

MISSION POSSIBLE PROJECTS

Focus on ASIANS in NZ

and what Presbyterians are doing



This pack of information is a work in progress. It gives a broad background regarding the changes in ethnicity in New Zealand, and looks briefly at the religious affiliation of Asian New Zealanders and immigrants, and at what the Presbyterian Church (and other churches) are doing in regard to the Asian mission field within this country. Comments and feedback are welcome. Send these to missionadmin@maxnet.co.nz

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Parts of this package include material written by Stuart Vogel (Council of Asian Congregations).

**This pack begins with a broad overview of
New Zealand society in the 21st century.**

New Zealand society is changing
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It is projected that:

- By 2051 **57% of Kiwi children will be of Maori or Pacific Island descent**
- There will be just 2.2 workers for every person over 65 by mid-century – that compares with 5.5 now
- 20% of New Zealanders and over 30% of Aucklanders now living were born overseas. That makes us more cosmopolitan than the US – a nation built on migration – where only one in ten was born overseas

The racial mix now and in the future

<i>Out of 100 randomly selected NZers in 2005:</i>	<i>Out of 100 randomly selected NZers in 2021:</i>
79 Pakeha	69 Pakeha
15 Maori	17 Maori
7 Pacific Island extraction	9 Pacific Island extraction
7 Asian	13 Asian
12 over 65	18 over 65
31 Aucklanders	37 Aucklanders
the average age would be 35	the average age would be 40

- Maori and Pacific Islanders are producing more children than Pakeha
- Maori and Pacific Islanders will gradually make up a larger percentage of the workforce
 - 18% at 2000
 - 23% at 2021
- Asians don't have so many children, but they're emigrating here in large numbers.
 - Kiwis of Asian ethnicity have increased by 140% since 1991
 - The number will probably double by 2021

NZ Stats projections (2008)

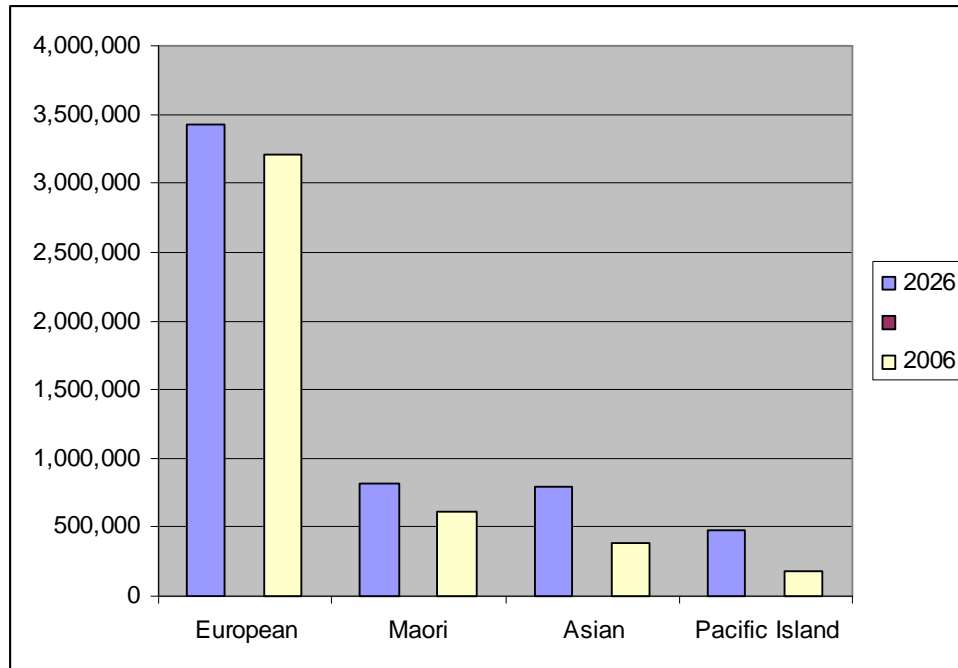
- New Zealand's 'European or Other' population is projected to reach 3.43 million by 2026, an increase of 220,000 (0.3 percent a year) over the estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 of 3.21 million.
They'll be 62% of the population.
- New Zealand's M ori population is projected to reach 820,000 by 2026, an increase of 190,000 (1.4 percent a year) over the 2006 estimate of 620,000.
They'll be 14.9% of the population.
- New Zealand's Asian population is projected to reach 790,000 by 2026, an increase of 380,000 (3.4 percent a year) over the 2006 estimate of 400,000.

They'll be 14.3% of the population.

- New Zealand's Pacific Island population is projected to reach 480,000 by 2026, an increase of 180,000 (2.4 percent a year) over the 2006 estimate of 300,000.

They'll be 8.6% of the population.

Projected rate of growth of European, Maori, Asian and Pacific Island ethnicities between 2006 and 2026(NZ Stats 2008)



Note that the bigger rates of growth are likely to occur amongst the Asian people and the Pacific Islanders. And that in this projection, Asians will be virtually equal in numbers to Maori people.

The Asian population is projected to increase in all territorial authority areas. Almost three-quarters of the growth in the Asian population during 2001–2016 is projected to occur in the four cities in Auckland Region. All are expected to more than double their Asian population during this period. The Asian population in Auckland City will increase by 100,000 (from 77,000 in 2001 to 177,000 in 2016), in Manukau City by 52,000 (from 46,000 to 98,000), in North Shore City by 37,000 (from 26,000 to 63,000) and in Waitakere City by 27,000 (from 20,000 to 47,000). These four cities will be home to 67 percent of New Zealand's Asian population in 2016, compared with 62 percent in 2001.

In Auckland City, over one-third (36 percent) of its residents will be of Asian ethnicity by 2016, up from 20 percent in 2001. The Asian share in Manukau and North Shore cities will be about one-quarter by 2016, up from 15 and 13 percent, respectively.

Focusing on Asian immigration to NZ

The Changes in Asian Populations within NZ in the Last Decade

The following two tables relate to the 2006 Census, and in comparing the changes since the 1991 Census, they give an indication of the huge change in ethnicity within the NZ Population over the last two decades.

Table 1 Population change 1991-2001, Asian population by selected ethnic groups.

Ethnic Group	1991	2006	Number	Percent
Chinese	44,793	147,570	102,777	229.44
Indian	30,606	104,580	73,974	241.70
Korean	927	30,792	29,865	3221.68
Filipino	<i>Figures not available</i>	16,938		
Japanese	<i>Figures not available</i>	11,907		
Sri Lankan	<i>Figures not available</i>	8,313		
Cambodian	4,317	6,915	2598	60.18
Thai	<i>Figures not available</i>	6,057		

Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group.

The Asian population living in New Zealand is increasingly mobile, more mobile than people of Pacific and European ethnicities, less mobile than M ori.

The overseas-born component is more mobile than the younger New Zealand-born component, as preferred locations for settlement and opportunities for family formation and employment change.

People of Asian ethnicities					
<i>Percentage distribution by address five years ago and birthplace</i>					
1986/2006 Censuses					
	Census Year				
Address five years ago	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
	percent born in New Zealand				
Same as usual residence	58.8	56.9	55.6	52.5	50.8
Elsewhere in New Zealand	41.2	43.1	44.4	47.5	49.2
	Percent born overseas				
Same as usual residence	51.6	48.4	44.3	45.9	39.5
Elsewhere in New Zealand	48.4	51.6	55.7	54.1	60.5
	total				
Same as usual residence	55.3	52.1	48.2	45.2	42.2

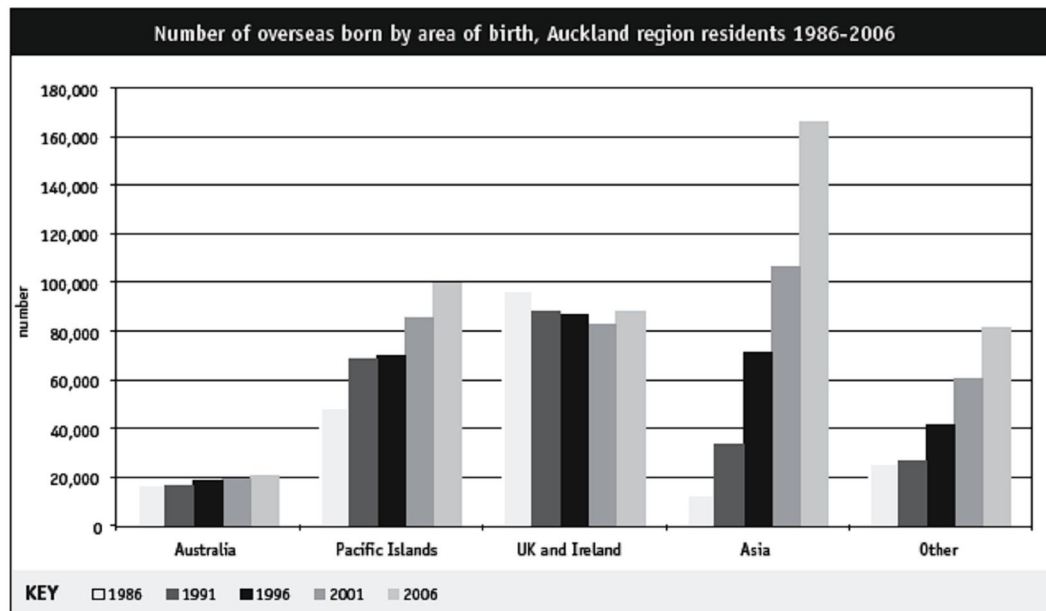
Elsewhere in New Zealand	44.7	47.9	51.8	54.8	57.8
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<http://www.stats.govt.nz/store/2008/06/asian-mobility-in-new-zealand.htm>

The total number of Asian immigrants in 2006 was some 126,000.

- Between now and 2016 the *growth* of the Asian population will be around 51% in Auckland, and 46% in the rest of the country.
- ***In almost all cases the Asian ethnic composition of NZ is expected to increase at a rate higher than any other ethnic group.***
- 8th July, 2008, News report has the heading: **Asians in NZ to outnumber Maori**, according to the Asia New Zealand Foundation study, *Asians in New Zealand: Implications of a Changing Demography*.
<http://www.asianz.org.nz/research/outlook/fullreport>
See full news report in Appendix.

Figure 1



Pansy Wong MP on Chinese radio said that the Philippines is now NZ's 3rd source country of immigrants. However, the immigration stats for "residency approvals by nationality 1998-2007" (that is, the granting of the right to live here permanently) show:

- The UK was top in 2007 with 11,343 approvals
- China second in 2007 with 5,622
- South Africa third with 4022
- India fourth with 3880 (3,360 in 1998)
- Philippines fifth with 3,701 in 2007 (only 600 in 1998)
- Fiji, sixth with 2,820 (1538 in 1998)

Source, Stuart Vogel, email to National Mission Office, Thu 5/06/2008

Filipino New Zealanders (colloquially, 'Kiwi-pinos') consist of New Zealand citizens who migrated from the Philippines, and their descendants. In 1936 there were only six Philippines-born New Zealand residents. By 1981, there were still only 405 Filipinos in New Zealand. It would take until the 1990s before highly populated regions such as Wellington and Auckland (especially the suburbs of Henderson and Mount Roskill) began to see exponential growth in their respective Filipino communities.

They are now the third-largest non-Hispanic ethnic group with Spanish surnames in the country. In April 2008, New Zealand's embassy indicated that they would like to increase the intake of nurses and engineers from the Philippines.

Abridged from an article in Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipino_New_Zealander

Focusing on the Asian people who live here

Some Facts About the Asian People who live in New Zealand

In 2008 Asia New Zealand Foundation released a report entitled:

Diverse Auckland: The Face of New Zealand in the 21st Century?

<http://www.asianz.org.nz/files/AsiaNZ%20Outlook%206.pdf>

Using the statistics on Asian immigration from the 2006 Census, it considers the impact that this is having on both Auckland and New Zealand as a whole.

Some facts about **immigrants**:

- More than half the people born in Asia who now live in Auckland, arrived between 2001 and 2006
- Only 20% of the Chinese and Indian populations were born in NZ
- Almost all Koreans have arrived since 1990
- Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees are now into their second and third generations
- Some Indians have come from Fiji, but the majority are from India
- Other Asian countries have also contributed to the increase of Asians in NZ

Some facts about **religious affiliation**:

- There are significant numbers of Christians amongst the Chinese and Indian populations
- Koreans and Filipinos are mostly Christian

Some facts about **where Asians live**:

- Immigrants from the People's Republic of China are spread across Auckland and its sister cities
- Chinese are much in evidence in Howick, Pakuranga, Mt Roskill, Mt Albert.
- Chinese have begun to cluster in North Shore in the last few years
- Indians tend to concentrate in Mt Albert, Mt Roskill and Mangere

Some facts about **demographics**:

- The biggest group of Chinese are in the 20-24 age-range, presumably reflecting the number of students
- There are large numbers of Koreans aged between 10 and 19
- Out of a total Asian population of 236,500, 22% are under 15
- 61% of Asians in NZ speak at least two languages; 14% speak three or more languages.

Some facts about **education**

- 28% of the Asian population have a university degree in comparison with 20% of the total population.
- There are just under 100,000 international students in NZ at any time, of whom 87% are Asian.
- Two thirds of these Asian students come from China.
- A third of them are in Auckland; the rest are spread over the other university cities.

- Most migrants have a high level of English language ability (86.5 percent), either reporting their English language skills as good or very good (27.2 percent) or as a language they spoke best (59.3 percent).
- Sixty-seven percent (67.0 percent) of migrants aged 16 years and over held a post-school qualification, and nearly half (47.4 percent) held an advanced vocational qualification or university degree.

Some facts about the **ethnoscape** (how immigrants affect the visual landscape).

- Huge increase in Asian restaurants, plus innumerable outlets in foodcourts and malls.
- An increased number of Asian Festivals: Chinese New Year, Diwali, Festival of India and more
- Hindu and Buddhist temples, Korean Christian churches, bilingual services, mosques
- Asian television, newspapers, radio stations,
- Increased Racism
- Large numbers of Asian students

Some facts about **multi-culturalism**

- Around 8% of Asians identify with more than one ethnic group, but amongst the under 15-year-olds, 18% identify with more than one ethnic group.
- Increasingly, Asians in NZ will also identify with European, Maori, Pacific Island and other identities.
- NZ now has a tension between bi-culturalism, with Maori as the Tangata Whenua, and multi-culturalism, in which it is increasingly seen as an Asia-Pacific nation.

Some facts about **why migrants choose NZ**

- The three most common reasons migrants chose New Zealand were
 - for the relaxed pace of life or lifestyle (44.1 percent),
 - the climate or clean, green environment (39.6 percent)
 - the desire for a better future for their children (39.0 percent).
- Most migrants (92.5 percent) were satisfied or very satisfied with life in New Zealand.
- Most migrants (85.7 percent) had spent some time in New Zealand prior to gaining permanent residence, and over half (54.6 percent) had been employed in New Zealand before.

At the time of interview, 94.9 percent of skilled principal migrants were in the labour force. Of these, 1.9 percent were seeking work.

A footnote:

Buddhism is the fastest growing non-Christian religion in NZ, with a number of Europeans converting, and some 15,000 new adherents between 2001 and 2006.

What don't we understand about Asians who live here?

What are some misconceptions about Asians in New Zealand?

Asians are not all the same:

Presenting people from many Asian countries as one broad ethnicity that is on the way to overtaking the Maori population is inaccurate.

Asians are insignificant to the economy:

Asian New Zealanders of whether they were born here or came as migrants - are of significant social and economic importance.

They are highly motivated. They are great achievers. They are ambitious and they are playing a key role in shaping New Zealand's future.

Many Engineering students are Asian

Asians think of themselves as 'Asian':

Media and public often use 'Asian' as representing a single identity and voice. Asian people think of their own cultural background, or think of themselves as New Zealanders.

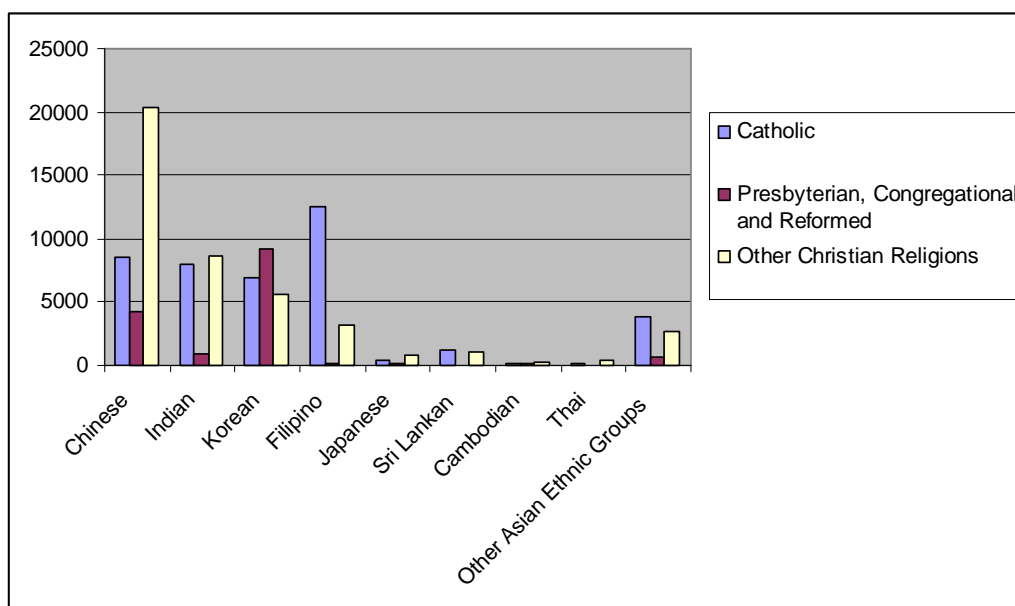
Different cultural views:

- Many Kiwis see drink as a big part of the social culture, Asians focus more on food
- Asian body clocks are programmed more for working later in the day
- Junk mail is seen as an opportunity, not a nuisance
- Red is a lucky colour; circles are appealing
- Kiwi humour is likely to be misunderstood
- Graphics can often make a point better than language

Asian people and religion

Religious Affiliation

Asians in New Zealand are very diverse in their religious affiliation.
 Those holding an affiliation to a Christian denomination:



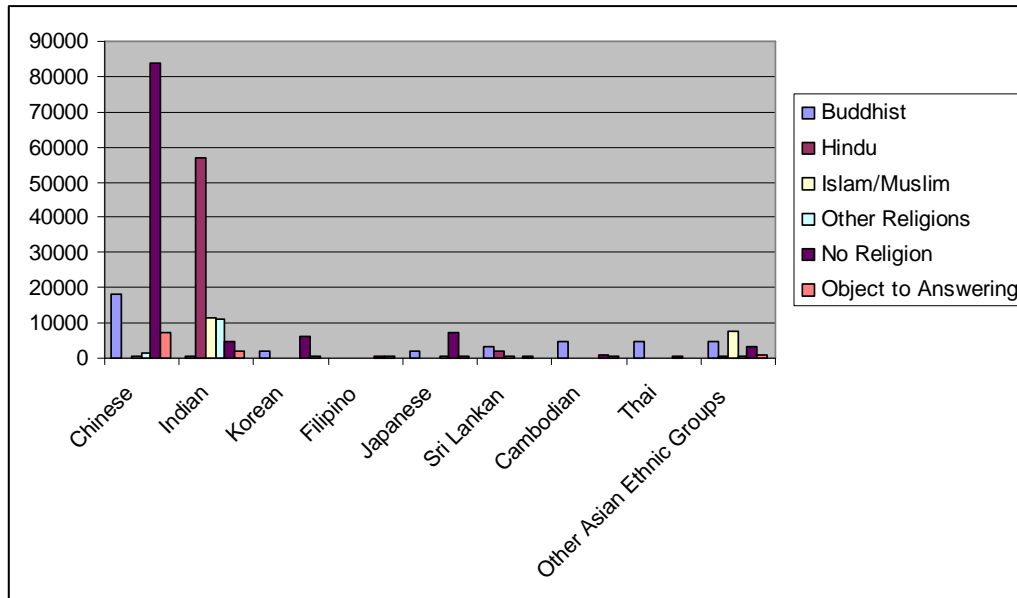
	Catholic	Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed	Other Christian Religions
Chinese	8487	4311	20328
Indian	7920	951	8601
Korean	6897	9240	5556
Filipino	12471	192	3204
Japanese	345	141	855
Sri Lankan	1239	57	1050
Cambodian	105	150	297
Thai	144	63	354
Other Asian Ethnic Groups	3921	720	2682
Totals	41529	15825	42927
Percentage of Whole	41%	16%	33%

Three particular statistics to note:

- The large number of Koreans in Presbyterian, Congregation and Reformed Churches
- The large number of Chinese affiliated to 'other' Christian religions.
- The large number of Filipino Catholics

There was an increase of those Asians who identified themselves as Christian from 66,390 in 2001 to 97,809 in 2006. Proportionately, Asians were 4.8% of total Christians in 2006, which was an increase from 3.2% of total Christians in 2001.
<http://www.aen.org.nz/journal/2/2/Butcher.html>

Aisans affiliated to other religions:



	Buddhist	Hindu	Islam/Muslim	Other Religions	No Religion	Object to Answering
Chinese	17973	201	402	1350	83892	7110
Indian	357	57192	11310	10956	5025	2085
Korean	1734	6	9	87	6024	438
Filipino	36	15	36	78	567	267
Japanese	2055	12	48	297	6987	549
Sri Lankan	3393	1920	270	33	318	75
Cambodian	4932	6	93	33	858	285
Thai	4572	12	54	39	507	189
Other Asian Ethnic Groups	4752	705	7818	261	3198	825
Total	39804	60069	20040	13134	107376	11823
Percentage of Whole	16%	24%	8%	5%	43%	5%

Some particular statistics to note:

- *The very large number of Chinese claiming no affiliation to any religion*
- *The large number of Indian Hindus and Muslims*
- *Hindus make up nearly a quarter of the Asian population*
- *The large number of Asians (over 40%) without any religious affiliation at all*

Some notes from Stuart Vogel:

Within the Presbyterian Church of NZ there now has 8 Asian ethnic churches, as well as a number of Maori and Pacific Island ones.

Roughly 20% of Asian migrants attend an English-speaking church; 80% attend an ethnic one, but some move between both.

- Most Asian churches are:
 - Outside the main denominations
 - In Auckland
 - Theologically evangelical

Is there a trend in people from any of these countries joining local congregations?

Ethnic congregations report difficulty, in general, in holding the 1.5 generation. This is the generation that was born overseas but came here in their formative years, and were schooled here.

A similar problem exists with the 2nd generation: those born here who either speak mostly English, or only English.

However, the 3rd generation tends to return to their appropriate ethnic congregation, seeking the community identity and the celebration of their own culture.

Stuart Vogel proposes that:

1. There will be an ongoing need for ethnic congregations in relation to community identity, as well as mission, pastoral and worship approaches that are cultural in approach.
2. There will be an ongoing need for ethnic leaders for first generational migrants with limited language.
3. While the vision is to reach all peoples, some congregations may achieve more highly by working with specific ethnicities.
4. The whole church's mission needs to be comprehensive, able to include all ethnicities, but also able to provide training for specific ethnic groups.
5. Key points of faith and life in the church should continue to undergird the life of the (Presbyterian) Church, without becoming too cultural to be useful.
6. Ministry training will need to be broad enough to enable new ministers to undertake contemporary multicultural and cross-cultural ministry.

How the Presbyterian Church of NZ and other Churches are involved with Asian people

Interaction between the Presbyterian Church and Asian people

In 2002, the Presbyterian Church established the Council of Asian Congregations which represented 20 Asian Churches around the country

- There was one representative from the Indonesian community, one Chinese, two Taiwanese, and five Korean.
- Rev Paul Kim, the Council's liaison officer, said:
 - this generation *needs to cultivate leadership in youth*, even though they themselves are facing the challenges of integrating into a new society.
 - Without the development of bilingual leaders, there will be a "silent exodus" of youth
 - Asian churches need to be socially integrated to give the youth strong sense of identity as Asian New Zealanders
 - "There is great potential to be realised if the church can bring these people from the margins of the church into the centre".

Examples of Asian Presbyterian Churches:

The Korean Presbyterian church of Auckland:

- is a multi cultural church based in Henderson
- includes Asian students studying English, Korean immigrants and first and second generation New Zealanders.
- Reverend David Ock-young Jang is the senior minister.
- fosters multi cultural programs: all children share in a children's talk, with Kiwi preachers and Korean preachers on alternate weeks.

Sook Ryu is the youth pastor says:

We have second generation students in our youth group and they sometimes have an identity problem; they don't know their identity in Kiwi society.

I think it is important to educate about both sides and have a good balance, a harmony. Because they get kiwi culture at school, I teach them the good and beautiful Korean tradition.

We have a lot of respect in Korean tradition, respect language and respect bow, respect for elders.

There is also traditional food, dance and, of course, tea. Also, history is quite important. They need to know their identity.

The Auckland Chinese Presbyterian Church:

- began in 1923, and holds claim to being one of the oldest Chinese churches in the country.

- has worshippers belonging to the same ethnic group ó Chinese ó but welcomes people of other ethnic groups.

- has a congregation that is quite diversified in age and cultural backgrounds, where people strive to learn from each other and accept each other in the love of God.
- has 3 main groups of members, the Cantonese, English and bilingual speakers, originating from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, Malaysia and New Zealand.

<http://www.acpc.org.nz/en/aboutus.html>

Other Asian Churches desiring to join the PCANZ:

In January this year (2008) six Asian churches indicated an interest in joining with the mission and life the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. The process is currently being worked through.

Auckland Presbytery Region :

1. Auckland Jung Won (God's Garden) Church
2. Joy Korean Presbyterian Church
3. Auckland Central Taiwanese Presbyterian Church

North Shore Presbytery Region :

4. Eden Korean Presbyterian Church
5. Sum Kimui Korean Church
6. New Song Presbyterian Church

The Auckland Central Taiwanese Presbyterian Church is also considering joining PCANZ

Some questions:

Do the (Presbyterian) churches care about the Asian people in NZ?

Yes and no, but is that the right question? We need to know:

- whether Asian people want to become part of mostly European churches;
- whether they are more comfortable within a church that celebrates their own ethnicity;
- more about Asian cultures/worldviews and how they see Christianity, whether as a European religion or a worldwide one.

What specific questions might you ask yourself?

- Do you have Asian people in your congregation?
- Are they accepted or segregated?
- Do they get involved in the life of the church or keep themselves separate?
- *Should* they fit in with the normal life of the church?
- Do you think the first Christians were all of one culture, or many?
- If many, are there answers within the New Testament that can help?

What particular thing is a challenge to us in the future?

New Zealand is changing towards multi-culturalism. Bi-culturalism is already being superseded by a multi-culturalism consisting of European, Maori, Pacific Islanders, and a great variety of Asian people. 21st century life will not be the same as 20th century life.

Is there material in this package that makes any difference to your way of thinking?

- If not, we need to hear from you.
- How can we improve what's here?

What are other denominations doing?

Anglicans

There are Asian Anglican members spread throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand, mainly in the cities, due to their need for jobs and their children's education. Some of these are within the NZ Pakeha Anglican Churches.

The Anglican Chinese Mission Church in Wellington city was established in 1907. Prior to 1900 a catechist had been employed to work among the 500 Chinese in the city and from this small group of both male and female lay workers were teaching Chinese people the English language and helping them to understand the Christian message.

Over the years, the Anglican Christian work has spread from Wellington to Otaki, Levin, Palmerston North, Dannevirke and Northern Hawkes Bay. Other Chinese residents established themselves in Market Gardens, in the Lower Hutt Valley and Gracefield areas forming small scattered islands of Chinese.

In terms of the history of the Anglican Chinese Mission, the setting up of an English speaking service must rank as a milestone in the Mission's growth as a community church for New Zealanders of Chinese origins whose mother tongue is English.

<http://www.acm.org.nz/history.htm>

Baptists (from the Baptist Churches of NZ website)

New Zealand Baptists are committed to the ongoing growth of ethnic churches and ministries as a vital part of our mission for growing healthy churches in 21st century NZ society.

Currently there are 40 such churches and congregations made up of migrant people from various parts of the world. These groups normally worship in their own language and in a style reflecting their cultural background.

Included among these are Samoan, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Africans, Arabic, Cambodian and Japanese. We also have multi-cultural churches led by Samoan pastors.

Many other churches have 'multi-ethnic' congregations reflecting New Zealand society today. While worshipping in English and in a 'Kiwi' style, these churches provide a range of migrant-friendly classes, groups and activities designed to encourage and support newcomers to New Zealand. Popular among these are English conversation classes, 'international' events and simple English Bible Study groups.

<http://www.baptist.org.nz/default.asp?id=53>

Methodists

Rev Bastianpillai Prince Devanandan took up his current position at Henderson Methodist Church in 2003 after having served as a pastor in his native Sri Lanka since 1987. Prince represents the new face of multi-cultural Auckland. On Sunday

mornings people from eight different cultures worship at his English-language services. They include Koreans, Indians, Malaysians, Sri Lankans, Tongans, Samoans, Black and White South Africans, and Pakeha New Zealanders.

http://www.methodist.org.nz/index.cfm/Touchstone/December_2004/Prince_D

Chinese Churches

A list of Chinese churches in New Zealand can be found on the Web at this address:

<http://across.co.nz/ChineseChurchesNZ.html>

This includes European churches that hold Chinese services.

Koreans

Almost 70% of New Zealand's Koreans live in the Auckland area (2001 stats). 16% are in Christchurch with the rest scattered throughout the country, mostly in the larger towns and cities. The majority of Korean immigrants have tertiary qualifications and are in their thirties and forties, meeting the immigration criteria. Some chain migration has occurred as arrivals send home favourable reports to friends and relations including elderly parents who then came to join them. Upon arrival most Korean families have sufficient funds to buy homes in relatively affluent suburbs like Auckland's North Shore which. By 2001, in North Shore City, Korean was the second most common language after English.

<http://across.co.nz/KoreanChurchesNZ.html>

Japanese

There is a Japanese Christian Church in Mt Eden, Auckland.

Indians

The Indian Christian Life Centre.

In March 1991 Pastor Moses & Alice Singh came from Hills Christian Life Centre in Australia to plant a church among the Indian Community in Auckland, New Zealand.

They began with six adults meeting in a warehouse, and gradually saw new people added to the church. These were often people from different religions.

<http://www.indianclc.org/>

Cambodians

There is only one church for the 5,000 Khmer people in New Zealand, and three or more home groups. But as of 2006, their church was still led by Dutch missionaries, who say that this church feels "foreign" to these refugees who left Cambodia's Killing Fields in the late 1970s. The majority of Cambodians are Theravada Buddhists, who use their temples as centres of religious and cultural practice.

Missionaries trying to establish a Khmer Church in Christchurch say the Cambodians lack the spiritual hunger to attend church regularly, and some will also worship at Buddhist temples. Working long hours and aiming to become well-off often keep Cambodians from finding church an essential in their lives.

Furthermore the one and a half generation is already being assimilated into the secular worldview common to many young New Zealanders.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=104946&rog3=NZ>

How well do people in NZ live with together?

Interaction between New Zealand Society and Asian people

The Media

National Radio broadcasts a weekly report that highlights Asians in New Zealand, aimed at promoting a greater understanding of Asian New Zealanders.

The programme features Asians from Iraq to India to Indonesia, and East Asia too. Local-born and immigrant Asian New Zealanders, Asians on short stays, visiting Asians, and anyone working with Asians in New Zealand.

It talks about individual and organisational achievements, issues, problems experienced, problems caused, culture, lifestyle, politics, religion, arts, music and more - a mix of light and shade.

http://www.radionz.co.nz/nr/programmes/asian_report

NZ television has few Asian faces (apart from those in Shortland St), but it does have one longstanding Asian programme: **Asia Downunder**. **Asia Downunder** is all about Asia and Asians in New Zealand. It tackles topical and even controversial stories affecting Asian Kiwis, as well as featuring stories on art, business, sport, music, fashion, youth, culture, refugees, food and many more. Although this show has been going for 14 years, it's broadcast *early* on a Sunday morning. However, it does appear on a variety of the smaller free-to-air channels as well.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/416398/451257>

What about Racism?

Here are several different viewpoints on the subject.

Asian people in New Zealand have been used as a political football on more than one occasion:

Foreign Minister Winston Peters - once known for his criticism of Asian immigrants - last night spoke at the launch of a magazine to promote better ties between Asians and New Zealanders.

Tony Gan, from Malaysia but educated in New Zealand, decided to start [AM: The Asian Magazine](#) to make a stand against racism in this country.

Before becoming Foreign Minister outside Cabinet Mr Peters was known for his public attacks on refugees, immigration policy and opposition to free trade deals.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10432515

Mr Peters doesn't appear to have changed: see Appendix 1 for a recent news report.

New Zealand First deputy leader Peter Brown has been labelled a racist after suggesting there are too many Asian immigrants in New Zealand.

Mr Brown yesterday expressed his concern after learning New Zealand's Asian

population was expected to grow faster than any other.

"The matter is serious. If we continue this open door policy there is real danger we will be inundated with people who have no intention of integrating into our society. The greater the number, the greater the risk."

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10501783

By contrast, the report - *Diverse Auckland: The Face of New Zealand in the 21st Century?* 6 says the following in its Introduction:

With research showing that diversity can breed fear, and consequently isolation, growing knowledge of each other's cultures could help us meet the challenges of immigration better.

Raymond Selvaraj has written an excellent and personal view of what it's like to be Indian in a New Zealand society:

The challenges of being different:

The Perspective of an Asian Immigrant on Cultural Diversity in the Workplace

This paper raises a number of issues relating to cultural diversity and the workforce, including the pride, fear and pressure resulting from being different, recruitment issues, redefining biculturalism and developing cultural sensitivity. Minority groups working in the mainstream culture are often isolated and experience discrimination in many forms because of their differences. Conflict can arise in many areas including communication and language, dress and appearance, food and eating habits, relationships, values and norms, beliefs and attitudes, work habits and practices etc. Understanding the meaning of cultural diversity and implementing strategies to maintain and foster this diversity is a key workforce development challenge.

<http://www.nceta.flinders.edu.au/pdf/proceedings2002/selvaraj.pdf>

From a blog:

My wife is originally from China (she's a New Zealand citizen now). I was at a playground with her, our daughter, and her mother and sister. A group of young men drove past and started yelling at them, calling them "gooks" and telling them to go back where they came from.

At which point, I stood up, invited them to come over to me and say that, added a "colourful adjective" of my own, and watched as off they went.

The most infuriating part is that my family, who are good, kind and loving people, were subjected to racial abuse by ignorant cowards. Why should my daughter be subjected to that? She was born in Dunedin, has been raised in New Zealand, speaks English as well as she speaks Mandarin (which is pretty impressive for a three-year-old).

The irony here is that the cowards were in a Japanese car.

from <http://mjwatts.livejournal.com/>

Lincoln Tan, in an article entitled, ***It is not a level playing field for Asians***, notes that within the current time of transition, there are three groups of Asians.

1. Those who have been settled here a long time and prefer not to disturb the status quo.
2. Those who are here temporarily while their children study, but want permanent residency for their children
3. The new New Zealanders, educated elsewhere with opinions not formed by the NZ worldview.

He goes on to say that the third group, particularly, want to feel included in decision-making, not excluded.

Asian Health Issues

Gambling

Samson Tse, John Wong and Pauline Chan

Needs and Gaps Analysis: Problem Gambling Interventions Among New Zealand Asian Peoples.

This study was conducted to increase the understanding of Asian problem gambling and identify gaps in intervention services. 52 people from 4 major cities in New Zealand participated. Data were collected either through telephone interview, filling in the written survey or face-to-face interaction. The results indicate that Asian peoples in New Zealand who gamble are gambling at casinos and that the most vulnerable groups are international students, restaurant owners and workers, and tourist operators. The impacts of problem gambling on Asian peoples include declines in work productivity or study performance, decreased quality of health, emotional and financial stress on families both in New Zealand and overseas. The report concludes with a discussion of the needs and gaps that the current health system of New Zealand faces and makes a series of recommendations in the area of public health interventions and counseling services that can be used for policy makers in order to meet the complex and multiple needs of Asian peoples.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/t2722h061j8n0332/>

Mental Health

Mental Health Issues for Asians in New Zealand: A Literature Review

Prepared for Mental Health Commission Elsie Ho, Sybil Au, Charlotte Bedford and Jenine Cooper

Looks at issues of adaptation through language, employment, disruption of family and social networks (especially for those who have been forced to flee their country), becoming used to the new culture, and traumatic experiences prior to migration.

Considers the fact that mental health issues often cause shame to Asian people and they are unwilling to utilize local health services.

http://www.mhc.govt.nz/documents/0000/0000/0067/ASIAN_MH_PAPER.PDF

Health Providers

The **Asian Health Website** is established by **Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS)** as Asian Public Health in June 2005 with funding from the Ministry of Health. The website provides a single pool of **Health Resources** in English and various Asian languages to enhance Asian peoples' access to health services and information and to assist health providers to enhance their outreach to Asian communities.

<http://www.asianhealth.govt.nz/>

This site has a variety of links to it with details of a number of useful publications relating to Asian health in NZ.

<http://www.asianhealth.govt.nz/Publications.htm>

Living with Diversity

The Manukau Asian Forum took place in Manukau on the 3rd April, 2008, and the organiser said: "It is my sincere hope that this forum may become one of the more significant tools used in Manukau to help break down the barriers that may divide us and make this city a model of not just mutual tolerance but pro-active inter-ethnic co-operation. Let us see if we can find common ground for a brighter future." Chinese, Malay, Singaporean, Vietnamese, Nepal, Indian, Samoan, Tongan, Niue Island, Fijian, Pakeha and Tangata Whenua and the different religious groups attended.

Manukau has a "mixed bag" of 184 cultures that's continually changing. The Mayor, Len Brown, said Asian immigrants had added "considerably" to Manukau's economy and had been "superb members" of the community. Manukau is not only one of the NZ's most diverse cities, but worldwide.

<http://www.mafnz.org/html/events/2008-4-3/media/minutes.html>

Waitakere Ethnic Board

The Waitakere Ethnic Board came about after calls from ethnic groups in Waitakere City to establish an Ethnic Advisory Body to promote and represent the interests of all ethnic communities within Waitakere City Council's boundaries.

- To provide a "voice" for ethnic communities to influence what the Council and the Government do
- To identify the needs of the ethnic communities in Waitakere
- To enable groups to share common interests and ideas while maintaining their own identity
- To ensure that ethnic communities meet their own needs by capacity building through WEB

Flat Bush Project

The likely diverse ethnic makeup of the future population is 30% Asian, 30% European, 5% Maori, and the balance a mix of Pasifika and other cultures.

A very large Buddhist temple for the use of the Asian community and others is in the latter stages of construction.

Flat Bush will be New Zealand's largest new town, about the same size as Gisborne.

<http://www.flatbushstrategy.co.nz/documents/Report-Background-summary.pdf>



[Flat Bush](#) is a unique approach to town planning for Manukau and Auckland. Though regarded as being one of a kind in New Zealand, a similar project is also taking

place in Christchurch's new [Pegasus town](#).)

The aim is to create a town that enhances the area's natural environment and heritage. It will have a high quality of urban design and will reduce people's dependence on the car.

Flat Bush is in the south-eastern area of Manukau. It will be home to more than 40,000 people by 2020. Manukau City Council is playing a strong role in planning and creating Flat Bush.

The opportunity to build a completely new town on 1700 hectares of undeveloped land is loaded with potential and exciting challenges. After eight years of detailed planning, bulk earthworks and construction of roading and other infrastructure works is well underway.

(In regard to Pegasus, the firm of Colliers International, international marketing agent for Pegasus, points out interest from investors in both Hong Kong and Singapore. These buyers are looking firstly for capital growth potential when the project is completed, and secondly as an alternative holiday or second home for their family use in the future.

<http://www.colliers.com/Markets/HongKong/News/NZ-MoreBuyers>)

An individual's viewpoint:

*Flatbush has suddenly sprung up in the last five years as an overflow from the huge growth of new housing in the Howick area, primarily accommodating Asian people. The little chapel [that gave Chapel Road its name] still stands, now a joint Anglican-Methodist church half way down the road that takes its name from it, but at the other end is the exotic Botany Downs shopping centre, a Truman-Show like phenomenon, looking like it has dropped as a unit from the sky, a whole plastic town centre modelled on traditional towns. The central focus of Chapel Road is the enormous, almost completed Buddhist Temple. On the other side of the road is a new co-educational Catholic School, reflecting a huge boom in Catholic education and in baptisms into the Catholic Church by Asians concerned at the violent tone of New Zealand. Other sites down the road have been purchased by Baptist churches, and doubtless the fine facilities of the new secular high school are rented out to a Pentecostal Church group on Sundays. It is boom time in Flat Bush and religion is booming there as well, but not in the little chapel. There is a plan for Anglicans and Methodists to build a big new church, but they are struggling to find the money. Meanwhile the **Presbyterians** have made a separate move. Their old Pakuranga congregation, famous for its evangelical and conservative tradition, has rebuilt just around the corner from Chapel Street and have attracted a large congregation including many Asian people with a formula that has something of the Pentecostal flavour mixed in.*

Peter Lineham, "Among the believers", *Massey News*, April 2005

http://masseynews.massey.ac.nz/magazine/2005_Apr/stories/thoughts-1.html

Recall my warning: Peters

2/17/08
T.C.

AUCKLAND: New Zealand First leader Winston Peters says the country's flawed immigration system is responsible for an Auckland crime wave with racial and ethnic undertones.

Speaking to the New Zealand First party convention yesterday, he said his party had warned against the danger of seeing the world through "multiculturalism spectacles".

And he railed against gangs as a visible breakdown of law and order.

Mr Peters pointed to the inner city death in Auckland on Saturday — in which an Iraqi faces charges — and also referred to kidnapping crime in the wake of last week's abduction of 5-year-old Xin Xin Ma.

"The crime wave in Auckland is all too real — as are its racial and ethnic undertones. There is nothing so antiseptic as the words 'I told you so' but we damned well did and we will go on doing it."

He said the message of the recent anti-crime march of the Asian community in Auckland was that it was not going to be "culturally intimidated", even if others were. It was an honest response of the Asian community, "but if anyone missed the ethnic dimension of the protest, they are wilfully blind". He denounced "multiculturalism" as actively promoting every culture "and therein lie the seeds of ethnic strife".

"If we are to all head in a different direction, based on 50 different cultures for our ship of state, no wind will be the right wind.

"Did we come here to build a new country with its own culture, or a resettlement of 50 different cultures from somewhere else. Make up our mind. If we are to have a destiny and shared values and a New Zealand way, it is one or the other but it can't be both."

He said his party remained vigilant about the rate of immigration and where New Zealand's future citizens came from.

Speaking about the gang problem in New Zealand, Mr Peters said the gangs had "fused the Los Angeles-style gangster culture of drugs and violence with disenfranchised urban Maori and in doing so have bastardised Maori culture".

The gangs were the most visible and blatant manifestation of the breakdown in law and order.

"Brazen and cocky, the patched gang members strut and preen themselves in our streets and outside social welfare offices where they pick up their dole."

Their message was unmistakable: "The police are impotent. We, the patched gang members and gangsters, have the real power." — *The New Zealand Herald*

Asians in NZ to outnumber Maori - report

Tuesday, 08 July 2008 As New Zealand continues to build its economic ties with Asia, the number of Asians living here will continue to increase and will eventually overtake the Maori population, according to a new report.

The Asia New Zealand Foundation study, *Asians in New Zealand: Implications of a Changing Demography*, found that the closer economic ties would have a profound effect on New Zealand's population.

For the past 20 years, successive New Zealand governments, the business community, and the education sector have all been working to position New Zealand as an active participant in Asia.

An integral part of the relationship has been the opening up of New Zealand to immigration of talent, capital and visitors from Asia, said researchers Richard Bedford and Elsie Ho, of Waikato University's Population Studies Centre.

The signing of the free trade agreement with China in April, the first such bilateral agreement to be achieved by a Western country, was a clear sign of the importance New Zealand government and business interests placed on strengthening ties with the region, the report said.

As a result, the number of Asian people wanting to live in New Zealand would continue to increase, as it had over the past 20 years.

Taking into account a number of projections of immigration flows, birth rates and outward migration, the researchers concluded that New Zealand's population would continue to become more Asian beyond 2026 and that Asians would eventually outnumber Maori.

As the New Zealand-born Asian population increased, larger shares of the Asian population would be of mixed ethnicities and counted in more than one population, the report said.

According to the 2006 census, Asians in New Zealand numbered 354,552 (9.2 percent of the population), and Maori 565,329 (14.6 percent).

Under "mid-range" projections, Statistics New Zealand sees the Asian population reaching 790,000 by 2026, still marginally behind the Maori population on an estimated 820,000.

NZPA

<http://stuff.co.nz/4611553a11.html>

asians in new zealand: implications of a changing demography

This new Asia:NZ report, authored by [Professor Richard Bedford](#) and [Dr Elsie Ho](#) of Waikato University, uses existing and projected population statistics to examine New Zealand's changing demography in the light of closer engagement with Asia.

Highlights of the report:

- *What does Asian mean?* The term is much more fluid than the widely accepted umbrella definition, which does not take into account the cultural, historical and linguistic diversity of the 27 countries forming the Asian region.
- There is a significant increase in the number of Asian people with mixed ethnicities in New Zealand. This trend toward a higher degree of ethnic mixing is a clear evidence of increased relationships and partnerships within the wider framework of New Zealand society.
- About one-fifth of all Asians in the 2006 Census were born in New Zealand.
- The majority of Asian-born New Zealand residents come from Northeast Asia (countries including China, Japan and Korea).
- The two major ethnic groups represented in New Zealand are Chinese (147,567) and Indian (104,583).
- Chinese, Indian and Filipino are the three dominant groups in contemporary Asian migration to New Zealand.
- The year 1986 marked the end of an era in New Zealand's history of immigration: the country began opening up to influx from a more diverse range of countries, among which the Asian region was prominent. Between 1986 and 2006, there was a sevenfold increase in the number of New Zealand residents born in Asia. The numbers of Chinese and Indian rose by 800 percent. But the largest increase in Asia-born residents was for people from South Korea (from 390 to over 28,000) and Taiwan (from 165 to over 10,000).
- The growth of Asian ethnic populations over the next 20 years will be significantly less dramatic than the growth New Zealand has already experienced in the two decades to 2006.
- The estimated number of Asians in New Zealand at 30 June 2006 was 404,000 – this is projected to almost double over the next two decades, to about 788,000 in June 2026, nearly equal to the Maori population. It is useful to remember that population projections are subject to great variability, not least because migration levels from Asia are volatile and fluctuate considerably year to year.
- Beyond 2026, inevitably the Asian population will grow to exceed the Maori population – there are fewer than one million Maori and 4.3 billion Asians in the world's population. In this context, inter-ethnic mobility (movement between Asian and non-Asian groups) will be important: larger shares of the Asian population will be of mixed ethnicity and counted in more than one population.

The bigger picture

New Zealand has been positioning itself as an active part of Asia for the past 20 years. Ten of New Zealand's top 20 export markets are now in Asia. Stability in the region is of utmost importance to New Zealand as energy security, climate change and commodity prices move to the top of the agenda worldwide.

The recent China-New Zealand free trade agreement, [Japan-New Zealand Partnership Forum](#) and resulting Customs Mutual Recognition Arrangement as well as the ongoing consultations on closer links with a number of other Asian countries are a clear sign of the importance New Zealand government and business interests place on strengthening our relationships with Asia.

New Zealand will continue to open up to capital, immigration, students and visitors from Asia and the fabric of our society in the 21st century will reflect the region's significance accordingly.

<http://www.asianz.org.nz/research/outlook/fullreport>