



December 2017

The Kooistra Keepsake

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

Merry Christmas

Christmas lights are appearing around the city and mangoes are for sale on the street ten for a dollar. That is how we know it is getting to be Christmas time here in Ecuador. The weather is nice, with no hint of snow, but we have our Christmas music playing and are getting ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. We hope that all of you have a great holiday time and we thank you for partnering with us to share the love of Jesus with many people.

End of the Year Activities

- As always in December, we have our yearly share-a-thon at HCJB and an open house for many listeners to come and visit. We are hoping to have a full house in Quito and in Guayaquil and to raise around \$550,000 in total to fund next year's local ministry.



- HCJB will have special Christmas broadcasts leading up to the holiday and especially on Christmas Eve. It is a time of year when people are looking for community and many people have a hard time, especially if they have lost loved ones.
- We had a Thanksgiving celebration at our house with some of our Ecuadorian friends.

They do not celebrate Thanksgiving here, so we invited them over on a Sunday night. Our friends enjoy getting together, giving thanks, and having good food to eat.

- Jacob will come to visit over his Christmas break. We are looking forward to seeing him again and he is looking forward to visiting home. He loves college and is doing well. It will be nice to have him here for just over a week.
- We plan to have a Christmas day celebration at our house with various missionary friends. Since we are all away from family it has become tradition to invite lots of others over and enjoy the day together.
- On New Year's Eve, we will likely go somewhere to watch the fireworks over the city. Quito is quite festive on New Year's Eve, with old men (made from clothing stuffed with sawdust) being burned in the street to celebrate the end of the old and the beginning of the new. Fireworks are also a big part of the celebration and at midnight the whole sky is alight with them.

Lighting a Hot Oven

Just a few days ago, in the middle of baking Christmas cookies, the gas to our oven ran out. This happens about once every two months and sometimes it is in the middle of baking. We attempted to connect a new canister before the oven pilot light went out, but were unsuccessful, so Geoff got to reach back with a match, below the hot oven, to relight the pilot. Then our baking could continue. No burns were sustained, and nothing blew up. Actually, we have become rather practiced at this sort of thing, but we thought that is not common for others.



Car Fund

In June we sold our 2003 model car to a family from church. We are hoping to buy a small, new car to replace it in the new year. If

you would like to donate to our vehicle fund, please do so with the form on the bottom of this letter and designate that it is for a new car.

The few months we have not had a car have been good and we get some more exercise but also have been limited in some of our activities.

Emma's Recovery



Emma is recovering very well from her surgery at the end of August. Her back is hurting less than before the surgery! And she is all caught up on her school work after missing almost six weeks of school.



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 Acct# 110436
By Check: Reach Beyond; PO Box 39800; Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9800 Acct# 110436

