

# ESAKIS IN OSAKA

## Prayer Updates

Thank you for your prayers in all of these areas.

- Coach training will be completed on schedule in December, and new coaches will be matched to church planters. The vision is that there will be "Effective and timely gospel-centered coaching for every City Church Planter and Leader." Their situations are as diverse as a university-directed church, a church for the homeless, and a church that began out of a children's camp. Please pray for our vision to be realized.
- The sermon writing course, led by Marcia, the pastor and elder began in 2022. There have been some marked improvements in preaching, but consistency in the face of unforeseen obstacles has been difficult. Please pray for us to carry out this goal of Christ Centered Preaching in a Japanese context.
- Koji leads two Bible studies: One with church women, and another with his mother and cousin, Taeko-san. There has been real fruit and struggles in the first. In the second, Taeko-san is not yet a believer. Please pray for Taeko-san, and pray for the mental health and marriages of the others in the church Bible study.



**Kitty Cone**

1925-2024

Marcia's mom passed away on October 19. She was 99. Kitty had an accomplished life. A mother of four, she went back to college at 44, the same year Marcia started college. At 55 she was writing her doctoral thesis, the year that her husband passed away. She was a professor, and founded a community-based NGO focused on reducing infant mortality.

She believed Jesus was her Savior. She became a believer and then brought Marcia to church at age 7. Their relationship was complicated. Neither were perfect, but the beauty of the faith is that we don't present a perfect record to God, but we receive a perfect record from him through Jesus, and that begins the journey of grace.

Kitty was curious about the world. From when she was widowed at 55 through to 83, she traveled with Marcia on nine trips outside the continental United States: Italy, France, Hawaii, Japan, and at 76, Thailand. She toured Bangkok, while Marcia was there working on an M.Ed. It has been 32 years since we moved to Japan, and so those meet-ups were special.

The day before Kitty died, she talked to Marcia and her siblings over a video call. Then the next day she took an afternoon nap and never awoke.

John Donne, Dean of St. Paul's, describes death in two stages in his 1633 poem, "Death Be Not Proud."

*...One short sleep past,  
we wake eternally,  
And death shall be no more.  
Death, thou shalt die.*

Kitty, enjoy this victory!



Koji (fourth from the right) connected with the 11 church planters at the Gospel Intensive Training, and prepared them for being coached. Also present are the instructors and observers.