

~November 19th 2023~

"¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

-Matthew 28:18-20

MISSIONARY NEWS: Doug and Carol Woon, Japan



Current Priorities

They would also enjoy hosting prayer teams as well as short-term teams of 3-6 people who are willing to plan curriculum and lead English day camps/Vacation Bible School ministries for children ages 3-11.

Bio

Doug is from Stoney Creek, Ontario, and Carol is from Oakville, Ontario. They met at Heritage Park Alliance Church in Windsor, Ontario, where Doug was serving as assistant pastor. After getting married, they studied for a year in Wheaton, Illinois. They served at Stoney Creek Alliance Church shortly before leaving for Tokyo, Japan. Together, they have three daughters: Heather, Laura, and Megan.

Doug was raised in a Christian home. He was challenged in his faith by participating in an evangelism training program at the age of 15. Serving in his home church and a recommendation by a youth pastor caused him to consider ministry at the end of high school.

Carol was raised in a Christian home but didn't meet Christ in a personal way until she was working in the emergency department of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Being exposed to illness and death in children caused her to question the meaning of life, leading her to ask God, "If you do indeed exist, please reveal yourself to me."

God's answer came shortly afterwards as she was a camp nurse at a Christian Athlete Hockey Camp, where she heard the testimonies of Christian hockey players and watched their relationships with their families. They obviously had the love, joy, and peace that she felt was missing from her life and asked for God's forgiveness.

Hearing the statistic that 90% of the world's Christian workers work with 10% of the world's population caused Doug to be open to overseas service. During Bible college and in home service, Doug had the opportunity to minister to Asians and to observe ministry to Asians. This work, among other ministry opportunities, put a burden on his heart for Asia, with 60% of the world's population.

Doug and Carol arrived in Japan in 1987, and after two years of full-time language study, they moved to Hiroshima and worked with an already existing Alliance Church for two years. After their first home assignment, they were involved in traditional church planting in small Alliance churches in the outskirts of Tokyo.

Six years of ministry in the field office as leaders followed, and then in 2007 they moved to the Tokyo Bay area to be involved in fostering a growing network of congregations. They now serve as team leaders for the Canadian team and team developers for Japan and Taiwan.

In their area of Tokyo called Shiohama, Doug and Carol are involved in teaching English and the Bible to children, moms, and to singles to create, contribute, and to reach out to their community. They also meet with believers and seekers to study the Bible and spur them toward faith and maturity, and ultimately toward joining in the ministry of reaching others.

What Doug loves most about being an IW is studying the Bible with people who are being exposed to its truths for the first time, and to have his understanding of it deepened by questions he'd never be able to think of, having been raised in the church. What Doug finds most discouraging is to see how long it takes for a person to come to a commitment, so in a sense, the discipling process starts long before the person comes to faith.

What Carol loves most about being an IW is working with young moms and children in her neighbourhood. They are so open and interested in many aspects of her language and culture, including her faith. What she finds most challenging is helping these moms to realize that Christ's love, forgiveness, peace, and joy are also available to them. The Japanese language continues to be a challenge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School

Please join us for some extra Christian education at 11:10am. We have classes for Grades 5-7, 8-12, university/adults. Children's Sunday school is also running at the same time in the Chapel basement.

Fellowship

Join us in the fellowship hall for a time of fellowship between English service and Sunday school. If you are interested in bringing something to share, talk to Anna and Chris Choi.

Christmas Baptism

This year's Christmas baptism will be held on December 24th following the 10:00 AM joint service.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Jr. High

Meets at WCAC rectory basement Saturdays at 7:30pm **Carmel** Meets at WCAC rectory basement Saturdays at 7:30pm **180** Meets on U/W Campus, Fridays at 7:30pm, typically in Dillon Hall **Cornerstone** Meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday, see Chris or Lei for details **Emanuel** Men's/Women's Bible study and fellowships. Ask any adult members for details.

CHURCH INFO

Board minutes

The board meeting minutes are available upon request to members. Just ask an elder or pastor.

Offering

Feel free to give to what we are all doing here at WCAC. You can fill an <u>envelope</u> out and place it in the offering bag. Or, for <u>online</u> giving, instructions can be found at wcac.ca on the English main page offering button.

Contact info

Go to wcac.ca to find contact info for all of our pastors and directions to our church building.

HELPFUL LINKS

Alliance Statement of Faith

http://thealliancecanada.ca/beliefs/

Give to the work of our missionaries

https://thealliancecanada.ca/give/

Right Now Media

20,000 videos on Bible study, kids shows and leadership workshops/teaching. Click the link below and sign up for your free account. <u>https://www.rightnowmedia.org/account/invite/wcac</u>

Area Christian Schools

https://maranathachristian.ca/ http://www.flca.ca/

If you don't want to get the newsletter via email anymore, send P.Rob an email and he will take you off the list. 😊