



Second Level セカンドレベル

Winter 2024 Making a Difference Through Discipling

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
Matthew 28:19 (ESV)



A New Resource Guide

A new Resource Guide is now available! It showcases resources available through Second Level Ministry! There are four focuses we'd like to bring to your attention: **Mentoring, Resources, Trainings, and Soul Care.**

Since the beginning of the organization, we have been committed to "Mentoring" and small groups for disciple-making in Christ. Today, as the centerpiece of Second Level Ministry, these aspects of our work are still moving forward every day. We arrange about 30-40 mentoring pairs each year, and over the past 22 years, many people have experienced growth and transformation in Christ through the personal and intentional work of mentoring.

Our mission is to support the spiritual growth of Japanese Christians – the process of maturing as a disciple of Christ.

Our vision is to see disciples being multiplied: Disciples of Christ multiplying themselves by making disciples, based on the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 and 2 Timothy 2:2.

Our ministry is to provide spiritual support for those who have been saved and who disciple others, specifically: Discipling and Mentoring, Training, Soul Care and Resources – All from a Japanese perspective.

In order for the rich transformational discipleship in Christ to proceed, there was a need for "Resources" that were biblical, simple and easy to use. Even today, we are constantly developing effective materials for Japanese Christians to be raised up. The existing "First Level" and "15 Step Lessons" were created soon after the organization was launched and have been edited several times. The "First Level" now includes washi animation and is being used by more and more individuals and churches.

Visit our website to see the full guide!
secondlevel.org/en/resources/

In encouraging mentoring, which has been an ongoing grassroots ministry, it became apparent that the mentors needed "Training" and for the sake of learning and networking, we held our first "Mentorship Conference" in 2016. Until then, we held general discipleship conferences in several locations as "Second Level Conferences,". When a clear need and purpose emerged, we continued to hold the "Mentorship Conferences" on a regular basis. We seek the will of God and plan each conference by hand, placing importance on the needs and interests of the location, the needs of the church, and the desire of the people who want to be involved.

We came to launch "Soul Care" in 2019. As we came alongside Christians in their walk, it became evident that there were cases of loss, depression, family and other relationship issues, and dealing with the pain of difficult pasts that were difficult to deal with through mentoring. Having Soul Care is also an important opportunity for the mentors to face, heal, and prepare themselves for deeper issues of the heart. Individual sessions and group trainings are offered constantly. In the future, we plan to offer more opportunities for "spiritual direction" and soul care retreats in terms of spiritual care and formation.

2024 Summer Mission Trip

Making Disciples Who Can Make More Disciples

Second Level had the opportunity to organize another short-term mission team and return to Japan in the summer. The Lord brought together a team of 8 servants. After the Lord called and brought the team together by the end of January we began meeting for team building, team planning, and prayer through the Winter and Spring.



This two-week mission trip in July was split into 2 parts, the first part in Okinawa and the second part in Tokyo. The purpose of the trip was to help lead a VBS at OCSI (Okinawa Christian School International), help with English conversation ministry to youth, help host a reunion with our returnee Japanese friends from Atlanta at a new partner church, make new connections and visit local

churches, and visit our Atlanta Japanese friends connecting them to local Christians. The mission team worked together really well and God helped each excel in our team roles. God did amazing things through the mission team and his faithful disciples in Okinawa and Tokyo. May the kingdom-building work carry on and to God be the glory.



Mission Team Visiting Mt. Fuji

At the 2024 reunion we had the special privilege to partner with Harvest Church Tokyo located in Nerima City pastored by Tim Clark. Some Japanese mothers and Georgia Tech students attended the reunion. It was wonderful to see each other again. During the reunion (as we have done so in the past) we took time to share a personal testimony. Mission team member, Tyler shared her beautiful testimony and Wakako-san (Pastor's wife) interpreted. Our hope in sharing the testimony is to share that we have a relationship with Jesus, that Jesus has changed our life after meeting him, and that our lives are changed because of Jesus' presence in our everyday lives. How wonderful it is to share the hope we have!



VBS "Superstar Camp: Following Jesus Changes the Game, God Made You a Superstar!"

Each year the Second Level Mission team organizes a "Reunion" event. Our goal in organizing this event is to partner with a local Japanese church who shares the same vision. We seek to connect our Atlanta Japanese contacts, both believer or unbeliever to a local Japanese church in hopes we can be the "connector" between our Japanese friends and the church. It's great for Second Level to develop healthy and mutually beneficial partnerships with Japanese churches. We also desire to pass off and guide our Japanese friends (families, individuals, and students) to local churches and believers.



At the reunion, the room was filled with spirit, joy, and both old and new friendships.

More reports by individual team members:

<https://tinyurl.com/2024summermission>

We will be in Osaka, Tokyo, and Chiba in June, 2025. For the 2025 mission trip information, please contact: mattbarany@secondlevel.org

2024 Soul Care Retreat (September 24-26, 2024)

Second Level Soul Care hosted the first **Soul Care Retreat** for Japanese believers. We gathered at Mary and Joseph retreat center in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. It was a time of rest and experiencing God in a deeper way. We plan to host another retreat in Atlanta, GA in 2025.



Testimony from a Retreat Attendee

"I attended the Soul Care Retreat held on September 24-26. I only partially attended on the 24th and 25th, but it was a very rich and wonderful

time of learning.

There was an immediate and significant learning experience in the first session of the retreat, "What is Soul Care?" As the instructor, Dr. Nancy, explained the importance of loving oneself, she told us that our attitude and thoughts toward ourselves are directly related to our attitude and thoughts toward others. Dr. Nancy gave an example of this idea, saying "People who are harsh and critical of themselves are also harsh and critical of those around them." With these words, God showed me the wounds I was carrying and how I had been hurting myself and those around me because of those wounds. From the rest of the teaching and the small group sharing, I realized how I had not taken care of my own soul. This enlightenment brought the great change and revelation to myself and to my relationship with God.

During the "Holistic Care" time on the following day, we learned that all aspects of life involve the cross, using

the "Imago Dei" (the image of God) diagram. By constantly turning to Jesus, everything in our life can be put in order. I thought I understood this in knowledge, but through the diagram and Dr. Nancy's teaching, along with the visual understanding, this idea was strongly engraved in my mind. The diagram is a very useful spiritual formation resource. It can quickly remind me that every element of life is involved in the cross and that without it, our days would not stand.

I am grateful that through this retreat I was able to learn about soul care, an angle I had never experienced before. In this broken world, everyone is broken. While there are all kinds of spiritual formation studies, I would like to continue learning about "soul care," which has not received much light in Japan. I hope to deepen my relationship with God through the care of my own soul, and apply it to the care to reach out to others." (M.M)



A new book is released by Second Level Soul Care!

GRACE
~ Looking Into Yourself Through the Lens of God's Grace

- 6x9 convenient size
- Workbook style
- Japanese only
- Wonderful gift for Japanese believers

In the U.S., you can purchase this book (physical copy and E-book are available!) at: <https://secondlevel.org/store/>
For other countries, please search on Amazon in your area!

SOUL CARE FUND

God has been blessing our **Soul Care** programs. We are happy to be able to support Japanese believer's deep spiritual needs through individual pastoral care, group sessions, workshops, and now planning for a Soul Care Retreat (all in Japanese) in 2024.

We have established the **Soul Care Fund** to meet the financial needs for the ministries and those who are in need of assistance to receive proper care.

You can visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2ndlevelministry>



For Soul Care, go to
soulcare.secondlevel.org

Internship Opportunities

The internship program is happening throughout the year. This is an opportunity to learn about culture and language as well as needs in Japanese ministry and receive training in preparation for mission work. Testimonials from past participants are available: <https://secondlevel.org/internship-2/intern-testimonies/>



2025 Spring Internship Applications are now being accepted!

<https://secondlevel.org/internship-2/>

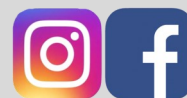
A New Video Is Released!



What is Second Level? Share about our resources and opportunities!

Go to <https://secondlevel.org/yokoso/>

Check out our social media page! Search by "Secondlevelministry"



Event Coordinator

Who is passionate to create meaningful event opportunities together as a team?

Part-time or full-time.
Support raised position.



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Looking for a volunteer who can **create newsletters**, using Microsoft Publisher!

- Contents will be provided.
- Work on only layout and design.

Contact:
dainidankai@secondlevel.org



Please Consider Joining to Be a Financial Partner!

We are excited to see what the Lord has planned for ministries in the coming years!

1. Within Japan

Yuucho Bank

Kigou 14160 / Bango 71120121
Second Level Ministry

Mitsui Sumitomo Bank

Hirakata Branch Futsuu 4382951

2. Within U.S.

(Checks Payable To)

Second Level Ministry
2841 Greystone Lane
Atlanta, GA 30341

3. Anywhere in the World



(by credit card)
[paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com)

Please send contributions to:
dainidankai@secondlevel.org

Zelle Donations now accepted, learn more at secondlevel.org/donate

Second Level Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is therefore tax exempt. All gifts are tax-deductible.



Second Level Ministry
2841 Greystone Lane
Atlanta, GA 30341

(770) 316-8712
secondlevel.org
dainidankai@secondlevel.org