

# Meanwhile, in Japan...



みなさん、こんにちは!

Hello, everyone! It's been an eventful first month here in Uruma, Okinawa. Here are some highlights of what I've been up to:

## Getting Settled

Over the past month, I've gotten to meet the members of the Sound of Praise Church, where I'm staying. Partially due to the U.S. Military presence here, Sound of Praise has a multicultural congregation, with several people from the United States, but also some from the Philippines and even the United Kingdom! Sundays are filled with activity, with an international service (being in both English and Japanese), Japanese service, and a time of fellowship afterwards. This time of fellowship is actually my favorite part of the day: getting to meet the saints and talk with them has been so refreshing. Several of them are bilingual and have kindly translated for me so that I'm never left out of the conversation. I've grown to love chatting with the elderly ladies especially!

One main project I've been responsible for is recording video testimonies that will be uploaded to the Sound of Praise website, as well as designing small cards that contain a QR code that the participant can hand out. The hope is to provide a simple means of outreach that people can share with others they come in contact with. We've had a few volunteer so far and look forward to more willing to share how God has been working in their life!



## Getting Around

I've been blessed to rent my own car while here! This has been so nice for running errands and also opening up more of the island to me. Already I've been able to visit one of the castle ruins nearby the church and learn a little bit of history about the area. Besides this, I was invited to join a group from both Sound of Praise and the Nago church up north for a chance to see the early cherry blossoms! Sadly we were too early and hardly any blossoms were ready to bloom, but getting to chat and make new friends was a treat!

I've gotten the chance to meet the youth group and go along with them on various outings almost every week. We had an evening youth service on January 25th, and there was a powerful move of God's Spirit during worship and altar call. At the end all the adults prayed for each member of the youth group and their future, as these are pivotal years in their life with many important decisions to make.



## Closing Thoughts and Prayer Requests

To sum up my experience this past month, I've been in a constant state of learning—learning the culture and how church is done here; learning how to live (and drive!) in Okinawa; and, learning more about the people I get to interact with throughout the week. It's been eye-opening because you never know what darkness God has saved His people from. It stirs me to keep praying, keep witnessing, and keep letting people know about the same hope that they can have for their own life.

And you can help! Please partner with us in praying for these needs:

- For the Sound of Praise youth group, that they would continue to grow in their relationship with God and seek His guidance for their lives.
- For the upcoming Bible school beginning in February, especially that leaders would be trained to further the Gospel here in Japan.

There's several things to look forward to in February, like helping out with Sunday school, Potluck Sunday, and continuing to work on our video testimonial project. So, stay tuned for an update next month! Thank you so much for reading!

Until next time! またね!





Katsuren Castle  
(or rather, what's left of it)



Having fun with the Nago group before cherry blossoms!



Traditional clothing at the Oceanic Culture Museum!

# Bonus pics!



Youth trip to a fishing pond park (we could catch piranha!)



Speaking during the youth service with Sis. Higa translating