

Meet the Lauers

Woody Lauer grew up in Western Pennsylvania and attended United Presbyterian churches. During his junior year at Union College in Schenectady, New York, Woody's classmate's apologetics drew him to commit his life to Christ and soon he began attending the college fellowship. In 1977 he joined First Presbyterian Church, which had left the UPCUSA and became close friends with Stuart Jones, associate pastor of Calvary OPC in Schenectady.

After graduation in 1978, he joined a Pittsburgh-based campus ministry where he met a coworker named Laurie. Laurie attended a UPC while growing up in Wilmington, Delaware. She became a Christian in high school and attended a RPCES congregation, then earned her bachelor's from Ohio Wesleyan University. Woody and Laurie discovered they both wanted to serve God in a foreign land. By November they were engaged, and the next month they were married.

Woody received his M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1983. Preparing to serve as a tentmaker missionary, he earned a master's in chemical engineering from Villanova University in 1984. That year Laurie's attention turned to her role as mother to their first child, David. Stephen, Joshua, SaraJean, Jonathan, Daniel, and Paul followed, keeping Laurie busy homeschooling over the years. She also taught cooking and conversational English to the women they ministered to over the years.

Woody was ordained by the Presbytery of Ohio and served from 1985 to 2015 as a missionary teacher/evangelist in Japan for the Committee on Foreign Missions. Upon request of the Committee on Foreign Missions, Woody earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wales and served as professor of Biblical Studies at Kobe Reformed Theological Seminary from 1998 to 2007, and then as a lecturer at Kobe RTS and Kobe Theological Hall. He also served as an evangelist at the Kita Numazu Reformed Church of Japan Chapel from 2008 to 2015.

In 2015 Woody was called as a missionary-evangelist to Japan by the OPC's Presbytery of Ohio. The mission is now overseen by the Presbytery of the Dakotas.