

Second Level

~ Making a Difference One at a Time ~

The Power Of Mentoring

~ Multiplication of Making Disciples and
Developing Communities that Love and Serve One another ~

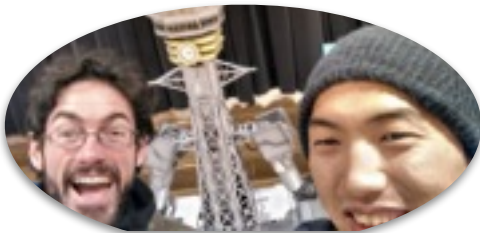
The Lord brings about salvation . Each sprout of salvation is full of hope and purpose. We water and fertilize it and wait for the Lord to bring growth (I Corinthians 3:7). We must raise it with all our efforts. If it is rooted in Christ (Colossians 2:7) and steadily maturing into an adult tree, then it will produce fruit (John 15:1-8) and the next generation of seeds. From this, new life is born.

If you can understand the laws of nature, you are also able to pay attention to the Bible's teaching that we should follow God's desire for spiritual reproduction. Mentoring (see page 2 for details) encourages the spiritual growth of the person who is receiving it, through a personal and intentional relationship. (It is assumed that both mentor and mentee trust in God's work.) With such spiritual care, this reliably promotes growth and bears fruit. Of course, there is also fruit that we can't see right now. However, the work that is begun by the Lord, and guided by His hand, will be brought to completion (Philippians 1:6).

Also, we as Christians should seek for God's people to attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ through unity in knowledge and faith (Ephesians 4:12). the Lord will use such relationships and communities as places filled with His glory (John 13:35). That's why the spiritual growth of each person is essential for the growth of the body. Mentoring is an effective tool for that purpose. Because the time is purposefully given for personal care for personal needs, we can take steady steps toward continuing to grow into disciples of Christ.



Second Level's work is not only to provide Bible study. We also encourage those who are learning to be able to disciple the next generation of Christ's followers. The multiplication of disciple-making can be seen from these three: Wakako Minamoto (Associate Staff of Second Level- right) was meeting Hidemi Yamaguchi (middle) each week for discipleship over a year. At 2014 Equipper conference (see page 2), Hidemi was able to start leading Saki (left) in discipleship (II Timothy 2:2).



When we met Yuta Udagawa (right), he was full of the desire to grow and had a positive outlook toward mentoring. In God's perfect timing, the Lord sent us Daniel Morgan (left) and he began mentoring. After a year and half, Yuta has a stronger desire to seek God, serve as a witness, and be rooted in an even deeper faith. Daniel continues to have a heart for serving and seeking wisdom as a mentor.

One function of Second Level is to act as a sort of matchmaker to bring mentors and mentees together, which has become an important part of our ministry. Currently, Second Level is helping 49 mentoring pairs. Each mentor and mentee has various personal and spiritual needs, which need to be taken into account to find out what kind of mentoring works for them. Taking into consideration the needs of the mentee and what kind of person and influence they need, and bringing together the right pair, is something that can only be done by God's guidance and wisdom. With just a little bit of a push can lead to an unimaginably great harvest. In everything we can see the work of God, who brings growth. It's beautiful to see people sincerely repent, return to the Lord, and walk according to their gifting and calling, rejoicing ever more in the Lord, walking toward sanctification together with the family of God.

Equipper Conference (12/26/2014-1/1/2015)

Once again, Second Level participated in the Equipper Conference, primarily hosted by the JCFN (Japanese Christian Fellowship Network) in California, where we offered workshops. Since 2008, we've offered workshops on mentoring and discovering spiritual gifts. The workshops involve personal interaction and studying Biblical truth. Our ministry has been used effectively for growing disciples in Christ and encouraging one-on-one mentoring. Each Japanese Christian, when genuinely growing as a disciple of Christ, will further shine the light of the church and stand up for the Lord, so that Japan, too, may be changed.

At this point (in April), as follow-up from the conference, twelve new mentorship pairs were formed, as well as two discipleship groups. To accomplish these things, first, each person's needs had to be assessed. By the Lord's guidance, right mentors were matched with mentees to best meet individual needs and spiritual challenges. They have been meeting each week (or every other week) in mentoring or small groups. We're waiting with eager expectation to see how God will work in their lives.

Additionally, we were able to hear the testimonies from several people who began mentoring several years ago. They explained how they've been blessed through their experiences with Second Level.

Through this wonderful conference in which we've been able to participate since 1998, the grace of the Lord has overflowed so much that we can't write all of it here. Many people have been encouraged to make the decision to follow Christ and walk in faith. With the grace we obtained here, we hope for a rich harvest from the hand of the Lord.



**What kind of fruit
can your tree make?**

A yellow fruit ? A red fruit ? or A pear (Pear is NASHI in Japanese means "nothing") ?

**Let's bear the fruit that glorifies the Lord!
(John 15)**

One Day Conference ~ Four Field Training ~ (1/31/2015)

We held a one-day mini conference in Atlanta, Georgia, where we learned practical training with the goal of growing as Christ's followers across Four Fields: Preparing the Soil, Planting Seeds, Sprouting Buds, and Harvesting. This method is called T4T (Training for Trainers.)

We learned the importance of having a nurturing attitude, from the time of evangelism onward, in anticipation of service and growth as Christ's followers. For the salvation of each soul, and in order for those souls to properly grow, we encouraged the necessity of obedience and the importance of building community with the body of Christ. For Christians, gathering together is not just a matter of being satisfied. To make disciples of Christ, people must intentionally be involved with others.





ALL
ABOUT MENTORING

Mentorship Resources “ What is Mentoring? “ Series

Since we have gained more mentoring pairs this past year, Second Level Ministry has been sending resources via e-mail. The series is called, “What is Mentoring?” (in Japanese only) from various perspectives. It comes out once every few weeks. We deal with topics that we need to be mindful of as we involve in mentoring, both as a mentee and as a mentor.

Second Level Ministry has a vision of making fruitful disciples who can reproduce disciples. In order to be faithful to the command in Matthew 28:18-20 (The Great Commission) and II Timothy 2:2, mentoring has been used as an effective tool in making disciples. We define mentoring as a process of spiritual growth during which a mentor prayerfully and intentionally guides and walks alongside a mentee. It happens through a personal caring relationship. It happens when mentees are faithful (desire to follow God’s will), available (with time and energy to spend in mentoring), and teachable (hunger to learn and grow).

Let’s take a look at each point.

* “process of spiritual growth”- Many mentees already have a lot of issues and concerns they need to deal with. However, mentoring is not the time to solve those issues. It is a time to seek God’s guidance, discern His will, and discover how you can face the issues with faith. It is a time to encourage spiritual transformation and strive to become more Christ-like.

* “a mentor guides a mentee”- This is a time to meet the needs of the mentee, not the mentor. All in all, spiritual growth happens on both ends, but the original purpose is for the mentor to help a younger Christian’s walk. Being a mentor requires a servant’s heart.

* “in a personal relationship”- Mentoring is not a passive activity, like attending a lecture or listening to a message. It is through personal communication. “One on one” is the best mode to promote an open heart. Also, it’s important for mentors to be a living example. A personal relationship provides a natural pathway to observe and imitate the role model.

* “prayerfully and intentionally” : God is the one who brings the spiritual growth (I Corinthians 3:6-7). Although we need to intentionally guide others, it has to be done through prayer, asking His guidance. This is a time to discover God’s will and achieve a goal, if there is one. You can do so by intentionally communicating. By prayerfully seeking and listening, the Holy Spirit will provide an answer.

* “walking alongside” - Mentoring is not a one time meeting, but a continuous walk to address spiritual issues in the sanctification process. It doesn’t mean that you need to meet with the same person for your whole life, but you are committed to each other for the time period agreed upon. You walk alongside together. You don’t forcefully instruct or leave mentee alone in their spiritual journey. You support the mentee so they can become rooted and sprout to a fruitful Christian.

Please let us know if you would like to serve for Japanese as a mentor!

* Mentorship Conference *

Dates : January 15th ~ 18th, 2016

Place: Atlanta, Georgia (Amicalola Falls State Park)

Theme: Building the Body of Christ

Purpose: To grow as a servant mentor by glorifying Christ

Theme Verse : Ephesians 4:16

“From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Program Focus :

- ① Learn about mentoring - *Biblical importance of investing in other’s spiritual growth*
- ② Learn about being mentors - *Important attitude as mentors, Christ-like servanthood*
- ③ Learn practical plans for mentoring - *Preparing to start mentoring, Experiencing various mentoring strategies*

Who Is This For? : Anyone who wants to learn about mentoring, who wants to grow as a servant mentor

Registration will begin this summer. Stay tuned!

Staff Transition

Takashi and Sayaka Nakakuki




(Kobe, Japan: We have moved from Nagoya in February!)

Sayaka (since 2008) and Takashi (since 2009) served as U.S staff of Second Level Ministry. After being married, they moved to Nagoya in July 2011 and continued to make a difference in making disciples and ministry in general. God provided Takashi with a job working at a Christian company in Kobe. Starting in February, they moved from being associate staff to volunteer helpers of Second Level Ministry. Takashi will continue to assist Second Level with translating when the need arises. Thank you all for praying and supporting them these past few years.

**THANK
YOU FOR SERVING TOGETHER!**



**WELCOME
TO SECOND LEVEL!**

<p>Keiko Lillis (Office staff, Atlanta, Georgia)</p>	<p>Brian McGregor (Intern, North Carolina)</p>	<p>Yoshiko Murata (Associate Staff, Kobe, Japan)</p>
<p>Keiko started serving as an office staffer for Second Level Ministry since November, 2014. She has been organizing a Bible class for Japanese as well as serving at her local church. Keiko was born and raised in Tokyo. She lived in Tokyo, Sendai, and California and moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 2012.</p>	<p>Brian plans to serve as an Intern from August, 2015 to April, 2016. Using his spiritual gift of teaching, he is planning to serve making disciples (Japanese Christians) of Christ. He began self-study of Japanese in 2004. He is prayerfully seeking to fulfill God's calling on his life by preparing for ministry in Japan.</p>	<p>Through prayers, God revealed a way for her to serve as an associate staff of Second Level in March, 2015. She realizes the importance of living by faith, seeking further growth as a disciple of Christ. She worked as a childcare worker in Chicago, and continued to do so at her church upon returning to Japan.</p>
		

~ We appreciate your partnership! ~

(Thank you very much for being a partner to make disciples and expand the kingdom of God!)

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