



## 2020-2021 Winter Newsletter



Bob Ramsey  
Board of Directors

### Greetings from the Board of Directors

I hope and trust this greeting finds you safe and doing well during this time of great upheaval and insecurity. Many are struggling with various difficulties: be it health, work, school or family. If you are one of those suffering, I would encourage you to reach out to God who is rich in mercy and grace. During rough times, I find it very comforting to know that God knows what I'm going through and is not caught by surprise by anything, but is walking with me through the valley.

*"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:4-7 (ESV)*

God has poured out "the incomparable riches of his grace" upon us because he loves us, but also so that, through us, God might begin to show the world just how gracious He is. I would ask you to think about your key relationships – in your family, in your workplace, in your community, in your church. How, tangibly, can you live out the grace God has showered upon you? What can you do today to be gracious to others? If you do not yet have a relationship with Jesus Christ I would urge you to seek out someone whom you know to have such a relationship and ask them to show you how.

Blessings and peace.



Mayumi Pohl, Board of Directors/President

The 2020 Pandemic brought a time of confusion, loss, and grief. As we were forced to let go of our will in many different ways, you might have experienced various difficulties as well. We are constantly reminded that God is our refuge even in the time of uncertainty and fear.

Although we had to shift many of the ministry opportunities to an online format, the need of making disciples has never faded away. Thankfully, Second Level was already functioning well online before the pandemic started, therefore, more demand and opportunities were simply added. This season reaffirmed that the remote discipling is a vital approach in the current era, as well as meeting in person. However, we also need to remember that no matter what approach we utilize, the most important thing is that we follow His Great commission (Mat. 28:19-20). What a privilege that we, as God's children, are invited and called to serve for God's kingdom!

Our God is unchanging and so are His promises. They are completely trustworthy, and He deserves our whole heart. As we continue to serve to make disciples, we'd like to ask for your prayers: for us to be faithful to our Lord, to be good stewards for His resources, and to demonstrate unconditional love for those who are discipled and are carrying out the vision of disciple making. Thank you so much for your partnership. As Second Level Ministry, we sincerely desire to be a blessing to you. May His vision and desires become ours. May we all imitate Christ and follow His footsteps as we discern the Father's voice.

**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.**

# Soul Care



## Soul Care ソウルケア

Second Level carries out the vision of making disciples through four different dimensions: Discipling and Mentoring, Training, Soul Care, and Resources.

One of the biggest fruits of God's work in 2020 was the launch of our Soul Care program. Yumi Ikeda Morse (Director of the Soul Care Department) is heading our Soul Care program. She offers pastoral care and counseling for individuals and group trainings. There are

many people who are struggling spiritually and mentally. There are also those who are carrying new kinds of stress due to the pandemic. In addition to the private care, she offered a course about boundaries this fall. It is a crucial concept and skill for anyone to examine our God-given identity and healthy space in relationships with others.

The 10 weeks "Spiritual Care Training Course" is on the second round. This is a course to improve the skill of caring for one another's spirituality and learn various essential topics about spiritual care. This is useful not only for church leaders, but also for those who want to be trained to walk alongside others better. The participants also practice the approach of pastoral care while receiving guidance.

**Please check out the latest training schedules: <http://soulcare.secondlevel.org>**

(Applications for Individual soul care are open at any time.)



Soul Care Training with a special guest from Prepare Enrich (that is specialized in marriage counseling). We learned about communication in marriage and how to care for those who have difficulty in marriage.

### Feedback from the attendees:

*"I was able to learn not only the "good questions" that are useful in my daily conversations and counseling, but also how spiritual care is important in ministry."*

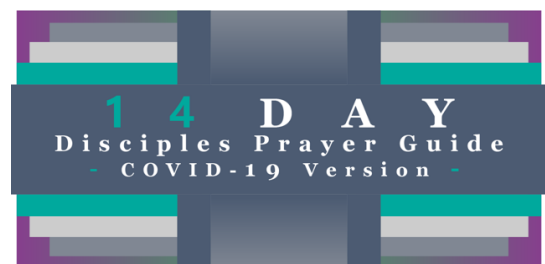
*"I am reminded of my own weaknesses that I need to take care of. It was also very helpful to hear about the experiences of other participants and of the leaders. Not only did I learn, but it was a GRACEFUL time for me. Thank you!"*

*"It was good to receive practical and specific training to help people in need of care. I was able to learn some approaches to consider people's emotions and the deeper needs of their lives."*

*"It was very beneficial for me to learn how to listen and care for others."*

## The 14 Day Disciples Prayer Guide - COVID-19 version

Prayer is our most powerful weapon against the trials that we face and an effective medicine against sickness. It is also the best way to communicate our hearts to God. We encourage you to make use of this prayer guide during the COVID-19 pandemic while passing it onto others to encourage them and help them find hope during this difficult season. With each new challenge that we face, we need to remember that God is in control of everything, even with this Coronavirus. Let's rest in God's sovereignty today while placing our complete faith and trust in Him.



Download it from here: English - <https://bit.ly/2zgHnDk> Japanese - <https://bit.ly/3pU922E>

## Pray for Japan Night



Join us as we lift the nation of Japan to God in communal prayer. We'll spend our time praying through a couple of spiritual and social topics as they affect Japan. There are a time for worship and networking. Please come as your able monthly every second Wednesday from 7 to 8pm (EST)/ 4 to 5pm (PST).

**Contact: [mattbarany@secondlevel.org](mailto:mattbarany@secondlevel.org)**



# Church Multiplication



In Atlanta(GA) area, Second Level have been serving at a church plant called JCCA (Japanese Christian Community in Atlanta).

JCCA exist to be a Gospel-Centered family committed to glorifying God by making disciples of Jesus and spreading God's Kingdom.

The JCCA logo shows a fully grown tree versus a branch with leaves. The tree is symbolic of the JCCA community growth process having grown, developed and matured over time from a seed, to a sprout and finally to a tree. The logo is visualized when a tree is fully grown, it releases seeds and therefore multiplication can happen, and other trees can form from those seeds. You can also notice that there are many leaves upon the tree. The leaves on the tree are symbolic of JCCA's many community gatherings.



JCCT (Japanese Christian Community in Tucker) got started in April this year. We went through a great study on Spiritual Discipleship (Kirisuto no Deshi toshite Ikiru) addressing topics such as Truth, Faith, Hope, the Glory of God and more. We recently started a new book called Becoming a True Worshiper. This is to help new Japanese believers grow in their relationship with Jesus and learn what it means to follow Christ. Utilizing the zoom, the group even reaches those who are not able to meet in person. These discipleship resources by Second Level Publication have been very helpful and effective for both new and long-time Christians.



JCCT - In-Person and Online



We are hoping to see more multiplication is happening soon! Please pray with us!

## What's coming in 2021?



ファーストレベル  
再会への道

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

### First Level: The Path to Re-Encounter

First Level features Gospel centered stories that consist of 5 essential topics:

- Who Is God?
- What Is a Human?
- What Is Sin?
- What is the Cross of Jesus?
- What is Salvation?

We have launched a new website that is focused on the First Level. The lessons are non-believer friendly and are also bilingual in both English and Japanese. These basic topics are dealt with in great consideration of Japanese non-believers' perspectives. More resources will be added to this website.

We consider First Level as a path to know God. Second Level follows a process of sanctification. Although Second Level Ministry's vision and mission are based on the sanctification part, we see the whole spiritual journey as a discipleship process. We all need to start from somewhere! God is certainly the Creator of our life and the Author of our salvation!

### Mentorship Conference 2021 - October 9, 11, 23

#### Theme: DISCOVER

It will be our first online conference, over the course of 3 days (including a national holiday in Japan). Under the theme of DISCOVER, we will seek to discover ourselves, God's call, and relationship with others.

Please pray that this will be a great opportunity to take God's calling to make disciples and receive training on mentoring as they become disciple makers.

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



# Meet Our New staff!

Despite the limitation that was caused by the pandemic, the Lord has blessed our ministries with new workers in 2020. Having more workers means more ministry opportunities and more people being reached out for the name of Christ! Please pray for these new faces to grow in Christ and serve well for God's kingdom!

## Jose and Miki Medina

### Japanese Community Outreach Coordinators (San Antonio, Texas)

Jose and Miki met in Tokyo, Japan in 2012. Jose was serving as a missionary with the International Mission Board (IMB). They both did ministry together and helped mission teams serving Japan, were active in a local church plant, and held Bible studies weekly. After getting married in 2015 Miki moved to San Antonio, Texas, where they both still felt a call to minister to Japanese. Jose and Miki are working together to reach Japanese in San Antonio with Second Level Ministry as Japanese Community Outreach Coordinators.



Jose and Miki Medina



Ethan and Becca Silveus

## Ethan and Becca Silveus, Disciple Maker and Mobilizer (Atlanta, GA)

Ethan and Becca met at Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana. God developed a deep love for ministry in both of their hearts. During their internship with Encompass World Partners, they served alongside Second Level and enjoyed ministering to Japanese students and participating in Japanese Christian Community in Atlanta. After graduating in 2019, Ethan and Becca were married and moved to Georgia. They hope to go one day to Japan to disciple and share the gospel through intentional relationships. Currently, Ethan is serving full time with Second Level as a Discippler and

## Madalyn Walters, Japanese Community Coordinator (Alpharetta, GA)

God first gave Madalyn a love for Japan in college, where she was involved in international student ministry for four years. Her love for Japan grew during this time by making Japanese friends. After graduating, she moved to Japan to teach English at a kindergarten. After this, she served with a church plant in Tokyo under Reliant for almost two years. During this time, she partnered with Second Level, welcoming the students who returned from US and now is excited to continue Japanese ministry stateside. She is passionate about multiplication and discipleship and has invested in Japanese people over the years by serving mothers, children, and college students through teaching English, Discovery Bible Studies, event planning, and other ministry activities.



Madalyn Walters



Masami White

## Masami White, Translator (Merrit Island, FL)

Masami encountered God when she was an elementary school student. She fell away from God, but she came back to Jesus in 2014. Through discipleship opportunities and encouragement from Second Level Ministry, she was able to be baptized in 2017. She wants to devote the rest of her life to God, thanking Him and living a life that responds to His love. She serves as a translator for Second Level.

**Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu! よろしくお願ひします!**

We appreciate your partnership!

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

### 1. Within Japan

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### 2. Within U.S.

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