



October 2017

The Kooistra Keepsake

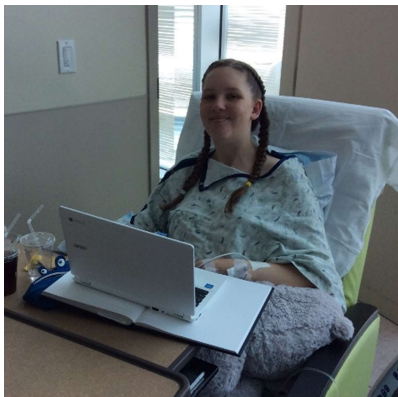
HCJB Ecuador; Casilla 17-17-691; Quito, Ecuador

Home Ministry Assignment

We had a good time meeting with our churches and supporters this summer. It was exciting to share our ministry with so many of you in person. It ended up being a very crazy time. We thought the hardest part would be saying good-bye to Jacob as he begins college in the States and it was hard, but we also found out that Emma needed surgery and would not be able to return to Ecuador as planned. So, we readjusted our schedules, changed our airline tickets, and tried to finish our time of Home Ministry Assignment.

An Unexpected Surgery

Emma had surgery at the end of August to correct the curve in her spine from scoliosis. We had been taking her to a specialist in Grand Rapids, Michigan for the past several years. She wore a brace for a while and unfortunately, the curve still got worse, but not bad enough for surgery. When we saw the specialist, this summer, for a regular check-up, the curve had increased dramatically and was now past the point of needing surgery.



Emma at the Hospital

Emma had the surgery at the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan and it went very well. Tammy and Emma stayed in Michigan for six weeks until

Emma had recovered enough to travel back to Ecuador.

We have seen God's leading throughout this difficult time. Emma wanted to do on-line school for her senior year and we had just signed her up for classes when we learned about the surgery. It would have been impossible for her to miss six weeks of school in Ecuador (under the Ecuadorian Ministry of Education missing that much school is an automatic repeat of the year). So, we saw God leading us in that decision before we even knew it was a necessity. We have also felt uplifted by the prayers and visits from many of you.

Please pray for Emma's continued healing, it will take 6 months her to fully recover. Also, pray for us as we deal with insurance; the bills are beginning to trickle in, but it will still be several months until everything is figured out. And pray for our family as we recover from having Jacob leave for college, Emma go through a major surgery, and being separated since then so Sara could begin school in Ecuador.

Jacob Starts at Calvin College

Jacob started classes at Calvin College this fall. He loves the independence of dorm life and is enjoying his classes so far. He has an on-campus job and is beginning to make friends.

Sara in Middle School



Sara is in 7th grade and that is the beginning of Middle School. She loves being with the older kids and has really grown and matured in the last few months. She will be helping with the High School play by working back stage.

October Activities at HCJB

The Ecuador Mission's Conference we talked about in our last letter just happened. On October 13 and 14 HCJB helped to host a mission's conference for Ecuadorian missionaries who work in other countries and cultures and for church leaders. The theme of the conference was "Unity in Missions" and

we worked together with lots of churches and mission agencies. We had around 300 people attend for the weekend. It was an amazing time of people coming together from different backgrounds and learning about missions. In the last session, dozens of people came forward to answer the call to missions.



Geoff with other volunteers at the Missions Conference

Another October activity is a new Ecuadorian Christian movie that HCJB has been a part of. The movie is titled "Tal Vez Mañana" (Maybe Tomorrow) and will be coming out in theaters all around Ecuador on October 20. It is a fictional story of a man who just got out of jail and is trying to get back on his feet. We hope many people will go to see the movie and benefit from the Christian message. Geoff and Sara got the chance to be extras on the movie set one day and two scenes they are in made the final cut.

Thanks for being a part of our ministry and keeping us in your prayers.



Geoff & Tammy



Response Card for Geoff & Tammy Kooistra's Ministry with Reach Beyond

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