

ADAIR UPDATE



Please pray for
our city

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Discipling people to disciple others to disciple others to...

In early January, Robert, Joseph, and I (Roberta) got on a 6am train and, a few hours later, arrived in Tokyo. We went there for a 2-day training on evangelism and discipleship that sounded intriguing. Called T4T (Training for Trainers), the tool is built on the belief that everyone in the body of Christ should be disciplined to make disciples and that even very young believers can be directly involved in both evangelism and discipleship.

Robert and I are not unique in having a high value for the priesthood of all believers. It's sometimes difficult, though, as "professional Christians" to communicate that evangelism and discipleship are the responsibility of all believers. Rather than encouraging our friends who work in restaurants, businesses, and daycares to simply bring people to outreach events or to church, we want to be a part of sending people into their specific mission fields equipped to sow and reap.

We believe God will use Japanese people to reach Japan (and not just seminary-trained pastors and professional Christians). We want to learn and share practical tools with our friends that will equip and empower them to grow in their faith and to pass on these foundations to others.

The tool is quite simple with 7 basic lessons on Christian discipleship. As people learn the lessons, they pass them on to those with whom they are sharing their testimonies and the gospel. So much is written about the spiritual soil in Japan being poor and infertile. Yet by praying for the lost by name and sowing seeds - noting the difference between *planting* and *sowing* - we hope that God will bring a harvest.

We know that more than tools, we need to demonstrate love for God and for others - and that we need the Spirit's help. Please pray for R as he uses this tool with a friend and for me as I'm considering using it with a new believer (we will share her testimony in our next newsletter).



This was...

- A) Robert's idea
- B) Roberta's idea
- C) A good idea
- D) A bad idea

(Answer on page 2)

COACH ROB

Learning and using a new skill in Japan(ese)

How can I (Robert) help a leader achieve the vision God has given him or her? What is the role of western missionaries in Japan, which has an established church but is seeing very little fruit? These are just a couple of questions that I ask myself regularly. Within Asian Access, several of our leaders are receiving training in coaching as a tool to help us encourage and challenge our Japanese partners and other missionaries.

So...what is a coach?

A definition from Bob Logan, who teaches at Fuller Seminary and who has been training some of us, is: "A coach comes alongside of an individual or a team to help them figure out what is God's agenda for some part of their life and ministry, and then to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda becomes a reality." Simply put, we are being trained in a process that helps people achieve the vision God has given them. It is an active process, focused on results, and can be done regardless of the two people's age and title (which, in Japan, impacts relationships far more than in the United States).

The five R's of coaching are **Relate**, **Reflect**, **Refocus**, **Resource**, and **Review**. Through asking questions and following this basic flow, coaching helps people get from a broad idea to the next step towards achieving their goal. Many pastors have a vision for their churches and communities, but many don't know what the practical next steps are to get there.

Another advantage of coaching is that it does not require the coach to be an expert in

the subject matter being discussed. There is a skill involved in asking powerful questions and helping someone set strong goals, but these skills can be applied to a wide variety of situations.

Internally

I am currently supervising a family and a single guy in Asian Access. This involves meeting with them, communicating with their partner pastors, and performing reviews. Coaching is proving to be a great tool to help them minister more effectively in an encouraging way.

Recently, a young A2 missionary started an outreach using pictures to share scriptural truth to the elderly and others who have trouble reading. A coaching session allowed him to process something he felt God nudging him to do as well as to set some goals that led to that action. I felt that I did very little other than listen and ask a couple of questions, but the session is bearing fruit in that an idea is now being acted upon in his community.

Externally

Recently a young pastor walked up to me and said, "I was told you coach pastors. Will you coach me?" From the beginning I saw coaching as a tool that would be great with young Japanese pastors but didn't think I would be directly involved for another year or two. Yet a Japanese pastor friend of mine who knew I was being trained told a friend of his something



along the lines of "You should ask Robert to coach you." Although I am definitely being stretched through coaching in Japanese, I am privileged to have the opportunity to walk with this young man. I pray that our time together helps him navigate a large transition in his church and leads to him being more fruitful in the future.

Influence in partnership

How can someone influence and encourage without positional authority in a country that values positional authority? I believe coaching is a great tool for this. I am excited to see how God may use interactions with missionaries and pastors to encourage them. I am also excited to see what fruit these relationships will bear. Please pray that God would use my coaching interactions with both fellow missionaries and Japanese pastors to bring about his good purposes here in Japan. Thank you very much for your partnership and prayers.

- R&R

Partner

To partner financially:

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P.O. Box 7900

Charlotte, NC 28241-7900

Memo: R&R Adair Support #038207

Specific Prayer Points

- Growing in our roles as Mom and Dad
- Japanese language acquisition (Roberta is starting to meet with a new teacher)
- 1:1 and small group discipleship relationships
- A friend from our small group, Y, is getting baptized. Pray for her continued discipleship and for her family.
- Fruit from our English ministry

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