

Meanwhile, in Japan...



みなさん、こんにちは!

Hello, everyone! All too soon, my second month has come and gone here in Uruma, Okinawa. Here's a brief recap of what happened in February:

Fellowship, Sunday School & Project Updates

February sure was eventful! Many times were spent in fellowship with the saints at Sound of Praise, from Potluck Sunday to hiking up Okinawa Prefectural Forest with the youth group to a day out with several ladies looking for the last bit of cherry blossoms up north in Nago, Okinawa. I've really enjoyed making new friends here!



This past month, I also had the chance to help out with Sunday school twice, which was a lot of fun! One lesson taught about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and how we can trust God to deliver us out of impossible situations. The next lesson taught about God delivering the Israelites out of Egypt, and the kiddos had a chance to walk through a makeshift Red Sea crossing as their teacher told the story in both English and Japanese.

Several more volunteered to share their stories for the video testimonial project, which has already been a blessing. The first of the postcards have also been professionally printed, and I was super excited to see it in person before I left! The satisfaction of seeing something transition from my computer screen into the physical world never gets old and reminds me why I enjoy graphic design. I'm so thankful for an opportunity to use what I've learned in school to help out the Kingdom in some way.

Praise Reports

The last part of the month saw both a baptism and one filled with the Holy Ghost! What I find especially awesome about these two people is the fact that they came to church because someone showed them God's love through their friendship. The man who was baptized had been coming to a weekly Bible study at the invitation of his co-worker who attends Sound of Praise. The woman who received the Holy Ghost became friends recently with one of the ladies at the church, and seeing the woman's joy to come to church for the first time that day was precious. And it's all because they had a friend who was faithful in caring about them, praying for them, and teaching them about God and His salvation.



Personally, it's a lesson to me that witnessing isn't as complicated as one might think: it really can be as simple as being a good neighbor, giving them an opportunity to experience God's love through a real friendship. You never know how God will use you to make a difference to the people He puts in your path. So, smile and say hi! :)

Closing Thoughts and Prayer Requests

February has been a month of building friendships and getting to witness God moving in several people's lives. I will treasure the moments I was blessed to spend with my new friends and fellow workers. Though this trip has come to an end, prayer can still continue. Please partner with us in praying especially for these needs:

- The upcoming Southern Region General Conference in April.
- The very first Youth Camp retreat for the JUPC in May, for the SOP youth group attending to have safe travels and grow deeper in their relationship with God.
- For Bro. and Sis. Hosmer while they're on deputation in the United States beginning in April, and for everyone at Sound of Praise during this transition.

It has been a blessing to be able to come back and get to know the wonderful people at Sound of Praise. Thank you to everyone who has kept me in their prayers and for checking up on me during my time here. God is moving in Okinawa, and it will be exciting to hear what will happen in the future. Thank you so much for reading!

Until next time! またね!





Okinawa Prefectural Forest (exhausting but beautiful hike)

Bonus pics!



Lighthouse at Cape Zanpa (99 steps high!)



Impromptu stop at a random pineapple smoothie place



My last Sunday (for now) with the sweetest Japanese ladies you'll ever meet <3