

## W5 on Missions



### Who? John & Ruth Chan

John was born in Shanghai, China, and immigrated to Canada in 1982. He accepted the Lord a year later and was an active member of the Chinese Christian Fellowship at the University of Manitoba. Ruth was born and raised in Hong Kong. She accepted the Lord at the age of 12 and was an active member of the Hong Kong Chinese Church of Christ. Both John and Ruth worked in the investment industry in Toronto before sensing a call to pastoral ministry. John served as the English Ministry pastor at Logos Baptist Church while Ruth was a lay leader in the same congregation.

### Where? Germany

**When?** In May 2005, while on a CBM short term mission to the Czech Republic, John and Ruth felt the Lord's calling to serve the Chinese Diaspora in Germany. They arrived in Germany during the fall of 2008.

### What?

When the Chans were first appointed with CBM, they served among Chinese university students in Germany. In addition to witnessing to and discipling students, the Chans have also helped to establish a self-sufficient local congregation by training new believers how to become an integral part of the church's membership. In November, 2014, the Chans were appointed as CBM's Chinese Ministries Team Leaders.

John writes: "It is our privilege to be appointed Chinese Ministry Team Leaders. This is indeed an exciting and challenging role. Our task is to bring together our team and to develop a sustainable ministry strategy based on existing resources. Our team will also do vision-casting along with CBM leadership for future ministry focus. Once these long-term ministry focuses and strategies are set, we will need to recruit additional resources, human and financial, towards implementing these strategies.

The opportunity to participate in formulating CBM's long-term strategy to reach the Chinese around the globe is very exciting! At the same time, the challenges we will face are also daunting: First of all, the Chinese Ministry Team is unlike any other team of field staffs in CBM. Other teams are grouped by geography while the Chinese Team is presently spread out from Europe to South-East Asia and our mandate is to serve a specific people group – the Chinese – throughout the

entire world. It will be a challenge to meet and communicate with each other (we are separated by seven-hour time-zone difference) on a regular basis and to formulate a synergistic strategy which includes all of our different ministry focuses.

Secondly, in addition to strategies in the field, we are also entrusted with the task of liaising with churches back home to communicate CBM's vision for Chinese ministries worldwide. As the Chinese Ministry Team in CBM is still in the infant stages of development, and we are only beginning to formulate a vision and strategy in the field, our challenge is to communicate this vision with all our supporting churches back home. Since our role as team leader is to be carried out mainly in the field (we will remain in Germany while leading the team), our challenge is to find the necessary time and human resources in order to communicate with all the Baptist churches in Canada.

Pray that God will give us the wisdom to serve as team leaders and for our upcoming team meeting in April 2015."

### Why?

"'Ruth, I am going to be baptised in May.' One day, a sister called Ruth with joy and told her this good news. We can feel the excitement and hope in her voice. It is a complete turn-around from the first time we met her nine months ago. In September 2013, John received an email seeking help from a student who lived in a small village near Göttingen. She was a fresh graduate and moved to a small village in order to live together with her boyfriend. However, she found out her boyfriend was seeing another girl behind her back. In great despair she remembered her good friend telling her about Jesus and decided to seek help from a pastor.

When Ruth met with her, she was in depression and had lost her appetite. She felt that if her boyfriend left her, it would be the end of the world. Ruth shared the love of God with her and she was willing to accept Christ on that day. The road was rough for her. One night at around 10:00 pm, we received her call that her boyfriend kicked her out of the house. Since she lived in a small village, she did not know anyone else and there was no place for her to stay. It was late and there was only one last train that she could take to Göttingen. We immediately made arrangement for her and she arrived in Göttingen at 1am. She has picked herself up from that low point in her life. She moved back to the city where she studied and went to church with her Christian friends. She has stayed strong in the Word of God through all the subsequent highs and lows. Last month, she called Ruth to tell her that she has decided to be baptized. We were overjoyed by this wonderful news! God is gracious and good. He healed the scars of this student and brought her into His loving family!" (The Chans Update, 2014)

**Lisa Lohnes**

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