

ESAKIS IN OSAKA

CitytoCity Japan Intensive Review | "Church" has new meaning in post-Abe year

Abe's Death: The Church in Japan is Challenged

Former Prime Minister Abe was shot on July 8th by a young man whose family had been monetarily devastated by the Unification Church. A number of parliamentary members have received donations from the Unification Church, which is why a political figure was the target. The fear of church influence is still on the nightly news.

One church planter told Koji in a coaching session that for his planned outreach summer camp, some families had cancelled because it was "church" sponsored. This was a discouragement, but it was also an opportunity for the CP to explain the difference between the church of Christ and the church in the news. He made deep relations with four non-believing men and they continue to meet back in Tokyo.

Praise

At least five church planters want to go beyond their 2-year coaching commitment of 2020, and their churches have agreed to pay for the sessions. This helps to support our coaching program, and the volunteer coaches.



City to City Japan Church Planter Intensive 2022 in Kyoto: September 26-October 7

The above photo is of the ten church planting participants, the instructors, and various family members. It was a time of intense learning but also of meaningful bonding over lunches and dinners. Church planting can be a lonely and discouraging task. However, when local networks, like this, are built on deep gospel understanding there can be an inquisitiveness and a vulnerability that strengthens church leaders and ultimately their churches.

Praise: That the two week intensive was an effective and blessed time for church planters and instructors. Koji led morning prayer, taught a coaching module, and presented the certificates. He is now in the process of assigning coaches to each of the newly trained church planters. Among those coaches are the six newly trained coaches. **Pray:** That the gospel-centered coaching will be effective in the lives and ministry of those church planters.

Praise: The same time as the Intensive, Marcia was teaching five women about gospel tools. Through this, another 5-week training for two more women came about. It will start on November 5. *Please pray for this new group.*

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