



May 2020

# The Kooistra Keepsake

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

## Home Ministry Assignment

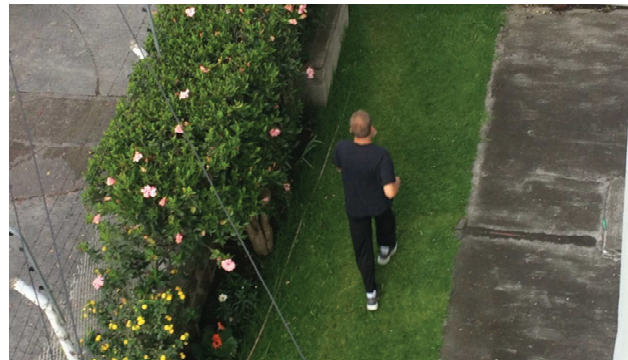
This summer, we had planned a time of Home Ministry Assignment to meet with churches and supporters. Since churches are not meeting in person (and we like to hand out chocolates), we will be extending our time in the USA. Sara is signed up to go to The Potters House high school for 10th grade. We plan to return to Ecuador at the end of first semester, around December 20.

Because of the pandemic, all plans for travel are tentative. We were able to return to the US on a repatriation flight on May 19 and arrived in Michigan on May 21. Sara will continue to study online, and Geoff will continue to do part of his job while we are on Home Ministry Assignment. Now that most meetings are on Zoom, that is easier.

## Restrictions in Ecuador

As the pandemic restrictions begin to lift across the world, we wanted to let you know what it has been like for us in Ecuador. Ecuador has been on lockdown since March 17, which means people are only allowed to leave their houses to buy groceries, medicine or go to the hospital, and strictly speaking only those between 18 to 65 years old.

There is a nationwide curfew from 2pm to 5am every day. We can only drive our car one day per week and there is no public transportation. It is tough to get enough exercise when we are confined to our apartment, so we got creative and walked/ran around our building or on the roof. Sara and Geoff have been working from home, but Geoff could run across the street to the radio station about once a day for things that need to be done in person.



*Geoff running outside our apartment*

## HCJB

Radio is reaching more people than ever during this time, and our message is “Live with Hope”. The programs have changed a bit, with most of the producers (on air voices) working from home and calling in over ZOOM when they are on-air. Geoff and the other engineers were busy the first two weeks of lockdown getting all the technical details worked out, now things are running smoothly.



*Troubleshooting in the studio*

The major portion of income for HCJB comes from donations by listeners in Ecuador. The Ecuadorian economy was not doing well before the lockdown and now things are worse. We have Ecuadorian friends that had to close their restaurant permanently and others that are self-employed have not had income for over two months. So far income for HCJB is 95% of what it was in 2019, but we are monitoring closely each month, and have come up with contingency plans if our income drops too low.

## Distributing Food

Geoff was able to help twice a week at a local ministry that is handing out food to some of the most vulnerable. Normally the ministry, Pan de Vida, works with the poor to provide food, education, and job training. During the pandemic, they are focused on feeding as many people as they can.



*Pan de Vida Volunteers*

It has been good to be back in Michigan and be with Jacob and Emma. Jacob is hoping to be able to move back to his apartment at Calvin University this summer and resume work. Emma will try to find a summer job close to Allendale, Michigan.



*Part of the line for the supermarket*

## Reach Beyond's New President

Some of you received a communication from Reach Beyond about the future of the ministry and the new president Daniel Enns. We know Daniel and think that he can be a good help to Reach Beyond as they face a financial crisis. Our plans are to continue working with HCJB Ecuador and thank you to all who make that possible with your gifts and prayers.

*Geoff & Tammy*



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

Donate Online: <http://bit.ly/ReachBeyond-Kooistra> By Phone: (719)590-9800  
By Check: Reach Beyond; PO Box 39800; Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9800 Acct# 110436

