

ESAKIS IN OSAKA

CTC Asia Pacific Coaching Directors Meeting | Christ-Centered Preaching

CTC Asia Pacific Coaching Directors Meeting May 28-31

This will be a gathering in Bangkok of CitytoCity's Asia Pacific country coaching directors. **Pray for safe travel for Koji. Pray there is spiritual encouragement and strategic planning for how to improve gospel coaching within each country's church network.**

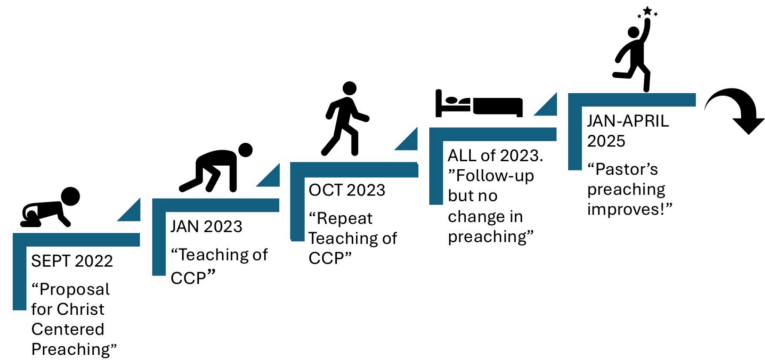
Four Generations



Hana, her husband Sam, and two grandchildren visited Japan in April. Mae and a nanny took good care of youngest Kai. We were able to visit Koji's 94-year old mother in Gifu.

Please pray that we have wisdom on how to encourage Christ-Centered Preaching. That the PCJ would approve the budget to send us to Melbourne in November.

Christ-Centred Preaching



If you've been following our newsletters about Christ-Centered Preaching, we've finally seen tremendous progress. In 2023, pastors/elders and teachers in our international church attended the classes. The teaching was in English, because all of the Japanese attending were fully bi-lingual. There were set-backs along the way (see all of 2024), but by 2025, the senior pastor was embracing the teaching in his preaching. The congregation noticed and commented, and the pastor gained confidence. His messages went from being mostly information/moralistic ones to application/gospel messages. Yay! Then on May 4, the senior pastor announced that he and his family would be taking a much needed sabbatical. Just another set-back, or had we fallen off a cliff? Three pastors remain, but all have not shown much interest in continuing, or have resisted the teaching altogether.

God is full of surprises, though. In a new initiative by the PCJ (Presbyterian Church in Japan), Japanese missionaries have been sent to serve Japanese congregations in foreign countries. Some congregations are stand-alone church plants, and some have grown out of established English-language churches. Of particular interest are the congregations in Perth and Melbourne, Australia. The PCJ mission committee has proposed that Marcia and Koji teach this course, in Japanese, to Japanese missionaries, who have requested support. A July 5 meeting of the presbytery will decide if the funding is approved for this, and if so, the work will begin in order to translate the lessons into Japanese.