

HURRICANE HAPPENINGS



Momo Katayama

I want to introduce you to my friend Momo from Japan. She is the daughter of Sachiko Katayama, a dear friend of mine who was in my English Bible Study class for about 10 years. Sachiko was already a believer in Christ when she attended my class. She was very faithful, teachable, and she helped me explain the Bible in Japanese when others in the class had questions or difficulties in English. She could explain it to them in Japanese!

Momo came to Orlando to be part of a homestay program that brings Japanese students to Orlando for a month long program. Momo was

here staying with another family, attending English and Bible classes in the mornings, and then going sightseeing and to theme parks and other adventures during the afternoons. After that month, she came to stay with our family for 10 more days. Little did we know when we made the plans that her days with us would coincide with Hurricane Irma!

Her first 2 days were filled with fun with the American Christian college students she met during the homestay program. But then they all got busy with their own preparations for the hurricane and she was stuck at home with us! I was busy shopping for water, food supplies, doing laundry and cleaning in case I couldn't do it during or after the storm. Steve was out lining up for sandbags and putting up plywood on a couple of windows with the help of Josh and our son-in-law Ben. Momo helped out where she could, did some homework, and showed me how she was reading through the Bible. She told me that her name Momo which by the sound means "peach" was taken from Gal 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit. Momo joined us for prayer and Bible reading, following along in her Japanese Bible, before going to bed.

During the 2 days when the storm hit, the water came into her room soaking the carpet near the wall, and then the electricity went out, Momo kept a positive attitude. We set up



Hurricane Irma struck all of Florida; our nearby creek rose 4 feet, but our house stood firm, praise God!

a “Hurricane Party” with games and movies, until we lost power. We had a good time together and were so thankful that God took care of us during the storm! We also got to celebrate Momo’s 19th birthday with her! We were thankful that our power came back on after 2 days.

I was most encouraged to see the faithfulness of God through Sachiko who raised her daughter to have such strong faith in Jesus! I remember that one book we studied together was on Parenting. It was so rewarding to me to see the fruit of my labors in the life of Sachiko and Momo! All glory to God!



The Cru HQ, like many parts of Florida sustained a little water damage and many downed trees and debris, and was temporarily without power, but was back in business 2 days after the storm blew through.



Alan Eric and JJ are becoming full time staff!

We continue God’s work of recruiting and preparing new staff for assignments all over the world. We praise God for the 200 new staff this summer and the nearly 100 currently in training here this week. Steve also helped debrief 3 of the international interns who are joining staff that just returned from South Asia, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic.



200 new staff members joined this summer!

Thank you for all your prayers for me, Steve, and our family during our 23 years in Japan and our 10 years in Florida. Many of you have been with us as prayer and financial partners for all these years. Thank you! We couldn’t do anything for the Lord without your support, encouragement, and prayers!

*Love in Jesus,
Rochelle, Steve and Josh*