

HOW CAN I GIVE?

By paypal:

<http://asianamericanchristian.org/give/>

By check:

Payable to: "AALC"
Memo: "AAC.ORG, Dept 531"

Mail to:

Asian American Leadership Center (AALC)
PO Box 452925
Los Angeles, CA 90045

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

2013 (until Dec 5, 2013)

Total raised: \$3,140.00

AALC overhead: \$314.00

Stipend for volunteer: \$1,800.00

Travel, networking, admin: \$669.21

Missions giving:* \$350.00

*We commit to an annual habit of financial giving to remember that we exist by God's grace, and our money is God's. We gave this past year to two Asian American ministries: Southeast Asian Catalyst (SEAC) and *Inheritance Magazine*.

2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

Total: \$64,944.44

Program Director: \$48,400.00 (includes taxes and benefits)

One part-time associate or honorarium for contributors: \$5,250.00

Supplies, web, education, emergency: \$1,100.00

Travel and Promotion: \$3,700.00

AALC overhead (10%): \$6,494.44

WHAT'S NEXT?

We will continue our posts at the end of January.

Our hope this year is to give a taste of our diversity, beginning with a follow up to Asian American Christian United's *Open Letter to the Evangelical Church*.

We'll start to recruit partners.

We're looking for people with a passion to be the change they wish to see: people who are self-reflective and group-minded, willing to do what is needed for their communities and all Asian American Christians. If you know of someone, please pass this document on.

We'll also begin recruiting institutional partnerships to share content and projects.

WHAT CAN I PRAY FOR?

Help. While we've planned out our year for one person to continue to do all the work, we've also planned to scale as God provides. Our eyes have been peeled for potential staff, advisors, board members and collaborators for some time now, and we're ready to pray more earnestly for help.

Funds. Our goal for 2014 is \$65K, but God has been challenging us to have faith to pray for one million dollars to start the first years. Big funds are required for this big vision and mission. We currently lack that faith, but if you have it, please pray or pray for more faith for us.

On a more grounded note, we know the need to fundraise keeps many from pursuing their passion for Asian American Christians. Please pray that we can empower some.

God's discernment and wisdom.

Asian American Christians are at so many different places; we have so many different expectations and priorities. Though Peter and Paul were called to different people, both were called to Christ. Please pray that we can be that common ground that points to Christ.

A PROPOSAL FOR

ASIAN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN ORG

This first year, our call was to test the waters and to put ourselves out there.

We built a rudimentary website and infrastructure, and began to experiment with content to try out the ideas proposed in this report.

This proposal is the summation of our year. It is what we think is needed.

We believe God is doing something in Asian American Christians, and we need to come together to understand our diversity for the sake of Christ.

Diversity is our great strength, and yet it's also the source of our confusion, misunderstandings, judgments and separation. **Our problems are not merely individual, but collective, requiring group understanding and action.**

ASIANAMERICANCHRISTIAN.ORG would like to facilitate this. Like Christ, we'd like to consider ourselves less (like a servant) or alongside (as a friend) to learn about our respective ministries and contexts. We want mainly to understand what God is doing among us, and thereby empower us to learn more from one another, and join in God's work all the more.

Our mission is to ask what is God doing among us?

(1) to gather all Asian American Evangelical voices and
(2) to build inroads towards understanding, reconciliation and fellowship.

Our vision is what Jesus prays in John 17:23b:

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you loved me.

ASIANAMERICANCHRISTIAN.ORG is a proposal for a new ministry to bring together all Asian Americans of an Evangelical conviction to this end.

January 1, 2014

Are my parents really Christian?

It's so weird, there are so many Asian Americans at our church, but hardly any Asian American pastors.

I know he's full of it, but he's an elder. We can't tell him what we really think.

My home church is so messed up! I'm never going back there.

Addressing the roots of these murmurs

Our mission is to address seven main challenges, the roots of these murmurs.

Culture, race and ethnicity matter

They affect every aspect of our lives from our thinking, to our behaviors, to our relationships, and yet our churches don't know how to speak about them.

In Gospel essentials, unity in non-essentials, liberty in all things, charity*

ASIANAMERICANCHRISTIAN.ORG is a ministry of AALC (Asian American Leadership Center), a 501c3 faith-based ministry organization. aaleadershipcenter.org

* (from cover). Origin disputed (from 2 perceived relevance) Amos Yong, "Asian American Historicity: The Problem and Promise of Evangelical Theology," *SAIVACS Journal (Society of Asian North American Christian Studies Journal)* 4 (2012-2013): 29-46.

OUR 7 CHALLENGES, OUR MISSION

We're a ministry that primarily asks: What is God doing in us?

1 Asian American Christians are diverse in every way

ethnicity
social class
immigration wave
gender
education

family background
past religion
political viewpoint
experience of war,
trauma

generation
geography in US
language ability
physical appearance,
ability

We need to explore the full spectrum of what it means to be Asian American (according to the US Census) and Christian.

We need to allow for differences and conflicting viewpoints.

We need to acknowledge and remember that we all claim Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and thus are all brothers and sisters in Christ foremost.

While diversity is a strength, it also increases the potential for conflict, misunderstanding, miscommunication.

The dominant and more outspoken can leave others out.

Let's understand the full diversity of who we are
We will seek out voices that are less heard and expressed.

Let's focus on and look to Christ

We want to be like Jesus, who came alongside us as a friend and considered himself less like a servant. We will not seek to overly presume to know or understand. We will continually ask this question: *What is God doing among us?* to put God first and center ourselves around what we think God is doing.

ASIANAMERICANCHRISTIAN.ORG will seek to be a neutral party (with an Evangelical understanding of Christ) to advocate for all voices.

Let's figure out what's relevant

What do we think God is doing in and among us? What are our stories, our priorities? What cheers and breaks our hearts? How do we understand ourselves and the Gospel? What terms and images do we use?

Let's speak to Asian American Christians where they're at

Website re-organized by audience, by need. (phase 3)
Resources created for specific audiences (phases 3-4)
Seminars and conferences (phases 4-6)

2 Perceived irrelevance of Asian American ministries

Many ethnic churches think:
(Chinese, Korean, Hmong etc.)
This is just a renegade second generation thing.

Many multiethnic churches think:
Asian American ministries is too exclusive. It's not Biblical.

Many Asian American churches think:
We exist for the sake of evangelism only.

Many emerging generations think:
Why should I care, I haven't known any racism. It's best to be color-blind. Why call yourself 'Asian American?' That term is for angry, bitter people.

Many seminary-trained Evangelicals think:
What does culture have to do with the Gospel? (The word "culture" is predominantly synonymous with "the world"—the secular, non-Christian world.)

Many Asian American ministry alumni think:
I've heard nothing new. Been there, done that.

For ethnic churches:
We need to address why some of your kids are leaving, some of your churches are shrinking, and some thriving.

For multiethnic churches:
We need to figure out our voices, so we can bring even more to the multiethnic table. Without an Asian American senior pastor or a critical mass of Asian Americans, our voices tend to get lost and ignored.

For Asian American churches:
We need you to share with us how your culture, race and ethnicity have helped your evangelism, discipleship and service.

For emerging generations:
We need to acknowledge and figure out how to talk about the most obvious and visible part about us. It will limit our growth and witness if we do not. Race is not a topic that is going away in America any time soon.

For seminary-trained Evangelicals:
We need you to study missiology and bring that to our churches. Evangelicals (other than missionaries) have little if any category for culture, race, ethnicity especially for themselves. Evangelical theology's defensive posture against liberal theologies favors universal propositions that do not allow for "particularity, historicity or context."**

For Asian American ministry alumni:
We need to go deeper in this conversation and make a case to care beyond an individual level.

Let's figure out what's relevant

What do we think God is doing in and among us? What are our stories, our priorities? What cheers and breaks our hearts? How do we understand ourselves and the Gospel? What terms and images do we use?

Let's speak to Asian American Christians where they're at

Website re-organized by audience, by need. (phase 3)
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1. to hear and gather all Asian American Christian voices

3 Existing Asian American ministries barely overlap

Age or generation
Student and Church ministries/media

Ethnicity
Various Korean, Chinese etc groups

Information
Popular Christian books vs. Secular academia vs. Christian academia

Christian viewpoint
Evangelicals are notoriously fractured: Reformed, Charismatic, Holiness Movement
Evangelicals / Mainline Catholics / Orthodox

Someone needs regularly to gather Asian American ministries to coordinate sharing and collaboration.

While people are willing to share information and work together—no one is bringing them together. **There is no umbrella group of Asian American Christians.** As a result, knowledge and best practices are not being shared and built upon. Ministries keep re-pioneering (and disappearing).

Let's get to know pre-existing Asian American ministries

We will highlight their missions, visions, top resources and practices as permitted. We will interview founders and pioneers for their insights.

Let's invite ministries to talk to one another

We will host discussions to explore differences in vision, mission and opinion.

Let's invite ministries to collaborate with one another

We will coordinate projects and research together. We will share various needs.

4 Resources are hard to find and available ones seem dated

The bulk of Asian American Christian popular titles were published in the 1990s to mid-2000s and assume an East Asian American experience of marginality. Since 2000, we've grown 43% in population—our viewpoints, experiences, needs have also changed dramatically.

Academic work and work prior to 1990 on Asian American Christians are largely unknown to Asian American ministers.

We need to make previous works available and known. We need to understand them in the context of their original audience and time.

We need to go deeper and beyond currently Asian American Christian topics of identity, generational clashes, leadership retention and development, civic and political participation and discriminatory misunderstandings.

We need to produce new resources tailored to Asian Americans today.

Let's gather all works on Asian American Christians

We will make them available or show where we can access them. We will put them in context.

Let's make them accessible

We will curate these resources in a user-friendly way. (phase 3)
We will write summaries of their main points and major critiques.

Let's mine these works for their wisdom

We will host discussions on important works.

Let's create and sponsor new resources

2. to build inroads necessary for understanding, reconciliation and fellowship

5 There are few places to cultivate our ministries collectively

What exactly is Asian American Christianity?
What do we bring to multi-ethnic circles?
What do we bring to the American church at large?

We need platforms for all Asian American Christians and their voices.

We need a regular place that can keep track of trends, demographic changes and needs. We need a place to experiment, to voice differing opinions, to figure out the spectrum of our various views.

We need a place that will remind us to look to Christ, that can advocate for us and mediate differences between us.

Let's champion all Asian American Christians

We will be that neutral place, known for its fairness, its intellectual rigor, its clarity, and its grace.

Let's share each other's stories.

We will share updated reports. (phase 2)

6 Cultural norms make it difficult to address problems

Asian:
"Saving face" etc; it is taboo to talk about shameful things.

American:
Political correctness is not a constructive way to address race or ethnicity. We mostly just avoid talking about it.

Christian:
Culture is irrelevant; "culture" = "the world;" we are all the same, thus, there is only one culture.

We need to acknowledge that culture, race and ethnicity are awkward, uncomfortable and messy topics.

We need to make it normal or commendable for all Asian Americans to have awkward, uncomfortable and messy conversations, because God is bigger, more important and able than us.

We need to acknowledge that culture, race and ethnicity are often very hard to see, especially in ourselves.

Let's find creative ways to talk about what's taboo

We will seek to know where people are coming from. We will creatively and responsibly use anonymity and the arts.

Let's prepare for inevitable misunderstandings

We will gather best conflict resolution practices. (phase 2)
We will moderate discussions and allow for disagreement. We will try to be like Christ and model fairness, grace, forgiveness and repentance.

7 Funding: few want to fund Asian American ministries

Why give to something that doesn't seem relevant? Asian American Christians tend to give towards parachurch ministries that are directly involved in missions and evangelism.

There are no known grants for this.

Asian concepts of gift giving are different than Evangelical and American fundraising practices.

We need to persist in making a clear and practical case for culture, ethnicity and race.

We need to re-think Asian American Christian fundraising in realistic, creative and moral ways that fit us.

Let's think long term

We want to be an effective ministry respected for its clarity, rigor, fairness, relevance and humanity. We will recruit a diverse, able and passionate Board of Directors.

Let's think aloud about Asian American fundraising

We will make its difficulties known and highlight resources that are already out there. We will gather top thinkers to develop new and creative solutions to fund all Asian American ministries.

Let's model the way

We will tithe a portion of our funds annually to other ministries. We will help vetted ministries fundraise.

We're here.



Our mission in 4 main stages (7 phases):