

Unification Church Survive Hurricane Sandy Storm

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The roof of the mainenance shop at the Ocean Church marina was torn off by 80 mph winds.

Unification Church President Hyung Jin Moon has made this statement today:

“Dear brothers and sisters! Hope you all are high and dry, safe and sound. Although Yeonah Nim and I see no hurricane damage here in the Southwest where we are traveling, the churches on the East Coast are in our thoughts and prayers every day. We give thanks to Heavenly Father that a deadly storm has not harmed brothers and sisters whose residences were in harm's way.

We are a family, and our behavior during the storm shows it. I am encouraged by the reports of how Blessed Central Families have opened their homes to brothers and sisters forced to evacuate. Scores of church families in New Jersey and in New York today have no electricity or running water. But True Father has trained us to deal with such a time as this. Let us show the world the heart of service that True Parents have nurtured in us from the beginning. Let's take this opportunity to show what it means to 'live for the sake of others.' I look forward to seeing you all soon.”



Nine Counties in New Jersey are in the federal disaster zone, including the town of Little Ferry, where some boats at the marina floated away from their trailers.

With millions of New Yorkers and New Jersey residents without power in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, many families are taking shelter with relatives or church families, or at churches after a forced evacuation from New York and New Jersey shore towns.

Rev. Hirofumi Sakamoto, his wife and five children are making their temporary home in the Clifton, New Jersey church. “Fortunately, there was no damage to our house near the Pompton River, which is in the flood plain,” he us. Rev. Sakamoto has suffered flood damage to his home during hurricane Irene, so this time he and Mrs. Sakamoto packed up everything they could and stowed them in a storage locker before the storm hit.

Dr. Anne Iparraguirre, district pastor for New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, reports that “cities of Little Ferry, Moonachie and Carlstadt were evacuated due to flash flooding when a dam broke.” She adds: “I have been on the phone with several families affected. We have about 30-40 families in that area. According to what I heard, most of them sheltered with friends or at a Red Cross shelter set up at the local school. The city pastor, Manoj Jacob, and members of the ministry team, Carol Pobanz and Oliver Noll are meeting today to organize clean up crews and other supports for the families in need. The shock of losing everything in a flood can be traumatic so we will be putting supports in place for that too.”



Terry McMahon, a church leader in New Jersey, reports that “Little Ferry was probably hit the hardest in our northern NJ area. Although we had recorded wind gusts from 70-80 mph, the real damage was caused by the storm surge. At midnight the Hackensack River overflowed its banks in Little Ferry. Most of the city was flooded and without power. Our Ocean Church marina was flooded with three feet of water. Some of the boats floated off their trailers. The entire roof was blown off of the maintenance shop. The water rose inside the office building to within one inch of damaging many historical photo albums of Ocean Church and Rev. Moon’s fishing.”

According to some initial reports, flood damage to Bridgeport International Academy (BIA) near Bridgeport University may go as high as \$500,000. The residential academy has made repairs to floors, heating and electricity infrastructure after Hurricane Irene, but those repairs will have to be redone now.



Car batteries at the Doroski house power some lights.

Hundreds of Unificationist families are counting themselves as lucky for simply losing electricity. In Irvington, New York many families without power are using flashlights and candles. In fact, the sacramental, “holy candles” are coming in handy, say some church members practicing their survival skills. Nonetheless, religious life goes on, at least in the household of Eric Holt, the comptroller for HSA-UWC, who says that he reads his Hoon Dok materials from his iPad, whereas his Japanese spouse and son read True Mother’s speech in the Japanese version by candlelight in their Irvington home.

Rev. Bruce Grodner, the district pastor for New York state, reported that “New York especially the coastal areas took a tremendous hit from the record high tides and waves that travelled beyond the beaches over the boardwalk and blocks away in Coney Island.. One Blessed Family living three blocks from the ocean in Coney Island had three feet of water in their house during high tide. However, the destruction of properties closer to the water also was severe.”



Doroski family serves hurricane luncheon at their home in Greenport, Long Island in New York state. From left: Nanette Doroski, Landon Doroski, Kailani, Shannah Van Geldern, Simone Doroski Miyazaki, Seiya Miyazaki, Rachel Curry Doroski, and Sebastian Doroski.

John and Nanette Doroski, and their children and spouses are weathering the storm at their home in Greenport, on the tip of Long Island with survivalist panache. The family expects to be without electricity for at least a week, but they were prepared. Mr. Doroski says he had already stored a month’s supply of food before the storm hit. He is powering some interior lights using car batteries and a gasoline-powered electric generator. Nanette Doroski cooked dozens of eggs and large batches of rice beforehand, and she’s making use of a propane-gas grill on her outdoor deck.