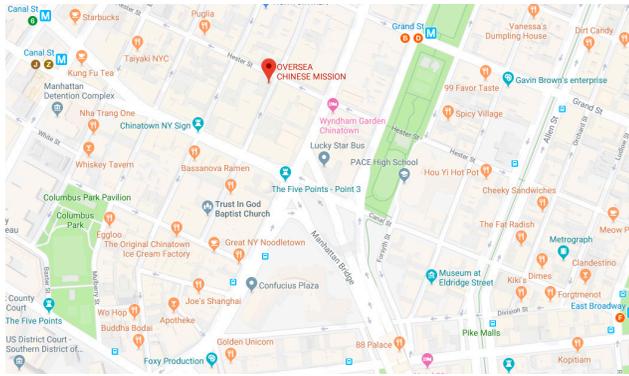


pbb.CHINATOWN (WE LEAD NYC)

November 17th, 2018 | 10:00 am–1:00 pm



GATHER

Oversea Chinese Mission

154 Hester Street (at Elizabeth Street)

UNDERSTAND

- Chinatown's population is about 163,970.
- The median household income of \$42,102.
- 27.1% poverty rate
- 80,024 employees; ranging from scientific, technical, professional services, healthcare and social assistance, accomodation and food services, arts, entertainment, enterprises, companies.
- Home of primarily churches and Buddhist temples.
- Chinatown is filled with shops, open markets, parks, and schools for the community.
- Most common languages being Cantonese, Fuzhuonese, Mandarin

BRIEF HISTORY/BACKGROUND

New York City's Chinatown was established in the 1870s as a refuge for survival. The Chinese immigrants were driven out of the West due to a lack of job availability when the Gold Rush ended and the transcontinental railroad was complete. But the options for employment were limited in New York. During the Western frontier, the Chinese immigrants cleaned workers' clothes and cooked their food. They turned these skills from their experience in the West into businesses, into restaurant businesses and hand laundries. Chinatown became an immigrant refugee and a tourist destination.

By 1980, Chinatown held the largest community of Chinese in the U.S. Chinatown was originally Taishanese-speaking Chinese immigrants. After 1965, Cantonese speakers arrived from Hong Kong and Guangdong. In the 1980s-90s, Mandarin-Speaking Fujianese came in large numbers, even forming Little Fuzhou in Chinatown.

The garment industry was at its height during the 1980s. In 2001, there were 250 garment factories employing 14,000 workers in Chinatown; but by 2004, 100 factories had shut down and eliminated 6,000 jobs. This is one of the examples that was the result of gentrification and rising rents in the neighborhood. The other examples are an increase in luxury condominium buildings, hotels, new restaurants and shops.

The number of Chinese residents in Chinatown are declining as they move out of the neighborhood. As the rents in Chinatown are getting more expensive, more Chinese immigrants moved to different boroughs, creating new Chinatowns. In Queens, there are Chinatowns in Flushing/Elmhurst/Corona/Whitestone. In Brooklyn, there are Chinatowns in Sunset Park/ Avenue U/ Bensonhurst.

CITY SEMINARY OF NEW YORK

CRITICAL AREAS

- Canal Street is a long strip of ever changing culture as you walk along the street. Starting from Essex Street, as you walk down Canal, you run past hip cafes, to local bakeries, to lots of banks, to rows and rows of street markets.
- Pell Street/Doyers Street: The root of many businesses in the origins of Chinatown. (Check out how long they've been there)
- Grand Street with the presence of many businesses and restaurants.

READ

1 Corinthians 9:20-23 (NLT)

20 When I was with the Jews, I lived like a Jew to bring the Jews to Christ. When I was with those who follow the Jewish law, I too lived under that law. Even though I am not subject to the law, I did this so I could bring to Christ those who are under the law.

21 When I am with the Gentiles who do not follow the Jewish law, I too live apart from that law so I can bring them to Christ. But I do not ignore the law of God; I obey the law of Christ.

22 When I am with those who are weak, I share their weakness, for I want to bring the weak to Christ. Yes, I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some.

23 I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

RESPOND

Reread the passage thinking about what has been revealed about Chinatown. What phrases or words relate to the common ground of the people in Chinatown?

How does this passage relate to the culture or conditions of Chinatown currently?

What are some ways that you can be like Paul and help link others to God?

PRAY

1. Pray for the community and the variety of people that pass through Chinatown. There are so many languages spoken and cultures within Chinatown. Pray that they may find unity and the beauty in diversity.

2. Pray for the businesses and workers. We often take the convenience of the city for granted. Pray that the local businesses and services can flourish and maintained.

3. Pray for the residents. In recent news regarding 85 Bowery displaced residents, after hunger strikes and protests, they were able to stay in their homes once again and with rent stabilization. Pray for many of the old tenements, and other gentrified areas. Also, praying for rent costs and safety of the residents.

4. Anything else shared.

SHARE

As you walk around Chinatown, feel free to take pictures of something that stood out or take time to pray for something you observed in the neighborhood.

Connect with others and share photos or a prayer item on our [Facebook](#) page. Please remember to include #CSNYpbb.

EAT

Golden Unicorn Restaurant

18 East Broadway