November 2026

The Kooistra Keepsake

International travel

Geoff and Emma are heading to Ecuador this November. We are excited to participate in a few special events with HCJB and to be in Ecuador again with friends.

Shared Mission

Geoff's main reason for visiting HCJB is the annual Shared Mission. This is HCJB's pledge drive, and it includes a lot of extra activities as well. Thousands of people come to visit over the weekend, and our radio producers prepare lots of special content on the air. In the parking lot, we set up a tent with special activities for kids; this year we are adding an interactive museum. It is always a festive atmosphere that people look forward to.



Geoff participating in Kichwa last year

Geoff will get to help with fun things like our on-air Kichwa programming starting at 4am, receiving donations, and balancing cash boxes throughout the day. Emma will help with food preparation for approximately 100 volunteers who are involved in various ways.

Fall Fun

Tammy and Emma got together with Tammy's mom at the end of October for an applesauce making day. They enjoyed time together and now, as a bonus, we have lots of applesauce to eat!



Tammy making applesauce

Home Ministry

During the month of October, we visited various churches, had an open house, and got together with people during a Home Ministry Assignment. Geoff even got to preach in English and Spanish.

Since we live in the USA, it is different having a Home Ministry Assignment. We don't travel or get a break from our normal routine, but we wanted to set aside some time to reconnect and refocus, so that we could concentrate on visiting and sharing.

When preparing the sermon, Geoff was led to the passage where Jesus tells his followers to take up their cross and follow Him. The commands He gives are very challenging and we need to surrender ourselves to Him; a daily challenge!

As missionaries, we continue to experience surrender. We moved back to the USA about seven years ago and had to readjust to American culture. Experiencing those adjustments and making various trips to and from Ecuador requires us to hold plans loosely. It can be hard to let go of things and God continues to teach us.

HCJB 95th Anniversary Choir

At the end of November, HCJB will celebrate 95 years of ministry with special concerts put on by the Vozandes Choir. Once every few years the choir performs songs in one of Quito's theaters celebrating both the founding of the city of Quito (December 6) and Christmas.

This year Geoff and Emma will be present to experience the event and help with receiving guests as they enter. We will need to dress up for the occasion.



Flyer for HCJB's 95th Anniversary Choir

Couples' Study

For the last few years, we have been part of a couples' study with two other couples from our church. It has been wonderful to get to know them better over time, and be able to share more of our lives, and how God is working with us.

We started studying a book called "How We Love" a few months ago. It has challenged us to look at ways that we get stuck in patterns of not loving and misinterpreting how people close to us react. We are learning key differences in styles of responding to others and, we hope, are becoming more aware of how to better connect with others who are close to us.

Family

We appreciate having Jacob, Emma, and Sara close by and are excited to spend the holidays together soon!

Thank you for being part of our ministry. May God bless you.

Geoff & Tammy

hcjb

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