



Yuri was born in Calgary, AB, Canada to Japanese immigrants. She came to faith while attending a Christian camp at the age of 10. Her non-believing parents would not let her get baptized until she was an adult and so she got baptized right before her 18th birthday. Yuri studied 2 years of Sociology in University before transferring to a local Bible College in Edmonton (North American Baptist College). She intended to only take a one year course but ended up graduating from there with a Bachelor of Religion degree. Yuri's calling into ministry came at this time.



God spoke through His servants, Scripture and circumstances to show that He clearly wanted Yuri to serve Him in full-time ministry. 1 Thessalonians 1:9 says "for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." This verse was given to Yuri while praying for God's specific direction for the future of her life. She decided that she wanted to serve the living and true God!

Yuri's mission's professor encouraged her to consider going to Japan. She went and served for 4 years, teaching English conversation and doing friendship evangelism through NAB. Though Yuri wanted to continue on as a career missionary the doors seemed to be closed at the time and she returned to Edmonton. Yuri tried various jobs but found no joy in them and when asked to speak to various churches about her experiences in Japan as a missionary, she discovered that her passion was really for full-time service for the Lord. She decided to apply to Taylor Seminary and for this time God made it very clear to that He wanted her to serve at her home church (Edmonton Japanese Christian Church) as the English Pastor. What was to be just a one-year contract ended up being more than 10 years of ministry experience! She was able to study part-time and work at the church at the same time. After six years of study, Yuri graduated with a Master of Divinity from Taylor Seminary and concentrated fully on pastoral work for about 4 more years.

Yuri was invited by her former Mission field director to consider going back to Japan as a career missionary. Her Japanese heritage and the knowledge that Japan has such a low percentage of Christians has given Yuri a burden and passion to see more people in this land be transformed by the love of Christ. Yuri has been serving in the Kansai region of Japan since 2010 working with Paul and Melissa Ewing and Shan Reed at the Komyo Christian church plant in Southern Osaka. In 2015 Yuri started concentrating on helping other Japan Baptist churches in the Kansai region that are currently without pastors. She also does some preaching ministry, leads bible studies and focuses on discipleship and leadership development. Yuri has a strong passion to see people live the victorious Christian life.

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him." 1 John 3:1

Birthday: December 28
