



## Cecil & Debbie O'Dell

*JAPANESE MINISTRIES OF GREATER L.A.  
Serving with the Church Planting Network  
of Encompass World Partners in  
Long Beach, California*

### OUR STORY

Both Debbie and I were raised in Christ-centered homes and trusted Jesus as our Savior at the age of eight. Debbie's parents frequently hosted missionaries in their home and through the influence of their stories, Debbie wanted to become a missionary when she grew up. During my 4 year tour of duty in Germany with the U.S. Air Force I was involved with the Navigators' Serviceman's ministry. I attended the Navigators' International Congress on Disciple Making in Essen, Germany just before returning to the U.S. It was at this international gathering that I learned about the great spiritual need in Asia—what we call the "10/40 Window" today.

I returned to the U.S. in 1977 and began attending the Long Beach Grace Brethren Church where Debbie and I met. She graduated from Biola University with a BS in nursing; I completed my TH.B. in Biblical Studies and M.A. in Missions and Asian Studies at Grace Graduate School and Bible Institute. In 1980, I was invited to join the pastoral staff at the Long Beach Grace Brethren Church to develop a ministry to International Students which God used to point us to the least reached people of Japan, where only 0.05% claim to follow Jesus.

In August of 1984 we were sent to open a new church planting network in Japan. In 2001, Encompass World Partners envisioned a new window of opportunity to reach a large number of Japanese who were working and studying outside the cultural pressures of their homeland. This lead us to being strategically reassigned in Southern California with the goal of making disciples among Japanese Returnees and equipping them to partner with disciple making and church planting ministries when they returned to Japan. *You can learn more about how God is using our gifts in this work on the other side.*

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At Encompass World Partners, we seek out and use innovative means to share Christ with those who have not heard, gather new believers into community, and train leaders so an indigenous church planting movement will flourish. We're also committed to showing His love to those in need through crisis response, integrated medical care, and sustainable community development.

This work happens through the collaboration of five global networks serving 228 people groups in 34 countries.



## THE O'DELL FAMILY

We have been married for 35 years and have 3 adult children who love Jesus and, by God's grace, seek to live their lives for him. Debbie has returned to her love for nursing at a local hospital.

Chris lives in Southern California and works while also serving in several men's ministries.

Andrew lives in Ohio with his wife Robin and our grandson Brennan. They serve in their local church.

Heidi currently lives with us and works in a local hospital as a nurse.

## HOW WE'RE SERVING

Encompass World Partners' Japanese Ministries of Greater L.A. focuses on evangelism, disciple making, church planting, and leadership training among speakers of Japanese and Japanese Returnees who are temporarily working and studying in the Long Beach area. As Team Leader, I coach our team of Japanese and American workers as they make fruitful Japanese disciples of Christ.

Join us as we help churches around the world share Christ and make fruitful disciples.

## PRAY

For wisdom and insight as I serve and lead our team to be fruitful disciple makers and church planters.

For strong and vibrant partnerships with missionaries and Japanese Christians who can follow up with new Returnee believers going back to Japan.

For the Japanese Church in Long Beach to be fruitful in reaching both Japanese Returnees and Japanese living here long term.

## GIVE

[encompassworldpartners.org/odell](http://encompassworldpartners.org/odell)

## CONNECT

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