



November 2024

# The Kooistra Keepsake

## Trip to Ecuador

November 21 to December 4, Geoff is going to Ecuador. He will take part in the Quito Day concerts and Mision Compartida, HCJB Ecuador's annual share-a-thon. Emma is going along, and she will work remotely for her job and help with Mision Compartida. Tammy is staying home and working at Jenison Jr High.

## Power cuts in Ecuador

Right now, Ecuador is in the middle of the worst drought they have experienced in 61 years. Since most of the country's power comes from hydro plants, the lack of water is creating lots of problems. There is not enough power for everyone, so there are rolling blackouts- a schedule where each section of the country has 8-12 hours of no electricity. It is hard for people to get things done at home and even harder for businesses, so the economy is really struggling.

Friends of ours tell us about some of the difficulties, including spotty internet, cell service disruptions (the cell towers have about 2 hours of battery backup), not being able to cook, not being able to open the refrigerator without food spoiling, dark nights, and traffic lights not working in a city that already has heavy congestion.

HCJB Ecuador has a backup generator that supplies power for the offices and the transmitters. After two months of these outages, though, it is really starting to wear on people. Please pray for rain and for enough diesel fuel to keep the generator running.

## Share-a-thon

HCJB Ecuador's share-a-thon, Mision Compartida, begins on November 28 and runs through December 1. For the last several days Manuela and Silvana have been extremely busy in our fund-raising department getting everything ready.

There are extra people helping, and it is a very festive environment, making calls and contacting people about renewing their pledges for this coming year, before the event officially starts. So far, we have over \$100,000 pledged and we hope to get to \$200,000 before the event even starts. The total goal for this year is \$550,000.



### *Pledge Renewals*

People appreciate these calls to thank them and to ask for pledge renewal. Many are responding! We got a note from someone a few days ago saying how much a call had meant to her, knowing that we are praying for her, even though we do not know her.

## Remote Work

Geoff has been working remotely with HCJB Ecuador for over four years now, and it can be challenging. A typical day begins with a run at around 6:00 in the morning. Then from 8am-5pm, Geoff spends time in Zoom meetings or working on engineering projects, checking on budgets and helping with administrative tasks. We usually go for a walk after supper, when it is light enough outside. Finally, we do household chores, other evening activities, or rest, depending on the day.

One of the good parts of being remote is that Geoff has fewer interruptions and can generally accomplish more tasks. He also has an outside perspective and can offer a more objective viewpoint. And, he has known and worked with co-workers for fifteen years or more, so close relationships make the distance seem less.

## Cadets Boys Club



**Geoff and Jorvanny at Cadets**

Photo taken by Trevor Burnett courtesy of The Calvinist Cadets Corps.

This school year, once again, Geoff is leading the Cadets, a boys' club at our church. It is a good challenge, and he is very happy for the other men who are helping. There are around 15 boys who come to the biweekly meetings, and they enjoy doing the activities, singing, playing games and studying the Bible.

Another fun activity is camping. In October, the Cadets went camping for two nights, sleeping in tents, and enjoying the outdoors. There were competitions, archery and food cooked over the campfire.

## Kooistra Family

Sara enjoys Great Lakes Maritime Academy and is involved in all kinds of activities. She is doing Navy ROTC, Women on the Water, and helped start a chapter of SNAME (Society for Naval Architects and Marine Engineers).

Jacob and Emma continue in their jobs and enjoy spending time with friends. Jacob lives with us, and Emma comes over for dinner often.

We have been enjoying great outdoor weather over the last few months, getting out as often as possible to walk, or go to Lake Michigan.

Thank you for being part of the ministry.

*Geoff & Tammy*



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

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