## Merriest CHRISTM 18!



## **Clark Family News 2017**

Dear Friend,

A very merry Christmas to you and Happy New Year 2018! It's been an eventful year for us and the real highlights were the birth of our first grandchild, little Erin Stefanie Clark to Andy and Ryoko in March, and the wonderful wedding of Ben Clark and Quinn Yanaga in June.

Ryoko went home to her family to have the baby in Japan.

Andy flew over to be there for the birth and then flew back again to Japan to help Ryoko and Erin fly home in late May. We got to see Erin in June when we went to California. She is so cute! Now that it is December she has grown so much and looks to become tall like her dad. She's pulling herself up and standing, crawling up stairs and checking everything out. We're delighted by all the pictures and videos her mom sends along. Ryoko is a great mom and photographer. Andy is a great dad and has a lot of fun with Erin. We can't wait to see them all again! Ben and Quinn's wedding was a wonderful time in Newport, CA! Many family and friends were able to celebrate with them, including several friends from Ben's school in Japan! It was a beautiful ceremony and it was fun to share in their happiness. Ben and Quinn are on staff with Cru and serving at Cal State Fullerton and Whittier College. We were thrilled that they were able to come here to Orlando for Christmas and we loved our time together! We expected to go to the Cru Staff Conference this summer, but instead Steve had surgery scheduled just before it started. The surgery to remove a pituitary gland tumor (benign, thankfully) went well and thanks to everyone's prayers Steve had a good, quick recovery. The vision effects have begun clearing up, and the hormones have been getting back to normal as well. Praise God! We did get to watch the main messages from the Staff Conference while

Steve recuperated, and it was quite encouraging. Rochelle continues to enjoy coaching new staff and helping them through their transitions to being full time staff with Cru. She had a great year helping the Cru Middle School and now Cru High School weekly meetings at Josh's schools. Josh is a freshman and joined the Timber Creek High School Marching Band. We have become crazy "band parents" and have enjoyed helping out, watching the football games, and seeing the band competitions. Steve continues to serve the US Cru staff needs with the Sending and Recruiting team at Cru headquarters. We're glad that Melissa and Ben Smith are nearby here in Orlando and we get to see them often. Melissa loves being a 2nd grade teacher and Ben was accepted in a leadership program with Lockheed Martin which involves him getting his Master's Degree at Rollins College.

Rochelle's mom is also close by in a memory care facility, and we are pleased with their service and the activities they provide for her.

We're so thankful to the Lord for these many blessings! Thank you so much for your love and prayers this past year. We're looking forward to more growth and seeing more of God's work in and through us helping build His Kingdom. Joy to the world! The King is coming! May you experience more of His grace and blessings throughout the new year.



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