



Second Level Board and Staff with Pastor & Mrs. Satoh, Wayne & Sheila Smith (Founder), and Helen Reynolds (Special Guest)



Second Level  
セカンドレベル

Fall 2022  
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)

## Second Level Ministry's 20th Anniversary "God's Faithfulness Through the Years"

On June 23rd, we celebrated God's faithfulness through Second Level Ministry over the years. Both those who were present in person and in spirit, we appreciate each one of you for being a part of this kingdom work! We greatly hope to continue making disciples together. Take a look at some of Second Level's history!

Watch our slideshow, our celebration and testimonies here: <https://secondlevel.org/20th/>

### Message by Pastor Iwao Satoh (Louisville Japanese Church)

Please allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 20th anniversary of Second Level Ministry. As a matter of fact, last year, 2021, marked the 20th anniversary since I myself received the ordination of pastor. When I think about the overlap with my own personal journey, I can imagine the many encounters and rich experiences that you must have had in your 20 years of ministry. I do not think of you as strangers, but feel a deep personal connection with you. I would like to congratulate all of you who have continued your work in the Lord for the past 20 years by sharing three thoughts with you.

**Grace to those who serve:** First of all, I would like to say to all of you who are involved in the work of Second Level Ministry that you would experience a special grace from God that only those who serve can fully enjoy. In the Gospel of John, we read about the "Wedding at Cana" where the Lord Jesus Christ performed His first miracle. At this wedding, the Lord Jesus turned the water of six cisterns into wine. The host of the banquet was amazed when he drank the wine. Then he said to the bridegroom in verses 2:10. "Everyone serves good wine at the beginning and bad wine when the people have had enough, but you have saved the good wine until now." The reason he said, "You have kept

the good wine until now" is because the host of the feast did not know where the wine came from. The bridegroom must have been surprised to be told this as well. No one knew where this extraordinary wine came from. But the Bible reveals here a short, but very important word. Verse 2:9 says, "The steward of the banquet tasted the water that had become wine. He did not know where it came from. -- But the helpers who drew the water knew." The word is "knew". The Bible tells us that there was a blessing that only the helpers who drew the water knew. In the 20 years of Second Level Ministry's work, many people have received the fruits of this wonderful ministry. Many have used the resources of Second Level Ministry to lead abundant lives of faith. I believe that God has provided blessings that can only be experienced by those of you who know first hand how you have supported, prayed, sweated, and toiled behind the scenes of this work. In that sense, I hope that today all the dedicated staff members will be able to experience and enjoy God's special blessings as you continue to labor and toil.



# Message Continued

**About the 20-year milestone:** The second thing I would like to share with you is the significance of the passage of time. It is said that the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament were written in about 50 AD. This was about 20 years after the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. During that time, the apostles and disciples had been striving with all their might in their missionary work to the Mediterranean world. Twenty years later, they began to focus their efforts on the Gospel of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ and other recorded accounts of the birth and growth of the Church up to that time, and on the dissemination of these writings to future generations. Perhaps 20 years is a turning point in the work of one such community. It is a time to look back at our own history, and with renewed spirit, to enrich and prepare our work. As you can see from the Acts of the Apostles, the growth of the community was far from smooth sailing, but rather full of challenges. The first Christians walked through persecution, so much so that the Greek word for witnessing to the Lord Jesus (martureo) is the origin of the word martyr. Although they knew that to bear witness to the Lord Jesus was to risk their lives, they did not stop walking as witnesses of the resurrection and preached the gospel to the ends of the earth. They passed on their transparent account to future generations. I hope that this 20th anniversary will be a time for the Second Level Ministry to count the Lord's blessings, and a time to renew our commitment and dedication as we prepare for the next chapter.



Rev. Iwao Satoh  
Main Speaker



Mr. Keishi Kasuya  
Chairman of S. Level

**Nurturing the next generation:** Finally, the third thing I would like to say, which is also related to the second point, is that the final thing the Apostle Paul did in the course of the Church as recorded in the Bible is to nurture the next generation. This is an indispensable perspective as we consider the long-lasting journey of the community of faith for 20, 30, or 40 years. With respect to this, it is wonderful that the work of Second Level Ministry is focused on making disciples of the Lord Jesus. The Bible tells us that Paul, too, sensing the end of his life on earth, finally put all his energy into making disciples. Paul's focus was on Timothy. Timothy's father was Greek and his mother was Jewish. Timothy was a young man born to parents of an international marriage and was gifted by living in two cultures and learning two languages. Paul even dared to circumcise him so that he would be accepted not only in Greek society but also in Jewish society. He would eventually become pastor of the Ephesian church. At that time, Paul wrote two letters to Timothy with specific pastoral guidance and advice. To nurture people and to prepare disciples to be able to witness to Christ.

This was Paul's last ministry. The fact that someone like Timothy was chosen to lead the next generation of the church clearly communicates the fact that the gospel spreads beyond cultural and language barriers through the power of the Holy Spirit. I expect that the work of Second Level Ministry will be carried out in Japanese, English, and to others, overcoming cultural barriers and languages. I hope and pray that many such people will be raised up and trained to share the gospel. The gospel given to us will not change yesterday, today, or tomorrow. However, the society that receives it is experiencing great changes. In that sense, I pray that we will inherit the abundant fruits from Second Level Ministry and that workers for a new era will be raised from this place. May the abundant blessings of the Lord Jesus be upon the work of Second Level Ministry.

**2022 Mentorship Conference** was held in Atlanta, GA on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. About 60 people attended this year. God encouraged each attendee through Rev. Satoh's messages, workshop speakers, discipleship training, and fellowship with one another.



## 2022 Mentorship Conference Theme: Overflowing

"My cup overflows." Psalm 23:5  
「私の杯はあふれています」詩篇 23:5





## Testimony—Overflowing Blessings Received at the Mentorship Conference

I am currently a graduate student serving as a student leader for ISI, a campus ministry for international students, and I am doing outreach to Japanese students in New York City. I am a counseling major at my school and I have been praying about how this counseling expertise can be used for evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual encouragement in the field of ministry. I have also received mentorship as a mentee at ISI, and have been following up with new Christians and friends who are in the midst of their own personal evangelism. I decided to attend this conference because I was inspired by the idea of mentoring to encourage spiritual growth at a deeper level. I am also wondering what kind of ministry the Lord is calling me to as I prayerfully seek my future path and what kind of vision God will give to me through this conference. I headed to Atlanta with high expectations. The Mentorship Conference was a great experience of meetings, workshops, and personal fellowship with others.

I was especially reminded of 2 Timothy 2:2, a key verse for Second Level Ministry: "What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also." This passage about the importance of discipleship was so meaningful to me for two reasons.

First, I attended a Christian leadership training in California a week prior to this conference. I was clearly able to see 2 Timothy 2:2 as the vision of starting a chain of disciple-making and discipleship training through two different conferences in succession.

Second, the number "2" has a deep personal meaning. My maternal grandmother, who was a Christian, was called to heaven after the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake in 1995. I was born on the same day as my grandmother, February 22, 1996, at 2:22 p.m., weighing 2,220 grams the following year. I would like to share with you some of God's unique and wondrous works surrounding my birthday.

The process of comfort and healing from the loss of my grandmother to my birth, the three consecutive 2's are not just

a lucky number for me, but it is also a symbol of the Lord's. It is a number that invites me into the Lord's plan and presence. For these two reasons, I felt as if my future path, which I had prayed for and asked for, had been opened. I have been praying and seeking the Lord's plan and His presence. I felt that "discipleship training to make disciples who can offer discipleship training" was the work that was being

shown to me now. I also felt that the workshops and main sessions during the conference were also designed for this disciple making. The whole conference was about the attitude of faith and points necessary for this work of disciple-making and discipleship training for others. In the workshop, I learned about pastoral counseling for spiritual care, which is directly related to my major in counseling. I felt that the work of counseling and mentoring are very similar. The mentor is there for the mentee and the mentee is there for the mentor.

The mentor is there for the mentee, building a relationship, and helping and guiding the mentee's growth. When we serve others, we are there for them. We need to keep filling our little inner vessel with God. When we serve others, we cannot pour out our love to them from this small vessel unless God continues to fill it. I was reminded that these understandings are very important in ministry.

A clear vision and calling for discipleship training and disciple making, and I received the abundant experience of the fullness of God's love that is necessary for this. I was able to receive the words I needed to hear today. I'm thankful for my mentor at ISI, who sent me to this conference with a scholarship, to the Second Level for the wonderful fellowship and learning opportunities, and most of all, to the Lord God who provided everything.



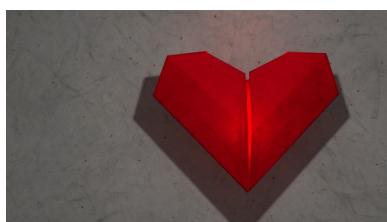
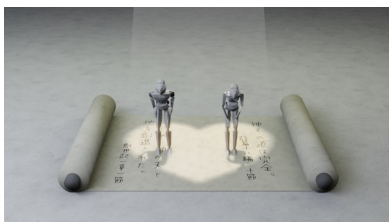
Hiyori Nishimura

## Animation for "First Level -The Path to Reunion"

Second Level Ministry is excited to announce that the First Level **ANIMATION** is up! "First Level: The Path to Reunion with God" features Gospel-centered stories consisting of 5 essential topics: "Who Is God? What Are Human Beings? What Is Sin? What is the Cross of Jesus? and What is Salvation?". Each topic has an inspiring animation that brings Gospel-centered spiritual discussion! (EVERYTHING is designed for Japanese people who are 'not yet believers'. Also, this is a tool for disciple makers.) It is most desirable that these resources are used with the guidance of a mentor/discipler. Watch the animation together, then go through the written contents by slowly discussing the essential aspects of the Gospel. Share your testimony along with each topic. Let's pray that God will bring their spiritual journey to the 'second level' discipleship stage!



[FirstLevel.org](http://FirstLevel.org)



# Staff Updates

## Meet our new board and staff!

### Bruce Brownlee (Board of Directors)

Bruce was born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1953 to Wally and Helen Brownlee, who served as Christian missionaries to Japan. He was raised in Hokkaido and Tokyo, Japan, until coming to the US to attend college. He graduated from UCLA and was engaged for 41 years in various businesses in Hawaii, Tokyo, Dallas, Texas, and Ann Arbor, Michigan. He became a committed follower of Jesus in 1977 and is continuing to grow more in love with Jesus while transforming into the likeness of Christ Himself. Bruce has been married to Suzy for 42 years. They have three grown children, two married, and eight grandchildren.



### Naoko Suzuki (Soul Care Assistant)

Naoko currently lives in Aichi, Japan. She was baptized in 2013 and serves her church as an evangelist and is also involved in pioneering work. She attended the 2018 Mentorship Conference in Osaka and has since been involved in the conference as a member of the planning committee. Through Soul Care of Second Level, she has received many spiritual insights and been encouraged in her faith. She also realizes the importance of aiming for healthy spirituality and Christian character development as a Christian.



### Rie Ishihara (Associate Staff)

When Rie was 20 years old, she met Jesus and was baptized in Hawaii while studying abroad. After living in Osaka and Hong Kong, she now lives in Thailand. She has a burden for those who leave the church after being baptized. She came across Second Level in 2016 while she was praying and (cont.)



seeking for a specific ministry. She was also working on recovering her self-image and taking care of the wounds from her parent's divorce. As she worked on restoring her self-image, she was able to receive God's great love. Through this experience, she was able to receive God's great love with openness and honesty. She wants to encourage and be there for those who are spiritually struggling so that they can face their own wounds and receive God's love. She has provided spiritual care as a mentor through Second Level these past several years. She graduated from JTJ Seminary in 2019. Currently she is attending River Worship School.

## Interested in Joining our Staff Team?

Our team is looking for men and women who can share our disciple making vision and serve together! Here are some of the desired roles:

### Discipleship Director:

Someone to promote and lead discipleship. Someone who is aligned with Second Level's vision, value, and relational approach. First language must be Japanese. Part-time or full-time. Support raised position.

### Event Coordinator:

We have both local events in Atlanta and global events such as conferences! We are looking for someone who is capable of leading a planning team. High skills for organization and communication are required. Part-time or full-time. Support raised position.

### Soul Care Workers:

Particularly counselors with disciple-making values. Male or female of any nationality and must have a heart for Japan. Both Japanese and non-Japanese are welcome.

### Graphic Designer and Social Media Communication:

Both roles are volunteer-based. We are looking for creative people who love communicating with the world!

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Partnership Updates

God provided 83% of the goal (\$40,440 = 20 years x year 2022). Thank you SO much for those who contributed! 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

Please send contributions to:  
dainidankai@secondlevel.org

Zelle Donations now accepted, learn more at [secondlevel.org/donate](https://secondlevel.org/donate)

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