

Collin Angell

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### Okinawa AIM Monthly Report – Month 1

I arrived in mainland Japan June 18<sup>th</sup> after a long day and a half of travelling. Bro. Hosmer took me and Paige on a sightseeing expedition through mainland Japan until that following Sunday, which was exhausting yet incredible.

Since we've been in Okinawa, we've been doing daily devotions Monday through Friday, a few of which I have taught. For one devotion, I had to speak with Sis. Hosmer as my interpreter, which was a challenging and interesting experience. I had to learn how to channel my thoughts through a filter that was understandable to a non-native English speaker, in addition to the regular filter I place on myself to help other people understand my thoughts. I believe it was thanks to a friend's suggestion to pray beforehand that God helped stabilize my thoughts and get my message across. I learned a lot from that experience.

In addition to the devotions, I and a few others, including my fellow AIMer Paige, dedicate about one to two hours a day to studying Japanese. Apparently, according to the Hosmers, it's peculiar for AIMers to express as much interest as Paige and I have in learning the language, so they want to take advantage of that. In fact, Bro. Hosmer wants me to help him start compiling a list of vocabulary words that are relevant to missionary work in order to have another resource for any future AIMers.

My main purpose for being here has been teaching piano. I've been playing piano for 10 years, and with the help of many great teachers, I have accumulated a relatively deep knowledge and understanding of playing piano for church music. So, I have been teaching eager students here of multiple skill levels; some starting from square one and some seeking to take their game

to the next level. It's been a joy and privilege to teach possibly my favorite thing to do in church. I have also been giving the resident piano player a break by substituting for him in church services.

All in all, it's been a fantastic experience for my first month here at Sound of Praise Church in Okinawa, Japan. I look forward to the second month with anticipation.