



Coaching Makes a Difference!

Gospel Coaching increases the health of a young church, the church planter's family, and the communities that they serve: That's what the data shows. In addition, coaches commit to regular prayer for the church planter, and the bond between the two reminds him that he does not work alone.

This is the story of a church planter, who was trained at the CitytoCity Intensive in October 2022. He was pastoring a church in one area, but preparing to move farther east in Japan to plant a new church.

As part of the intensive, he was given free Gospel Coaching for two years. He requested further coaching (at his own expense) for the remainder of 2024, 2025 and into 2026.

This is his story of how coaching helped him step out in faith. When you realize that the average church size in Japan is 25, you'll see how remarkable this is.

In October 2024, one month before the first worship service of the church plant was to begin, I wanted to have a time of prayer alone. I went to a prayer retreat center about a two-hour drive from Tokyo. In the quiet of the mountains, I concentrated on prayer.

I was given the desire to pioneer a church and come here next year with all the future believers. Though the church plant hadn't even started and there were no members, I decided to book five rooms by faith, accommodating ten people total. However, the receptionist seemed to have even stronger faith than I did. "Pastor, let's make it seven rooms." Taking that as a challenge, I booked seven rooms.

A year passed, and finally, in November, 2025, all believers in our new church came: 14 participants! In our 2-night, 3-day prayer retreat some used the rooms alone, and amazingly, not only 7 rooms but 8 rooms were filled!

Now for 2026, I again booked rooms—10 in all—by faith.

Prayer:

April 13-15 is the next Gospel Coach training, in Osaka. Two trainers (presently coaches) will assist Koji. Six candidates have agreed to attend: Please pray for these sessions. Pray for the trainers, as we look for future leadership. Pray for this next generation of coaches.

Please pray for Marcia as she will have surgery on May 18 to remove nasal polyps. Pray for healing of sinusitis and a restoration of her sense of smell.