

ASIAM

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SAVE THE DATES! EAM NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON JUNE 30-JULY 4, 2005 — HOLIDAY INN, (SEATAC AIRPORT), SEATTLE-TACOMA, WASHINGTON. WATCH OUT FOR INVITATION LETTER OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

EAM RESPONDS TO TSUNAMI DISASTER



A Requiem Mass in memory of those who perished in the Tsunami in South Asia was held at the Episcopal Church of our Savior, New York City on January 16, 2005. A similar service was replicated in various EAM churches all over the country on February 13 and at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in February 19, 2005.

MISSIONER'S LETTER

TOWARDS VISIBLE EAM CLERGY COLLEGIALITY

The Rev. Dr. Winfred B. Vergara

As the New Year 2005 ushered in, I submitted a Project Proposal in view of our 2004 Consultation Theme ("New Beginnings") and in line with the national church "20/20 Vision"—doubling Episcopal membership in Year 2020. The Project calls for "Asian American Clergy Collegia"(see pages 4-6), a project which I hope will meet the needs of our EAM clergy and leaders so that we will be further equipped and empowered to do effective ministry in the 21st century. Clergy and Leaders are the key to Church Growth and we pray that the Project will be funded by the national church.



Continued on next page...

GALLOPING like horses of the Apocalypse (in the Book of Revelation), the earthquake-tsunami that hit South Asia in December 26, 2004 devastated paradise islands and left around 300,000 people dead and millions of bereaved and homeless survivors now struggling to rebuild their lives and move on.

Amidst stories of miraculous survival and heroism, was the unprecedented solidarity of the global village to rally behind the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Governments and non-government organizations, churches and temples, Christian and non-Christians—people of all sorts and conditions—expressed empathy and support both materially and spiritually.

The Episcopal Church, through the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) readily moved in with work of emergency relief. The Episcopal Asian American Ministries did its part assisting ERD with the Asian networks and rallying EAM congregations.

Spearheaded by EAM Diocese of New York, an "EAM Tsunami Rehabilitation Sunday" was observed in various EAM churches in the country.

Continued on Page 3...

Part of what made me propose the Project was the good result of our “team visitations” in the Diocese of Olympia and the Diocese of Oregon. The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, our EAM Council President and Mr. Peter Ng, our President Emeritus and I visited Seattle upon the coordination of Jerry Shigaki, diocesan ethnic missionary and vice-president of our Council.

Together, we were introduced to the visions and goals of the Diocese and their needs for Asian ministry. We were warmly received by the diocesan, Bishop Vincent Warner, Jr. who will be our host for the upcoming EAM 2005 national Consultation.

In Oregon, we were joined by our colleague, The Rev. Dan Caballero, national Hispanic Missioner and the Rev. George Hemingway who coordinated our visitation. We were impressed by the hospitality of the diocesan, The Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty, who incidentally is one of the only two Asian-American bishops in the ECUSA. (The other is Bishop Richard Chang of Hawaii). Bishop Itty (of Indian heritage), was admirable in his candidness (“apart from the few Hispanic congregations, ours is still a lily-white diocese”) and his vision for a more diverse diocese that responds to the demographic shifts. We look forward to partnership in the development of Asian ministry in his diocese.

Aside from the Dioceses Olympia and Oregon, new opportunities for congregational development are also happening in the following: Diocese of Long Island, as a Filipino Congregation has begun in Woodside, New York; Diocese of San Diego, as a seminarian is prepared to be a Filipino curate/missioner; Diocese of Newark as a Korean seminarian is seeking entry; Diocese of Minnesota as a group of Hmong are being received in a parish; Diocese of Texas, as three Filipino seminarians are being considered; Diocese of Atlanta as a Pakistani priest has been received; Diocese of Arizona as a former Roman Catholic priest is seeking entry.

Church Planting is still the best way to Church growth and we are collaborating with the Dept. of Congregational Development in the national Church to have an Asian tract on “Plant My Church” Conference on October 17-18 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Collaboration and partnership must become our bywords in the implementation of our visions and goals. To this end, your Missioner has been in constant coordination with fellow ethnic missionaries as well as other resources in the national Church.

With regards to an emerging church in Vietnam seeking “affiliation” with the Episcopal Church, we have partnered with the Anglican Global Relations in discussing its wider implications. Although, we would welcome this church (and its Pastor Linh Pham) in the fellowship of the EAM, we deem it proper to refer their affiliation to the Anglican Church of Singapore which has an established deanery in Vietnam. The Rev. Joseph Mai, our EAM Southeast Asia vice-convenor and personal friend of Pastor Ling is coordinating this particular matter.

With regards to the renewal of the Concordat of Full Communion between the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and the Episcopal Church, we have partnered with the Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations office of Bishop Christopher Epting in forming and hosting the Joint Concordat Council meeting on April 13-14 in Malibu, California. We hope that the agreements and actions we come up with in the IFI-ECUSA concordat and how they are implemented in the context of the USA will serve as a working model as we look at other concordats (e.g. Church of South India, Mar Thoma Church, etc.) as they relate with actual situations in the United States..

Our support for Asian Clergy, Women, Youth and Seminarians continue as we see a vision of three revolutions in the EAM Community. A revolution of “attitude” as we see ourselves “no longer marginalized” but empowered and equipped for effective ministry; a revolution of “growth” as we see Asian churches starting and developing; and a revolution of “relationship” as we model a new paradigm for what it means to be a Church in the 21st century.

P.S. The first Asian American Clergy Collegium (East Coast) was held last March 7, 2005 and was well-attended by Clergy leaders in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Virginia, Washington DC. Long Island, Connecticut, etc.. Report of this Collegium will be published in the next issue. Meanwhile, God bless you, your families and your works.

ORDINATIONS

VINCENT JANG, one of the young leaders in the EAM and member of EAM liturgical committee, was ordained to the diaconate last December 4, 2004 at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco by California Bishop William Swing.

DEACON THOMAS EOYANG was ordained priest by Pennsylvania Bishop Charles Bennison Jr. at the Philadelphia Cathedral last December 18, 2004.

DEACON HARRIET KOLLIN will be ordained priest by Bishop Charles Bennison Jr. in the same Philadelphia Cathedral on June 4, 2005.



Deacon Vince Jang

Tsunami ...

The concelebrated Requiem Mass at Church of our Savior, sponsored by the EAM-New York and Long Island was replicated in other churches, including the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

Among those who readily responded with donations to ERD for the Relief and Rehabilitation work in South Asia were the Church of Our Savior (NY); Holy Spirit (Brooklyn, NY); Holy Spirit (Tampa, Florida); St. Luke's (Hudson, Ma.); Resurrection (Los Angeles); Metropolitan Filipino Fellowship (New York) and many others.

The visit of Bishop Johny Itty to the Diocese of Kerala and of Bishop Don Taylor to Chennai among others, brought more Episcopal awareness to the plight of the affected communities. Meanwhile, ERD continues to provide critical emergency assistance as well as long-term rehabilitation work.

In India, ERD worked with the Church of North India to supply aid to disaster areas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; In the Church of South India, ERD is providing food, clean water and vaccinations to families around Chennai, including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu states.

In Sri Lanka, ERD shipped 1,000 plastic shelters through the Diocese of Colombo. The shelters are water resistant and treated with insecticides to combat malaria and houseflies.

In Indonesia, ERD is working with Church World Service to distribute food, medicines, blankets and health kits to families in the hard hit Bandah Aceh province.

In Thailand, ERD works with Christ Church (Anglican) in providing emergency assistance in Phuket Island and in remote villages and coastal communities.

As millions of Tsunami victims

are struggling to return to normal lives, attention needs to be focused on long-term rehabilitation--providing new sources of livelihood, rebuilding homes, roads, restoring fishing and farming livelihood, trauma counseling, providing business loans and other provisions that can facilitate the recovery of damaged families and communities.

To support the continuing efforts of the ERD, send your donations to:

**Episcopal Relief and Development
South Asia Relief Fund**
P.O. Box 12043
Newark, NJ 07101
[Http://www.erd.org](http://www.erd.org)



IN MEMORY OF TAMARA

The small family of Tamara Mendis, a Chicago, Hyde Park resident, who lost her life in the tsunami last December has returned. Tamara, 55, was traveling with her daughter Eranthie, 23, when the powerful tsunami waves toppled the train they were traveling. They were going from Moratuwa to Tamara's ancestral home in Hikkaduwa, a sea resort. She was one of the 1500 passengers who lost their lives that day and Eranthie was one of the handfuls who survived this tragic ordeal. Tamara's husband, Fr. Eardley Mendis, is a priest in the Anglican Church in Sri Lanka. He came with his family to Chicago in 1987 to do doctoral Studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Since then he is licensed as a priest in the diocese of Chicago. The Presiding Bishop Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold has helped him with scholarship assistance.

"I miss Tamara every moment. She was such a caring, loving person and a strong supporter of my ministry" says Fr. Mendis. They have three children, Eranga, Eranthie and Amal. Eranga and Amal flew with their father on December 27th to bury their loved one. A funeral service was held in Moratuwa, with a large gathering being present. It was held at the largest Anglican Church in Sri Lanka, Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa on December 30th.

Fr. Mendis says that in midst of this tragedy he sees God's mercy working in his life. Eranthie's miraculous escape is the biggest miracle. "In the midst of death I see life. Eranthie almost lost her breath when the waters submerged her" says Fr. Mendis. He also says that they are so blessed to be surrounded by a loving and caring faith community. Chicagoans and other friends of the family gathered on January 12th, the day of 29th wedding anniversary of Fr. Mendis and Tamara, for a memorial service at the Lutheran School Chapel.

Eranthie is planning to return to Sri Lanka to serve the affected people. Her work will be coordinated by the Rt. Rev. Duleep de Chickera, Bishop of Colombo. "She is going to be an asset in our relief work and we are looking forward to have her in our relief team" said Bishop Chickera. A memorial Fund has been set up in memory of Tamara Mendis to remodel a children's home managed by the diocese of Colombo and more children affected by the tsunami, will be taken to the Home.

For further information please contact. Fr. Eardley Mendis at (773) 324 - 7369. Or write to South Asian Church, 5917, N. Nina Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60631.

EPISCOPAL ASIAN-AMERICAN CLERGY COLLEGIA (EACC)

I. INTRODUCTION:

The Project will seek to address four-unique needs of Episcopal Asian American clergy, namely:

1. On-going theological education in the context of pan-Asian collegiality;
2. Mutual ministry training, empowerment and support;
3. The need for a center where fresh Asian American theological praxis (action-reflection) can take place and where mentorship for younger clergy and seminarians can be nurtured;
4. The need for a center where interaction between and among clergy from diverse cultures can take place so that racism and ethnocentrism are healed, leadership and spirituality are enhanced and church growth and development are ensured.

The project is in line with the emerging “20/20” Mission Energy Movement of the Episcopal Church.

II. SCOPE:

The project involves inter-diocesan, regional and national Pan Asian Clergy retreats, seminars and symposia; sponsorship of resource speakers from Asian theological communities; sponsorship of Asian ministries to specific training events; and publication of theological works from Episcopal Asian American clergy and theologians.

- A. EAST COAST COLLEGIUM (Provinces 1-2-3)
- B. MIDLAND COLLEGIUM (Provinces 4-5-6-7)
- C. WEST COAST COLLEGIUM (Province 8)

III. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Asians comprise more than half of the whole human race. China alone has over two billion people; India has one billion. In the United States, rapid and open-ended immigrations of Asians and their higher birth rate, make them second to Hispanics as the fastest-growing people-groups. It behooves the Episcopal Church to develop a concerted mission strategy to reach the Asian-American community.

While U.S. business, military and political establishments are progressively including Asian-Americans in a level playing field, many Asian Christians still find themselves marginalized in the mainline American Church. This sense of marginalization is also true with Asian American clergy. By reason of language, culture and the immigrant nature of their communities, they feel isolated, lacking in educational and financial support needed to enable them to minister more effectively.

The purpose of this Project is therefore to meet the needs of the Asian-American clergy by providing them with:

- (a) Opportunities for on-going theological education in the context of pan-Asian collegiality and spirituality;
- (b) Opportunities for mutual ministry training, empowerment and support for Asian American clergy;
- (c) A Center where theological praxis (action-reflection) can take place and where mentorship for young clergy and seminarians can be nurtured;

- (d) A Center where interaction and collegiality between and among clergy from diverse cultures can take place so that racism and ethnocentrism are healed; leadership and spirituality are enhanced; church growth and development are ensured.

GOAL A: ONGOING THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Many immigrant Asian clergy are products of Asian theological seminaries but there are some who are graduates of American seminaries. This situation has created a communication gap. By providing an ongoing “Pan-Asian Contextual Theological Education,” we will be able to harness this diversity in such a way as they redound in mutual understanding and responsibility and greater effectiveness in Asian-American ministry.

Theological education through retreats and seminars will revolve around the main theme of “Clergy as a Person and Clergy as Minister.” Topics on Spiritual leadership, Parish Administration, Asian Stewardship and Fund-Raising, Entrepreneurial Missionary Strategies, Church Planting and Church Growth, Preaching, etc. will be introduced. We hope to draw resources from Asian theologians, pastors and missionaries as well as from lay leaders who have gifts in a particular aspect of Asian Ministry. Successful models of Asian ministries will be lifted up and emerging new or innovative models will be encouraged and supported.

GOAL B: MINISTRY TRAINING & EMPOWERMENT

This Project will assist Asian American clergy with discernment, selection and sponsorship of program events, ministry training and educational opportunities that will enhance their skills and update their knowledge of ministry.

The national EAM Office will assist clergy in connecting with the Episcopal Church Center with regards to conferences and training events relative to preaching, evangelism, congregational development, spirituality and other issues that will redound to the enhancement of the clergy as persons and as ministers. Some useful training conferences are those that relate to Leadership, New Church Development, Via-media training resources and seminars on Anglicanism, worship, prayer and spirituality that are being offered by various Episcopal Seminaries, College of Preachers and Schools for Deacons.

Training opportunities from other denominations and para-church groups such as Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Fuller Institute of Evangelism and World Mission, International Conferences on Church Growth, Contemporary worship services and others will be explored in so far as they provide useful and practical tools for Asian American ministries.

GOAL C: CENTER FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

This Project will encourage and provide scholarship support to Asian American Clergy who would attend such conferences as a team or as partners. Attending as teams or partners will not only give them the chance for mutual encouragement but will also reinforce their experience and enable them to share their learning with others.

Of particular interest would be the pairing of older (more experienced) and younger clergy (newly ordained) so they can both profit from each other's experience and energy. Seminarians will be included in this circle of discipleship, discipleship being both a biblical and an Asian cultural heritage. By including seminarians in the Asian American Clergy symposia and other gatherings, we will be able to provide a context for information exchange and mutual theological sharpening.

In Asian culture where discipleship (as in Teacher-Disciple relationship) is considered normative, it will allow for mentorship and shared learning opportunities. We will establish partnership with seminaries to recognize that the exposure of Asian seminarians to EACC will have value in their ministry and theological training.

GOAL D: PAN ASIAN INTERACTION AND COLLEGIALITY

Often, it is difficult for one or two ethnic Asians to join and participate in predominantly Anglo-Clergy gatherings. They found it difficult to adjust to the norms and values of Western style and decorum and often found the agenda,

meetings and discussions irrelevant to their contexts and needs. With a pan-Asian colleague group, they will be able to sharpen and educate each other and form a solidarity group not in an adversarial position but in a collaborative and supportive relation.

This Project will help encourage and support Asian clergy in diocesan and provincial levels to form intra-ethnic, inter-ethnic colleague as well as intercultural groups. We will assist provincial or regional initiatives such as Asian Clergy Retreats for the purpose of providing a context for mutual sharing, visioning and organizing of these colleague groups.

IV. TANGIBLE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

A. DEVELOPMENT OF AN ASIAN-AMERICAN MINISTRY CURRICULUM

The course offerings and the studies presented in the Collegia will be collated to develop an Asian American Ministry Curriculum. Because this will be self-tested by the Asian clergy themselves, this Curriculum is guaranteed to be contextual, relevant and user-friendly. Because the examples and models of ministry and leadership come from the grassroots, they will have greater effectiveness than those produced from a mainly cerebral or theoretical sources.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING/TRAINING TEAM

Many dioceses are asking for Seminars and Workshops on "How to Start an Asian (ethnic or intercultural models) Ministry." The Collegiums will discover gifted teachers and trainers in Evangelism, Church Planting, Church Growth, Stewardship, Parish Administration, Liturgy and Worship and others. We hope to develop a cadre of well-trained teachers and trainers and workshop leaders. A team of "Mobile Teachers and Trainers" will be formed to respond to requests from dioceses for Asian ministry discernment and training.

C. DEVELOPMENT OF THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In the 1970's, the Fund for Theological Education (FTE) funded the Southeast Asia Graduate School of Theology (SEAGST) and the Association of Theological Schools in Southeast Asia (ATESEA) to collate theological reflections of Asian clergy, scholars and theologians. The results were later presented and published in the book "What Asian Christians are thinking" (1976: New Day Publishers). The theological thoughts expressed were profound and relevant that they became a source of many contextual ministries throughout Asia.

The Church in the United States suffers from the lack of resources in theology and ministry written by Asian Americans for Asian Americans. Through this Project, we hope to produce materials for the benefit not only of Asian

ministry but of other ethnic ministries and of the whole Church.

As the Collegia develop and grow, we will gather the outstanding theological presentations and articles and publish them in a book with such titles as “What Asian American Christians are Thinking” or “Doing Asian Theology in American Context.”

D. DEPLOYMENT OF ASIAN AMERICAN CLERGY

In a missionary context, one of the pressing needs is for well-equipped clergy who are able to start new and enterprising ministries and the recruitment of gifted young people for the next generation of clergy leaders. This Project will enable an “Asian Church Planters Group” that will help redefine our ministry landscape.

We will assist dioceses in discerning the right clergy and church workers for the right demographic areas and help revive declining parishes by using contextual methods of Church Growth.

E. RECRUITMENT OF ASIAN SEMINARIANS

In the process of training young Clergy leaders, we will also discover gifted young persons and assist them in the discernment of vocation, seminary training, ordination and deployment.

V. BUDGET, IMPLEMENTATION, EVALUATION

The Project will be implemented through the Office of the Missioner for Asian American Ministries, The Episcopal Church Center with the help of the EAM Council as Advisory Group.

There will be regional Collegia Coordinators to assist the national Missioner in the task of coordinating meetings and advising the Missioner on matters that need his attention.

The Missioner will serve as Coordinator of a Team of Trainers and Workshop Leaders, seek the needed funds and provide direction and vision to the Project.

VI. TIMELINE FOR THE PROJECT

YEAR A: Formation of EAM Colleague Groups; Funding Clergy Retreats and Sponsorships to Available Training Conferences; Formation of Training Team.

YEAR B: Funding Asian Clergy Retreats; Developing Asian American Theological Curriculum; Mobile Training Teams; Developing Asian Ministry Workshops

YEAR C: Funding of Asian Clergy Retreats; Mobile Training Teams Responding to Dioceses; Developing Asian American Ministry Curriculum; Publication of Asian American Theological Resources.

Submitted by *The Rev. Dr. Winfred B. Vergara*

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- March 7** Asian American Clergy Collegium (East Coast) Meeting at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017
- April 13 –14** Concordat Council Meeting (Iglesia Filipina Independiente & ECUSA) in Malibu, California
- June 30 – July 4** EAM ANNUAL CONSULTATION to be held in Holiday Inn-SeaTac Airport, Seattle-Tacoma, Washington. (Note: The West Coast Clergy Collegium will meet on June 29 at 10:00 A.M.. The EAM Women’s Convocation will meet on June 29 at 3:00 P.M.)
- July 26 – July 31** EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) in Berea College, Berea. KY. www.eye2005.org.
- Oct. 17 – 18** “Plant My Church Conference” (W/ Asian-American & Other EthnicTracts) to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. For bishops and diocesan staff, church planters and those exploring the call to Church planting.

THE EAM COUNCIL

President – The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy

Vice –President: The Rev. Jerry Shigaki

Secretary – The Rev. Richard Helmer

Treasurer – Ms. Inez Saley

President-Emeritus: Mr. Peter Ng

Missioner – The Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara

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The Rev. Bayani D. Rico (Filipino Convocation)

The Rev. John Lloyd (Japanese Convocation)

The Rev. Stephen Kim (Korean Convocation)

The Rev. Dr. Duc Xuan Nguyen (Southeast Asia Convocation)

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Ms. Christina Hing (EAM Women)

The Rev. Floyd ‘Butch’Gamarra
(EAM Advocates)

The Ven. Bernard O.D. Young
(EAM Diocesan Representatives)

TRIBUTE TO HATSUNE SEKIMURA

By Robert "Moki" Hino
Seabury Western Seminary
Chicago, Illinois

On Saturday of November 20, 2004 St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Honolulu, Hawaii was packed with family and friends who came to bid farewell to one of EAM's pioneers and dear friend, Hatsune Araki Sekimura. The tropical blue skies outside the cathedral shined through the stained-glass windows, which set the stage for a grand and joyous farewell to Hatsune who died after a battle with cancer.

While there were sadness and tears, the focus of Hatsune's funeral service was on a life well lived and on the gifts of love, hospitality, and friendship that she extended to so many people during her eighty-six years of life. Son-in-law Kevin Kondo gave the homily while Son Gerald Sekimura eulogized her life.

Around 400 people took part in a Eucharist led by former EAM Director, The Rev. Dr. Winston Ching. The Rev. David Ota flew in from Redwood City, California as representative of the EAM Council and of the new EAM Missioner. Rev. Ching put together an elaborate service booklet for the congregation and it included over twenty personal testimonials and messages of appreciation for Hatsune's life and service to the Episcopal Church at the parish, diocesan, national, and international levels.

The service ended with a stirring bagpipe rendition of Amazing Grace. Hatsune's husband Tom and family provided a wonderful luncheon after the service and people gathered around tables decorated with tropical anthurium flowers as a way of acknowledging the many flowers, leis, and corsages that Hatsune made for various people over the years.

Following the Funeral Service, on November 22nd, The Right Reverend Richard Chang, Bishop of Hawaii, conducted Hatsune's Service of Committal and inurnment of ashes at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as Punchbowl. Included in the many written tributes to Hatsune was one by The Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara, the new EAM national Missioner, who described Hatsune as one who exercised, "sterling leadership," and who was, "an exceptional Japanese-American lay leader."

Hatsune, however, had the last word. A photo of her in the service booklet is captioned by her own words,

"Life has been good - my cup runneth over. Life is full of excitement and opportunities. Live each day to the fullest. Make someone happy every day."

NEWSBRIEFS

REX BOTENGAN, SR., 74

Mr. Rex Botengan, Sr. founding lay leader of St. Benedict's Episcopal (Filipino) Mission in Los Angeles, California died of complications from diabetes last Dec. 13, 2004. Rex is survived by wife Janet and children: Rex, Jr.; Tim; Eunice and Ruth; and brother, ECP Bishop Ben Botengan, retired.

CHINESE PRAYERBOOK

After years of hard work, the Chinese Prayer Book is now available. For information, visit our website: www.episcopalchurch.org/asian_american.htm.

NEW EAM MISSION

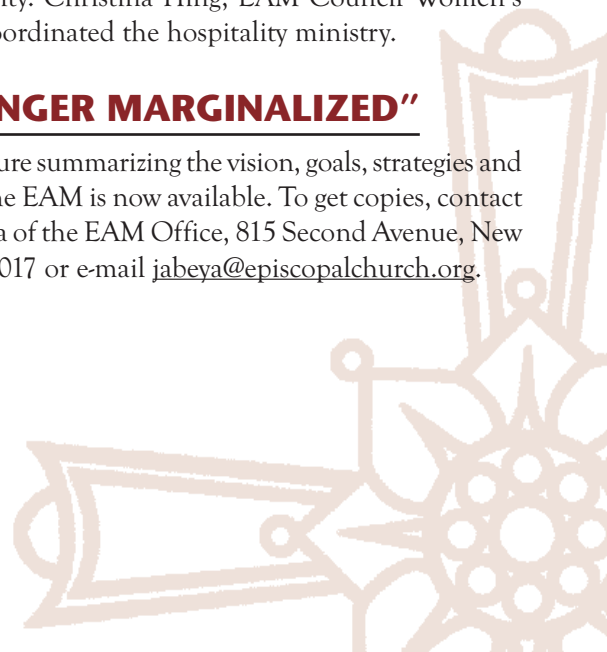
A core group for a new Filipino/EAM congregation has been formed in the Diocese of Long Island (New York). The worship service is held on Sundays at 5:00 P.M. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 39-04 61st Street, Woodside, NY 11377 with a mission to reach out to the unchurched Filipinos and Asians in Queens, New York. For more information, contact: Mrs. Angie Vergara at (718) 606-2731.

ANGLICAN WOMEN AT U.N.

81 Anglican Women gathered in New York City from Feb. 24-March 6, 2005 to lobby in support of the Anglican Observer to the United Nations during the 49th session of the U.N.'s Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). Delegates from Asia and the Pacific Islands (Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, North and South India, Philippines, Melanesia and Papua-New Guinea.) were also present. An EAM Dinner for them was held at Church of Our Savior, New York City. Christina Hing, EAM Council Women's Convener coordinated the hospitality ministry.

"NO LONGER MARGINALIZED"

A new brochure summarizing the vision, goals, strategies and projects of the EAM is now available. To get copies, contact Jeremy Abeya of the EAM Office, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017 or e-mail jabeya@episcopalchurch.org.



LETTERS FROM ASIAM READERS ON EAM HISTORY

Dear Winfred+

It was a great pleasure to have you concelebrating with me at the 31st Anniversary of the Church of Our Savior. I heard a lot of good things about you as the new national Missioner of EAM. Thank you also for sending me the "ASIAM". Finally, after 30 years, EAM is able to publish its own newsletter! Congratulations!

Just some notes about the last issue (cf. EAM History by Tim Nakayama, ASIAM (Fall, 2004). Canon James Poon (invited from Hong Kong to California by Bishop Kilmer Myers in 1968) and I (invited from England to New York by Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. in 1973) were the two foreign Church of England Anglican priests who began Chinese Mission activities at the two coastal cities. Both of us were missionaries and neither of us knew how to play Episcopal Church politics. It was when James tried to ask for a \$3,000 funding from some higher authority for publishing a monthly newsletter to communicate our coastal missionary activities, all heavens broke loose. James never got the \$3,000 he asked for, but the multimillion dollars E.A.S.T. aka EAM was born.

James' request for a humble newsletter was quickly overshadowed by those gigantic conventions, convocation, commissions and what not. In 1976, seeing James'

predicament, I financed and published the first bilingual newspaper "Yau Sing", meaning "The Voice of Friendship" in Chinatown Mission Inc.(the mother of the Church of Our Savior). In the first issue of "Yau Sing" was the famous quotation of James, "I asked for a bicycle, but they gave me a bus!" Unfortunately, James words were immediately taken out of context and slightly rephrased for political reasons, and a lesson was never learned.

Here's the rest of the story: "I don't know how to drive a bus," James continued, "so we have to hire a bus driver. Now that everyone has jumped on board and wanted to go on to many different destinations, the bus has missed my stop. I had better get off!" Yes, many have honored James as the founding father of EAM, but not many know that he actually died a broken hearted missionary priest. EAM, and for that matter, the whole Episcopal Church, still has a long way to go understanding what a mission church is all about. You certainly have a job cut out for you. You'll have my prayers and support. God Bless.

Albany To

Editor's Note: The Rev. Albany To, retired, is founding Rector—Emeritus of Church of our Savior, New York City.)

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