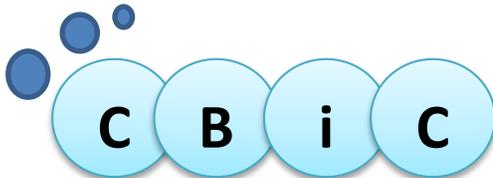




Second Level Ministry

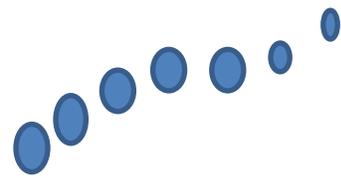
Summer Newsletter

August 2013



Creative Bridge-Builders in Christ

Conference



During June 28th through July 1st, the CBiC(Creative Bridge-Builders in Christ) Conference was held in Vancouver, Canada, thanks to God's grace and guidance. Aimed at spiritual growth among Japanese Christians, this conference gave local Japanese the opportunity to be equipped and become aware of the importance of discipleship.

Theme: Live Together, Encourage One Another

“My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the



CBiC(Creative Bridge-Builders in Christ) Group Picture

mystery of God, namely Christ.” (Colossians 2:2) Over the course of four days, the conference participants were led by the Holy Spirit through messages focusing on the themes of importance of being together and encouraging one another. We learned about the mystery of God's plan revealed through Christ and His love for us to the extent of His son being crucified for us. Each believer is part of the body of Christ, and as believers we are built up together in Him.



Rev. Ryoichi Takeda
(Blaine Christian Fellowship, WA)

Also, we learned about how we are filled with the Holy Spirit, and are called not just to attend at a church, but to be joined together in love. This was an opportunity to take on a global perspective and focus on the scope of the Kingdom of God. By knowing how important we are before God as one body, we can better understand the core meaning of Love, both as an individual and as a body.



Japanese Christians in Vancouver

There are twelve Japanese churches in the Vancouver area. The conference was attended by members of Japanese churches, Japanese who attend other local churches, and participants from other cities. Since Japanese Christians seldom meet with other brothers and sisters from different Japanese churches, this conference provided a great occasion for fellowship and learning in Japanese. This was a valuable opportunity to make new contacts with other Japanese believers, to strengthen relationships with others in the area, and to discuss and share various challenges of faith that Japanese Christians face. In the beautiful city of Vancouver, surrounded by nature and home to a population of 30,000 Japanese, the conference attendees had the opportunity to pray and encourage each other in their faith, and became passionate about spreading the gospel to those around them. They also became more aware of the importance of making disciples.



Relationship to Second Level Ministry

Over the past year, we were praying for a vision of a conference that would meet the spiritual needs of Japanese in another region. After investigating various possibilities, we settled on the Vancouver area, realizing their needs and how we can support them as a sponsoring organization. There were three categories in workshops; Mentoring, Christian Life, and Ministry. In particular, Second Level Ministry focused on the Mentoring section. The four

workshops by Second Level were about The Importance of Spiritual Growth, An Invitation to Mentoring, Learning from Jesus' Role as a Mentor, and Discovering Spiritual Gifts. These topics are imperative in our relationships with the Lord and others.

Follow-Up

Through these workshops, we examined 'the stages of faith' and 'the necessary elements of spiritual growth'. By doing this, we were able to understand our own needs and see how we should live in the future. With Second Level resources, we are planning some small group Bible studies focused on discipleship and training young leaders (2 Timothy 2:2). The studies will be in cooperation with Izumi Araki, a Japanese missionary in the Vancouver area. Second Level will continue to provide opportunities for mentoring and discipleship along with the local staff.



Left: Izumi Araki
(OMF CANADA Diaspora Missionary to Japanese)

It is our hope that the body of Christ in this area will continue to be built up through the encouragement, proclaiming Gospel, and making disciples. (Ephesians 4:12).

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has lifted up this conference in your prayers. We hope that you'll continue to pray for God to bring fruit in its aftermath.

Mayumi Pohl
President of Second Level Ministry

~~~ Personal Note ~~~

I attended the conference with Chris, who is one of the board of directors (and my husband☺), and our two-year old daughter. She became completely attached to the main speaker, Mr. Takeda, calling him "My Sensei!". Even though small children can be a bit of an obstacle, everyone was very loving towards her. There was a lady who watched her and felt that the Lord used Hannah to teach her the joy of just existing. I was very grateful as a mother, that she was used to convey God's love to others. I really enjoyed our fellowship time with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Vancouver.



On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the conference, Chris and I celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We were given a bit of time before the conference for sightseeing, and reflected on the many blessings God has given us through our marriage. At this ten-year milestone, we're looking to God for our dreams about our family's future. I'm 18 weeks pregnant with our fourth child, and the due date is in January. We rejoice in the Lord and trust in God's plan, both as a family and as individuals.



\*Staff Updates\*



**Takashi Nakayuki (Staff in Nagoya, Japan)** has graduated from seminary in Nagoya and feels God's calling for what he will do in the future. Thank you for all of your prayers and support over such a long period of time.

In order to expand our discipleship ministry, he will continue to be on staff of Second Level Ministry in Japan. Also, will be a CBI (Christ Bible Institute) staff from July 2013 until December 2014.

He will be managing an outreach ministry named Heart & Soul (which involves a cafe, English conversation classes, and other events.) In October 2014, CBI is planning a conference, which will span three cities. He will be in a planning committee for this big event. From now until December 2014, we're seeking support of \$600 (about 60,000 yen) per month. (Our Goal before Dec 2014 is \$10,200.00 ) to supplement his salary.

*For details about his ministries, please contact Takashi to receive his personal blog link at: [takachan4649@gmail.com](mailto:takachan4649@gmail.com)*



**Wakako Minamoto Wood (Staff in U.S)** has been continuing her ministries in mentoring and group sessions, utilizing Second Level's publication "Living as a Disciple of Christ."

She's also is preparing for ministries in Okinawa (discipling and church planting). There are big opportunities for evangelism, and she's also planning to help with discipleship and church planting.

Please pray for all of the various preparations involved.

Please pray that she'll be able to meet her goal of \$3,000 (about 300,000 yen) for Okinawa Missions.