

Meet the Member Tom & Ann Harvey

How does the Lord connect two very different people from different walks of life to marry and become long term missionaries with Worldwide Evangelization for Christ (WEC)? Here is their story.



Tom grew up in Lexington, MA and Ann in Nassau County, Long Island. Growing up Tom rarely attended church, maybe for an occasional funeral. In contrast Ann's family was very active in their local church. Tom started his college education in the Boston area taking courses in several local universities and eventually graduating from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL with a degree in Psychology. Ann graduated from Stony Brook University on the Island with an Art degree. Tom's conversion story wasn't until college. Ann's spiritual journey started in grade school.

Tom's faith journey started at a college party in his junior year at Boston College. He went to the party...to party, not find God, but a couple of his friends came to faith and Tom saw the difference it made in their lives. His friend, Mike, was able to answer many of his questions and he prayed to receive Christ into his life. However, there was a significant gap between his new faith and his old lifestyle. Tom had to wrestle with his own manipulating personality and the evil inside of him that kept him from being totally honest with God. But his direction was clear, and he embraced Philippians 1:6 – *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."* Tom transferred and finished his degree work at SIU. The Lord was pulling him toward mission work, and it led to his enrollment at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in a one-year study on missions.

Ann, the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants, grew up in a Methodist church in which her family was very active. At the age of 14 she went on a church retreat for confirmation students, a prerequisite for membership. She desperately wanted to know how to have a personal relationship with God but didn't know yet how that was accomplished. On the last evening of the retreat around a campfire, Ann, a shy teenager, opened up about her struggle to find God and asked for help. An associate staff member of the church put her arms around Ann, shared the Gospel and prayed with her to receive Christ. Ann was set free as the Spirit of God entered her soul. That night, six other kids made a profession of faith.

While in college and active in InterVarsity Fellowship Ann attended an Urbana IVF conference in Urbana, IL and was drawn to the ministry to unreached peoples. That led to her connection to the ministry of WEC and consequently, attending the same one-year course as Tom did at Moody Bible Institute. At Moody they connected relationally and missionally and in May of 1987 were married. They spent almost two years studying the Uzbek language at Indiana University before traveling to China and studying the Uighur language at the University of Xinjiang. They ministered in China from 1988 to 1998 until returning to the US and taking a position with Rainbows of Hope.

Today Tom and Ann are the directors of Rainbows of Hope (ROH) with an office in Indian Land. ROH is a global ministry of WEC to help children who are suffering neglect, abuse, trauma, and loss. Rainbows of Hope has 10 staff that serve some of the 1800 who work with children-in-crisis in 90 countries.

www.rainbowsofhope.org

They have four children. Joseph, 34, is the oldest. Joseph lives with them in the Steele Creek area. Their second child, Theresa, 32, is married to Gagan and they have their one grandson named Roshan. Their

youngest two, Lydia and Dayna, are 24. Interestingly the twins were born on different days. Lydia was born before midnight one day and Dayna born minutes later after midnight the next day. They are twins with different birthdays.

Tom and Ann started attending Eternal in 2010. Tom says, "God spoke to me that we were home". It was a unanimous decision and they have never looked back. Tom is an Elder at Eternal and Ann is involved in the women's ministry. They are both active in Community Groups.

They have a cat named Carson who is a very loving and affectionate cat if you are bigger than him. Otherwise, you would meet a slow and painful death and half of you would be left on the welcome mat at the back door.

Hobbies? Not the usual. Tom is involved in a pen pal ministry with men behind bars. He loves to write letters to those who have been incarcerated and need to sort things out emotionally and spiritually. Most of Ann's spare time is being a support to her mom, Terri, who lives around the block and is a joy and blessing. Her bucket list does include music and art projects.

One of Ann's favorite verses is Philippians 4:13 the verse that meant so much to her during her conversion experience. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

Tom's favorite verse is Galatians 2:20 *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."*

Eternal is fortunate to have them worship with us. If you want to hear Tom's sermon on November 27th, 2022 go to [Jacob's Ladder](#) | [Genesis 28](#) | [Eternal Church](#).

Written by Paul Veerman