

ESAKIS IN OSAKA

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Over the last few months the Lord has been directing us to serve in some new ministries. We have become aware that our skills, experience and energy need to have a different strategic focus. It feels like it is time to change aspects of our previous service in Osaka.

We joined the Genesis College project because of the stated vision: "Educate, equip and empower the next generation of young Japanese leaders with the gospel..." The college project hasn't quite gone as planned.

The project conceiver and President of Genesis College resigned our first year, followed by the church planting director. That is how 2015 ended.

New team members joined us in Osaka throughout 2016, but most of them needed to study Japanese full time. Now it is

2018 and we have yet to find a new college president to lead us.

We have an English Café, but that was to be temporary. The attendees were young professionals and not candidates for the college.

Meanwhile, Koji is finishing up the mentorship of two M.Div. students on the team. His two-year translation project will be completed in June.

In March, he was asked by the Joy of Japan Center (below) to teach these translated materials to the next generation of Japanese pastors. (Average age of Japanese pastors is about 63).

Joining this work does not mean that we need to move from Osaka. We can continue to be part of a vibrant neighborhood community, marriage coaching, and two Bible studies that meet in our apartment.

Meanwhile, in April 2018 Marcia became a part-time lecturer at

Kobe Shoin Women's University, teaching twice a week. She is excited about being an educator, able to build relationships with these young college women.

Originally an Anglican school, Kobe Shoin has a beautiful chapel, with chaplain and choir.



Kobe Shoin Chapel

Koji feels that the JoJC is the next step to help the church in Japan. Teaching these materials, to seminary students and fellow pastors is just another way to "educate, equip, and empower."

PRAYER & PRAISE:

Praise God for his leading

Pray that God would help us to prepare well for these roles, and that God would bring fruit and excitement to His church.

Joy of Japan Center: July 13-14 Kickoff

The JoJC will be working in conjunction with the Christ Bible Institute in Nagoya, and Redeemer CitytoCity Asia Pacific to bolster church revitalization and planting.

Director Gary Watanabe, (computer photo) is a lifelong missionary to Mexico, the Philippines, and now Japan.

Gary is Japanese born but US raised. He needs Koji's language and culture assistance to:

- Teach seminary courses, 2X/month in Nagoya, to equip students to reach Japanese congregations
- Teach pastors, Japan-wide, online



- Coach pastors online

PRAY for the Kickoff with Dr. Paul Tripp, who will teach lessons from his book, *Dangerous Calling* about pastoral ministry.