

## Doug and Carol

### BIO

Doug & Carol Woon, originally from Ontario, have worked as international workers with the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Japan for 31 years, and since 2007 have been part of a network of simple church congregations in central Tokyo. They are team leaders for Japan and team developers for Japan and Taiwan.

Their goal is to see a multiplication of networks of multiplying congregations of multiplying disciples, through contacting, discipling, coaching and mentoring people in their web of relationships.



### SHOW NOTES

Japan is similar in size to California with 126 million people, yet 75% of the land is mountainous and unoccupied. The Japanese people say they are not religious but 75% of the population on the first three days of every year will go to local shrines to seek blessing for the year.

It is custom for the eldest son to have a special role of upholding the traditions and practices of the family and therefore this blocks many from moving toward Christianity.

Hurdles for moving to Christ:

1. The practice of Shintoism which has similarities to animism and the worship of nature.
2. Buddhist beliefs and religious practices

3. Confucius mentality where the teacher is the head, the one that transmits knowledge or can teach.

A major barrier to advancing the gospel is that people are just so busy as they work long hours with long commutes; they are also suspicious of strangers.

A second barrier would be their religious beliefs.

Desired characteristics for international workers

1. Patience – a long time of discipling before an intelligent decision is made to follow Christ.
2. Relational networker who like a person of peace gathers people around them to build community.
3. An empowering leader who makes it easy for believers to explain the gospel and share it with others.

A typical faith community is about 30 people (1 church/17,000 people).

It is apparent that long focussed prayer is needed to move the gospel forward, a prayer that is asking that the veil of unbelief be removed from the Japanese people. “On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations.” Isaiah 25:7

**Book to read:** The Unseen Face of Japan (David C Lewis)

**Video to watch -** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1in5IYEM03A&t=18s>