

# ESAKIS IN OSAKA

DECEMBER 2020

## Review of CTCJ *Japanese Intensive for Church Planters Tokyo* October 12-23



These are the 16 church planters, plus staff and lecturers, who joined the intensive in Tokyo. Another 40 observers participated virtually. We followed the government guidelines of distancing but were allowed this one photo.

Thank you for your prayers for the CTCJ Intensive. We are grateful that training went smoothly, with only minimal internet interference when we had speakers from outside of Japan.

As for my part, I praise God that every church planter has been assigned a coach to lead monthly gospel-infused conversations from December onward. I am one of four coaches, who have committed to coach these 16 church planters for two years.

We need to prepare for the future, though, when we will have more church planters. We invited five from

the 40 observers to become coaches. They have had at least five years church pastoral experience. We are working on an orientation to familiarize them with the coaching process to present in February 2021.

As we told everyone in the intensive, having a coach increases the success rate of a church plant by 135%! This according to Ed Stetzer, a missional leader who has researched this.

In December, I will also work with the Asia Pacific coach to pull together English materials for translation for the orientation and actual coach training.



Eve is now 3-months old, and Eisuke (Ace) 16 months: Both are healthy. They were able to live in Marcia's brother and sister-in-laws' North Carolina rental home for 8 months, then returned to the New York area. We are grateful for all the family support during this challenging time.

### Prayer Requests:

1. Pray that the coaching goes well for these 16 church planters (from Tokyo to Okinawa), and that the church planters and their families thrive and succeed.
2. Pray that all five coach candidates will agree to be trained in 2021.
3. Pray for the orientation and ultimate training of these five candidates in 2021, including the translation and contextualization of materials.

