# March 2022 The Kooistra Keepsake

## Trips to Ecuador

Geoff will be in Ecuador from March 13-26. Please pray that he will have safe travels and be able to meet with lots of his co-workers. COVID continues to have a greater impact in Ecuador than here in the USA and there are many restrictions still in place there. Also pray for Tammy as she begins track practice and works to keep things on "track" here at home.

In December, Geoff took a trip to Ecuador to help with the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations for HCJB Ecuador and Reach Beyond. He also helped with the share-a-thons at HCJB in Quito and HCJB2 in Guayaquil.



HCJB2 crew in Guayaquil, Ecuador

It was exciting to be with lots of people and to meet new people at all the events. At the anniversary we heard from Quito city officials giving thanks to God for the gospel message that HCJB has been part of sharing in Ecuador. It is amazing the impact that HCJB has had. At the share-a-thons, our audiences told us how God has worked in their lives, as we met many of them in person at the events or heard from them by text or phone.

# New building project



Groundbreaking

On November 30, 2021, we held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new building project. HCJB needs to move off our current location in Quito, where we have been for almost 80 years, and build a new office and studio building. The project is daunting, and something none of us has done before.

Now we are waiting for final approvals from the city to get the project started. Geoff has been involved in figuring out cabling needs for studios and our server rooms, and a little bit with the acoustical engineer too. Our hope is that the project will be finished in mid-2023. We have had a few delays, the latest being a partial redesign because the price of building materials went up sharply.

### Tammy

Now that we are living in the USA, my former role with helping at HCJB is no longer possible, so I am ministering in other ways. Each weekday I serve lunch to the kids at Byron Center Christian, and I am one of the track coaches at Potters House High School. I especially enjoy coaching. It is fun to pour into the kids' lives, and so rewarding to see them work hard and improve.

#### Ministry Resilience

Over the last few months, Geoff has been preparing (in Spanish) and teaching studies of the topics we learned about at Alongside last July. These studies are with the group of managers at HCJB Ecuador, and it has been enriching to learn together about ministry resilience and to get to know each other a lot better too; sharing our challenges at work, at home and in ministry.

We meet on Zoom every Monday and there is always homework to do as well. We have been working together as a management team for many years now, so it is fun to dig a bit deeper with everyone. There may be a chance to study the same material with other HCJB employees in the future as well.

# Our family

Jacob now has his driver's license and Sara has her permit, hoping to get her license this summer. They both enjoy driving. Emma plans to graduate from Michigan Tech at the end of April and is searching for a job and thinking about future plans.



Emma, Sara, Geoff, Tammy, Jacob

In two weeks, track season will start, and Sara is excited about running again. Over the winter she was able to do some running, and so she hopes to start the season well.

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