



Left: "Dr. T." with two of our many international students.

RIPE *for Harvest*

WORLD OUTREACH



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January 2024 Ministry Update

Hello, Friends and Family!

Although I have been involved in school ministry for decades, the rapid progression of the school year always seems to take me by surprise. We have just wrapped up the first semester of my first year as Head of School for Houghton Academy. Amazing how **the older we get, the faster time seems to move.**

The Academy experienced years of struggle before our arrival, and we are so pleased to be a part of revitalizing the Academy's historic ministry. With the start of the second semester, another 8 international boarding students and 2 local day students have joined us, bringing our current enrollment to over 100 students! This semester's enrollment is **nearly a 100% increase from the previous school year!**

Please continue to pray for the ongoing revitalization of the Academy. We anticipate over 120 students for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. And we have additional faculty and staff positions to fill in preparation for the growth we are experiencing. **Please share the following link with anyone you know who may be interested in joining us: www.houghtonacademy.org/careers.** Thank you!

GOOD NEWS: TANNIA AND EMMA ENJOY SURPRISE VISIT TO ECUADOR...



In November, Tannia's mother, Sara, traveled from Quito, Ecuador, to our home in Western New York to share the holidays with us (pictured here). It is a long journey on her own, including an overnight stop in the Washington, DC, area due to the limited availability of connecting flights. We were very excited to surprise her and all our Ecuadorian family and friends for her return trip to Ecuador, with Tannia and Emma accompanying Sara on the trip home!

Tannia and Emma remained in Ecuador for two weeks, enjoying time with family and friends. We are very **grateful to those who made it financially possible for Tannia and Emma to make this trip.** Thank you!

BAD NEWS: ECUADOR IN CRISIS...

As you may have seen in the international news, while they were visiting Ecuador, the country entered a national emergency due to increased violence (e.g., gang members took over a TV station and a notorious gangster escaped prison). Sadly, although historically Ecuador has been known as a peaceful country, over the past few years, drug and human trafficking gangs have been using Ecuador as a base of operation, and the **crime levels have increased substantially.**



The election of a new President and many changes in the leadership of the country that are attempting to crack down on the operations of these gangs have fueled increased violence.

Tannia and Emma returned home safely, and all of our family in Ecuador are safe. Still, living conditions have deteriorated with growing violence in areas that previously have been safe communities. **Your prayers for Ecuador and our family members and friends living in the crisis are deeply appreciated.**

As always, thank you for your support, friendship, and prayers! We wish you a blessed New Year!

- Toby (for Tannia & Emma too!)





Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ designated for the ministry of *Toby & Tannia Travis #20245*.

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