

Fact Sheet:

Asian Christians in Vancouver

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Innovation Funding Project, 2012-2013

Project Description and goals:

The purpose of this project was to begin to map the incidence of Asian Christianity, Protestant, Catholic, and other forms, in Vancouver.

There are two primary objectives for this project. First, I will identify the location, ethnicity, when the congregation started, and the size of Asian Christian congregations in Vancouver from the five largest ethnic groups. Second, I will develop a database to systematically record this data. The data can be used to make some basic observations about the social location of each group, general history, and size of each congregation. This data will provide an important map for identifying Asian Christians in Vancouver. Furthermore, it will establish a baseline for detailed congregational studies of specific churches in the future.

Methodology:

- a) I employed an exploratory case study approach. The purpose of an exploratory case study is to uncover data that will lead to determining the best approach for designing a research project.
- b) Preliminary data collection focused on mapping Christian congregations with a majority of participants who are Asian i.e. Chinese, South Asian, East Indian, Filipino, or Korean.
- c) Case studies also relied upon multiple sources of data such as secondary sources like Census Canada reports, denominational reports, Internet searches, and participant observation to identify such congregations.

Student Involvement:

- Tyler Harper, Trinity Western University
- Heesun Nam, Trinity Western University
- Alethea Cook, Trinity Western University

Results:

- Observations from 5 different congregations
- Data base with identification details on 270 Asian congregations
- Map with location of 270 Asian Congregations
- Bibliography of research on Asian Christianity in Canada

Dissemination:

Database of Asian congregations in Vancouver

- b. Literature review
- c. Summaries of select number of congregations