASIAM Newsletter
2. EAM Cycle of Prayer & Asian Clergy Directory
3. Asian Language liturgies
4. New EAM publications and tracts

“NO LONGER MARGINALIZED” The Episcopal Asian American Ministry In the 21st Century

The Rev. Dr. Winfred B. Vergara
Missioner for Asian American Ministries
E-Mail: wvergara@episcopalchurch.org



“You are no longer foreigners and aliens but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God’s household, built on the foundations of the prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.”(Ephesians 2:19-20)

The Episcopal Church Center

815 Second Ave., New York, NY 10017

1800-334-7626 (Ext. 5344)

EAM Website:

www.episcopalchurch.org/asian_american.htm

I. Preface: A VISION OF 3 REVOLUTIONS

As the new Missioner for Asian American Ministries, I recently announced my vision of three revolutions that will take place (and are taking place) in the Episcopal Asian American Ministries, namely:

- 1. Revolution of Attitude** - A new, positive image that we, Asian Americans are no longer marginalized, no longer in the periphery, no longer a token ministry in the mainstream American church. Instead, we are an integral part of the Body of Christ with unique gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Revolution of Growth** – A new consciousness that it is God’s will for the Church to grow in numbers as well as in spiritual maturity and that we, Asian Americans have a role to play in church growth movement.
- 3. Revolution of Relationship** – A new understanding that God’s ‘unconditional love’ should permeate in the life that we lead and in the relationships that we create and that we, Asian Americans can draw inspiration from the wells of our faith, culture and family values.

I see the rise of Asian American leadership in the Episcopal Church, the increasing level of their involvement in all aspects of the Church’s life and at all levels of its activities. I see a ‘golden age’ and the flowering of Asian American Ministry in the Episcopal Church of the USA.

II. HISTORY

The *Episcopal Asiamerica Ministry (EAM)* was established as a mandate from the Episcopal Church’s General Convention held in Louisville, KY in 1973. The Rev. Dr. Winston Ching served as the first Missioner assisted by an Asian Commission, which later became the EAM Council.

Rapid influx of Asian immigrants in the ‘70’s, ‘80’s and ‘90’s and the favorable congregational funding in diocesan and national levels, Asian American mission in the Episcopal Church flourished.

Congregation work started and thrived among the Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and Korean communities in California,

Hawaii and New York. Over time, it has spread out to other states and to other Asian immigrants especially among the Southeast Asians (Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and Hmong) immigrants and refugees.

The Episcopal ‘concordat relations’ with the Philippine Independent Church, the Church of South India and the Mar Thoma Church added more diversity and plurality to the EAM.

III. CURRENT EAM DEMOGRAPHICS

Today, we have around 75 EAM missions, congregations or ministries and around 117 Asian or EAM related clergy. We have a total of 16,200 baptized members (1.4 of the 2.3 Million Episcopalians) and annual operating budget of 10.5 million (or 2.8% of 3 billion of the whole EC).

Annually, we gather in EAM National Consultation of clergy, lay and youth leaders representing five ethnic convocations, namely: (1) Chinese; (2) Filipino; (3) Japanese; (4) Korean; and (5) Southeast Asian. Diocesan and provincial delegates not representing any ethnic group also meets as a convocation. In addition, we welcome delegations from our concordat partners such as the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, the Mar Thoma Church and the Church of South India which also meet as their own convocations.

There are over 13 million Asians in the US and growing rapidly.

III. TEN ASIAN AMERICAN PRINCIPLES

To minister to Asian Americans more effectively, we need to understand certain principles that are unique to Asian and Asian-American history, culture and demographics.

- 1. Asian Plurality** -Asians comprises more than half of the whole human race. China alone has two billions while India has well over one billion. This huge plurality has led the economist (and author of *The Asian Drama*) Gunnar Myrdal to comment in a 1977 Singapore interview that “the destiny of humankind will be decided by Asia.”
- 2. Asian Diversity** – Asia is characterized by rich and complex diversity of races, languages, cultures, religions and ideologies.

- 3. Asian Western Influence** – Most of Asia at one time or the other were colonized by either Spain, Portugal, England France or the United States.
- 4. Asians Christians are a minority in Asia** – Except for predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines and increasingly evangelical South Korea, Christians are a tiny minority in the vast Asian complex. Most Asians are either Buddhists or Hindus or Muslims.
- 5. Asians Immigrated to the US in various ways** – Asians come to the U.S. in various ways. The Chinese came first for the mining and railway labor and later as restaurant and business owners. The Japanese as farmers and entrepreneurs. Filipinos came in three waves: farmers & students; WW II men and war brides; and professionals. Koreans as garment workers and business persons; the Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians, Hmong, etc. as immigrants and War refugees; Indians as engineers and computer experts. Whatever way, they came in; they follow patterns of family reunification. When the first family becomes secure, they petition for their relatives who likewise do the same process of family reunification.
- 6. Asian Americans are Generally City-Dwellers** – Majority of Asian communities are in urban centers. The 2000 Census listed the following top ten cities with large Asian populations:
 1. New York City - 872,777
(or 10.9 % of the NYC population of 8,008,278)
 2. Los Angeles - 407,444
(or 11% of the LA population of 3,694,820)
 3. San Jose, Ca - 257,571
(or 26.9% of the SJ population of 894,943)
 4. San Francisco, Ca. - 253,477
(or 32.6% of SF population of 776,733)
 5. Honolulu, Hi – 251,686
(or 67.7 % of the total Hon population of 371,657)
 6. San Diego, Ca. – 189,413
(or 15.5% of SD population (1,223,400)
 7. Chicago, Il – 140,517
(or 4.9 % of CH population of 2,896,016)