

40 Year Service Award Winners Biography – Randy Carter

Randy & Donna met at First Alliance Church Calgary and started dating in High School. After 4.5 years of dating, they married on June 19, 1981, and moved to Edmonton. There they began attending Southgate Alliance Church and immediately got involved as youth leaders and in music ministry.

It was during this time that Randy sensed a call into full-time ministry and started attending North American Baptist College.

Randy served as the youth pastor at Millbourne Alliance Church Edmonton (1983-1986), Southview Alliance Calgary (1986-1992) & Chilliwack Alliance 1992-1994. At each church, Donna was actively involved musically and as a women's bible teacher. It was in Chilliwack BC that Randy & Donna sensed God inviting them to step into itinerate speaking ministry, primarily for Jr & Sr high youth.

Desiring to move back to Calgary, Randy contacted the WCD Superintendent Arnold Downey. After Randy shared what he believed God was inviting him to do and asked if he could still be a part of the Alliance family, Arnold's response was. "Oh Randy, I know a lot of guys who have tried what you are talking about doing but they usually have to go back into a church in a year or two because they can't feed their families. But who knows, if God is in it, maybe it will work. And yes, you can still be part of the WCD of the Alliance."

So, with the blessing of the WCD, Randy and Donna moved back to Calgary on July 1, 1994 to work in an organization called Straight Talk Ministries (STM) that was founded to allow them both to pursue the dreams God planted in their hearts. I guess God *was* in it because, for the last 29 years, God has provided for their needs and given them amazing opportunities to serve His church.



What started as Randy speaking to youth at camps and retreats has grown to include Donna speaking to all kinds of women's groups, having 3 books published and distributed internationally. This year she completed seven seasons of Grow on the Go, a radio show (in the G.T.A.) and podcast to help busy women grow in their faith.

God has also opened the door for Randy to mentor and coach youth pastors and more recently for Randy & Donna to speak together at marriage retreats and conferences. After going in separate directions for so many years, they absolutely love sharing the stage and their marriage journey.

All along their desire has been to do whatever God puts in front of them to do. More than anything else Randy and Donna love to see people begin a relationship with Jesus and have their eternity changed.

If you know Randy you know he is really a Jr High boy trapped in an old guy's body! Once on vacation in Penticton, he had to have surgery to remove his gallbladder. After spending two days in the emergency department, they finally found him a bed in a ward. When he texted Donna to let her know he was assigned a room in the pediatric ward she texted back "See, even they know you are a Jr high boy!"

Randy believes youth ministry is the most important ministry in the church. He regularly says, "Why would anyone choose to work with big people when they could work with students?" Whenever he meets a lead pastor who once served in youth ministry he often asks "What did you do to tick God off that he is disciplining you by making you work with big people? Whatever it is, I know if you repent God will forgive you. I don't know if he will let you back into youth ministry or not, but you really should repent!"

Thank you to the WCD for allowing an oddball like myself to be a part of this amazing ministry family for so long. Our ministry experience here has been a fantastic adventure.