



2012 Second Level Ministry Report from the Board

By Michael L. Reynolds, Chairman of the Board



Looking back to the past year, we can continue to be thankful the Lord has enriched *Second Level* with outstanding leadership from our Board of Directors, and President, and has given us an impressive team of staff, volunteers and advisors. I simply cannot say enough about those who are participating in this ministry.

It's the responsibility of the Board of Directors to provide leadership, contribute vision, establish goals, approve budgets and employ the ministry president. I am pleased to report that *Second Level* staff and volunteers have enjoyed many blessings in ministry this year. See the "Highlights" (at right) and status of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers (at bottom).

My greatest disappointment in the 23 years I have ministered to the Japanese is seeing so many profess Christ during their one to four years in the U.S., then return to Japan and "drop out." They stop reading their Bibles, stop praying, break off whatever fellowship they may have established with other believers, and break their fellowship with God. This accounts for about 75% of the returnees!

We know some of these made a profession to please their American hosts or friends, or for some other reason. But even if only half of the professing returnees really surrendered their lives to Christ, why are most of them breaking fellowship and dropping out? Some say it's the culture and social pressures, but that is not the answer. God is not handicapped or weak. He is able to supply whatever needs we have (Phil 4:19). The problem is that, while they profess Christ, these returnees are not prepared or trained to engage in the struggles they are certain to face. They have not been discipled. (Continued at top left)

At the 2012 Board of Directors meeting, Chris Pohl was appointed to the Board, and Todd Jackson departed.

Wakako Minamoto Wood was added as new Associate Staff here, joining Masayo Fujiwara, Takashi and Sayaka Nakakuki who are Japan staff. Kyle Robinson (intern) and Yukako Ensomo serving as volunteer staff in Japan, and Emmy



Feinberg and Naomi Fogerty volunteering as graphic designers. Takashi Nakakuki will be graduating from seminary this year and continue to serve in *Second Level* ministry while seeking a position the Lord has for him.

Rev. Makihito Koyama continues to correspond with "Step Lesson" participants, providing answers and more in depth explanations, including counseling.



Some Highlights of 2012

* Mission trip supporting churches in Japan

Wakako had a two month mission trip to Okinawa. She served at two churches, and was discipling and ministering others outside the church as well.

* Skype sessions

We are utilizing two main textbooks for Skype sessions, and seeing the spiritual fruit through the sessions. It's a great opportunity, especially for those who don't have a church/fellowship/discipleship mind Bible study.

* New discipleship textbook translated into Japanese

"Living as a Disciple of Christ," eight chapters focused on the committed relationship with Christ.

* Lives changed

Many were involved in one-on-one discipling and Skype sessions, and have matured in their faith and knowledge of the Word. While the ministry focus is discipling, we encourage those outside the faith to join our Bible studies. Four have come to faith in Christ this year.

**Second Level* continues to expand cooperative efforts with like-minded ministries such as JCFN (Japanese Christian Fellowship Network) and VIP (Japanese Christian businessmen).

(Continued from bottom right)

Put on the full armor of God so that, when evil comes, you will be able to stand your ground (Eph.6: 10-17). That armor includes the Word (v.17). Consequently, Jesus commanded us all in Matt.28:19 to "go and make disciples." Paul repeated this command as he discipled Timothy: And the things you have heard me say, teach to faithful men who are qualified to teach others (2 Tim.2:2). This describes the mission and purpose of *Second Level*. There are many evangelists, but few who are willing to follow through with Christ's command to disciple them.

Without discipling, the Christian is unable to stand, so we lose many professing returnees who go home and drop out. Those who come to serve on the Board of Directors, to serve on staff or as volunteers in *Second Level*, serve in obedience with the hope of seeing the church in Japan building up instead of dropping out.