



SPRING 2021

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

(Acts 4:13)

LAUNCHING IN THREE, TWO, ONE

By the time you read this, the nineteenth graduating class, made up of seventeen men and women, will join hundreds of others who have trained in this ministerial training ground we know as the Quito School of Biblical Studies. They have been tested, challenged, and equipped in an environment that sharpened their gifts for service in the kingdom. The time has come now to join the ranks of their fellow brothers and sisters in the Latin American work force of missionaries, preachers, teachers, elders, and as most prefer to be known, “siervos del Señor” (servants of the Lord).

The graduation list in my hand reveals each of their names, but not where they will go, nor the measure of impact they will have within God's kingdom. I can't help but think of Jesus' twelve. They were hardly the kind of people one would expect to change the world; and yet, onlookers could tell that “they had been with Jesus.” It was not a school, nor prestige of sorts, but rather the life-changing encounter with Jesus that emboldened them to square up to the daunting task of mission. This is what an encounter with Jesus does—a concentrated, three-year encounter at that! Even now as the pandemic rules in Latin American, the QSOBS launches its graduates out in mission to Pereira Colombia, Manta Ecuador, Valparaiso Chile, and to many other cities and pueblos that are dear to the Lord and to them. Continue to pray that His kingdom come and His will be done in us and through us until He comes!



We Are Proud To Introduce You To The 2021 QSOBS Graduating Class.

Operation Ecuador

www.operationecuador.org

Apartado 17-21-0217

Quito, Ecuador

South America

Quito School of Biblical Studies & QSOBS Mission Teams

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One for the Money, Two for the Show, Three to Get Ready

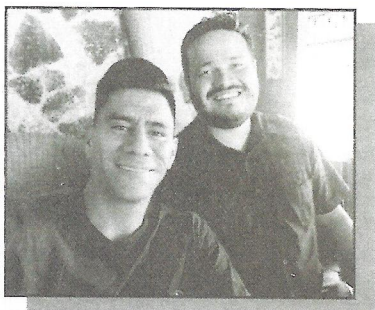
I hope Elvis will give me some license to reframe his lyrics a bit. The deal is that **THREE** QSOBS teams are ready to go, cat go!

2021 Team #1 is made up of our top three academic and dedicated students. This three-family team has formed a unique friendship during their three years in Quito and are praying for the **MONEY** to first get to Valparaíso, Chile with visas, and second be assisted as bi-vocational church-planters in this city of 300,000 souls. The team is in contact with Chilean leaders who are helping them organize the dream and place it before the Lord daily. The QSOBS hopes to help them find a healthy church to partner with their efforts. You will be surprised how the team's bi-vocational skills make this a financially viable option for a congregation wishing to join this noteworthy venture.



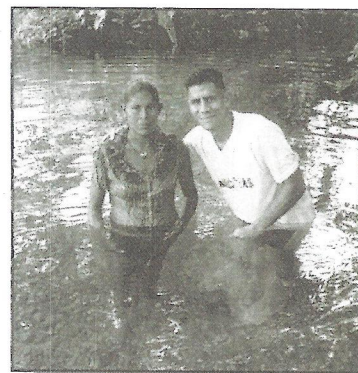
Valparaíso, Chile Team at Graduation

2021 Team #2 has landed and is in place in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela, on the Colombia-Venezuela border. This incredible two-family team is **SHOWING** what God can do when people are receptive to his will. In a country where instability reigns, the



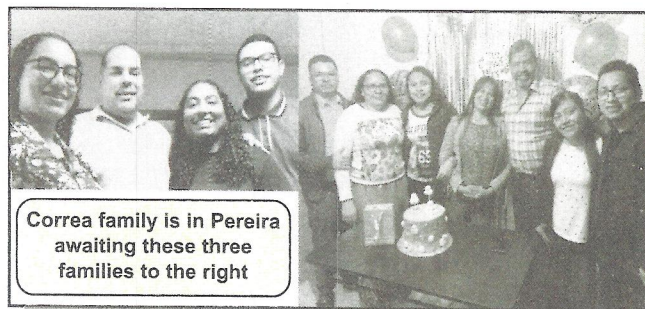
Jesús / Yordani in Puerto Ayacucho, Venezuela

Quero and Vergaza families weekly usher many into the kingdom and prepare disciples to help them reach further into the Amazon region. God has provided for their first year of financial assistance at a bi-vocational level; we're trusting in Him to continue the \$12,000/year needed for this mission site.



No Baptistries Needed in the Amazon

2021 Team #3 comprises our first EQEB-Great Cities team bound for Pereira, Colombia. We are excited about this collaborative venture of two Colombian families, one younger Ecuadorian couple, and an experienced Venezuelan couple. They have been planning and praying this year and continue to **GET READY** with team formation, strategizing, and fund raising.



Correa family is in Pereira awaiting these three families to the right

Please spread the word and contact me if you believe your church would like to lace up those Blue Suede Gospel Shoes and get out on the floor with some of these rewarding mission opportunities.

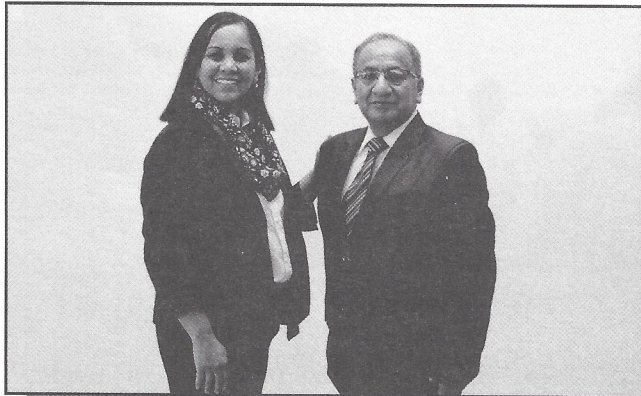
Joshua K. Marcum

2021 Project Theses

Check out these practical theses developed by graduates this year. Even during the pandemic, they worked with national churches to give back and put into practice what they are learning. To brag on just a few:

- A manual for parents to guide their children in **Responsible Video Game Use**.
- A ten-week workshop led the way to a guidebook for youth ministers and parents on how to counsel teens questioning their **Sexual Orientation**.
- Two of our students delivered a nine-week **Premarital Study** to young adults in which they created a study manual with conversation questions after each session.

QSOBS Appoints New Director



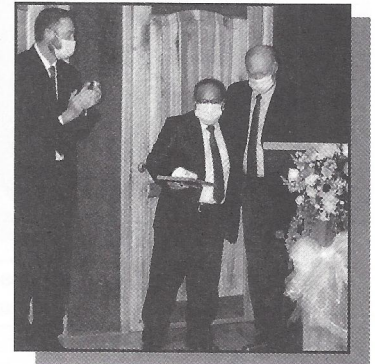
Oswaldo and Lourdes Albarracín

During this year's graduation ceremony, the QSOBS took the opportunity to allow Kent Marcum (director from 1997-2014) and Joshua Marcum (director from 2014-2021) to pass the baton of leadership to Oswaldo Albarracín. This decision has been in the works for more than a year, confirmed in 2020 by the eldership at Southwest Church of Christ in Pueblo, Colorado. The extended time for this transition allowed Oswaldo to serve at Joshua's side during this last school year.

Oswaldo is an Ecuadorian from Cuenca, a Baxter graduate (Honduras Bible School), and has served as a member of the faculty at the QSOBS for the last eighteen years. While in Honduras he married a remarkable Christian lady named Lourdes, who complements him immensely. She has been very involved with the women's program at the school, coordinating it since 2013. They have one son, Joe, who lives in Quito and is married to Yasmin. Joe graduated from the QSOBS in 2019. This family is an incredible example of dedication to God's work here

in Ecuador. After serving as one of the first elders at the Colón Church of Christ, Oswaldo helped plant two other churches in the urban area of Quito.

In many ways, a mission's maturity is measured by its transition to local leadership. Operation Ecuador is thankful to be at this point in history where it can entrust such an important ministry to such a godly couple. Oswaldo and Lourdes ask for your prayers and look forward to, Lord willing, meeting OE supporters personally at the OE Summit this year.

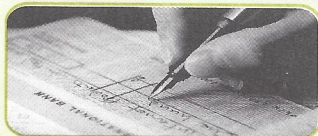


**Kent and Joshua Marcum
Pass the Baton to New QSOBS
Director Oswaldo Albarracín**

Joshua will continue to serve the QSOBS and Oswaldo in the capacity of Director of Development for Operation Ecuador. He will remain the U.S. liaison for the school and teach part-time with the faculty. It is his hope that this new role will free him to focus more on the many other areas within OE, such as the QSOBS mission teams, the master's program, medical missions, campus ministry, and short-term mission groups from the U.S.

Join us in thanking God for raising up national leaders whose skill and honor make them the ideal partners to carry this work and God's dream to greater heights.

Joshua K. Marcum



Ways to Give



QSOBS

Faith Village Church of Christ
4100 McNeil Ave
Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Kumanii Or Medical Missions

37th St. Church of Christ
2500 37th st.
Snyder, TX 79549

Camp Bellevue

Bellevue Church of Christ
1212 104th SE
Bellevue, WA 98004

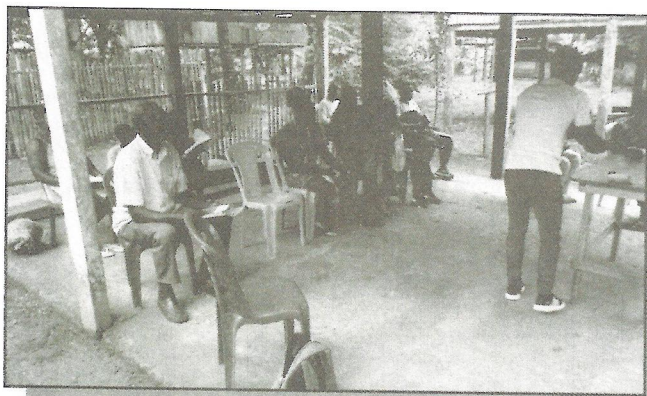
A SHORT VISIT TO THE CAYAPAS RIVER



A young mother gracefully descends a slippery ladder stairway with her small baby to our canoe to attend services.

Arriving in Ecuador on the 11th of May was a giant step backwards in terms of Covid restrictions. Churches and public gatherings are closed or limited. Mask wearing is far from a suggestion or request. Many are double masked and weekends have been declared "lockdown days" until this weekend, May 22nd. A new government has been installed as of May 21st. The new president is reviewing Covid restrictions and has immediately lifted the weekend lockdowns.

However, arriving on the Cayapas we discovered that life is moving along pretty normally in that rural setting. Very few wear masks and church activities or meetings are in full swing! In fact, our Kumanii evangelists are meeting with five church groups on Sundays up and down the river. (Some of those sealed cups and communion bread would sure be useful here!) En route to the church meetings, there are always several stops along the way to pick up folks that do not live in the villages. On our way upriver to Calle Mansa, I was beginning to think that the front of our 48-foot canoe



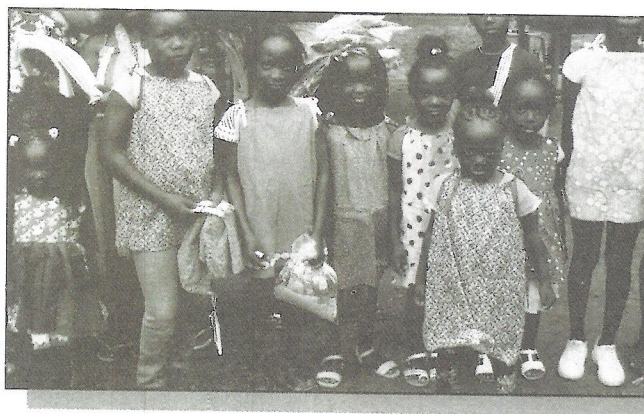
An excited new congregation in Telembi has begun. Before, these people were traveling 40 minutes up to the congregation beside Kumanii.



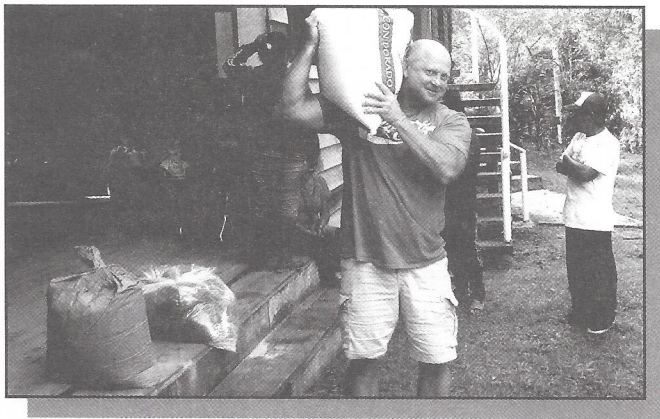
The canoe pickup for services in Calle Mansa. The step from river bank to canoe is often a fair stretch!

was going to catch water from the excessive weight on the front of end! I guess "there is always room for one more!"

Of course, the effect of Covid across the country has worsened the financial situation on the Cayapas. We decided to make an effort to distribute some food and supplies to the villages with whom we have weekly contact in one fashion or another. Approximately 20 villages were selected and about 550 households were counted. A quick plea for assistance in March and April resulted in about \$6,000 raised for this purpose. Even though it was just a small dent, considering the large need that exists, hundreds of pounds of flour, rice, oil, and sugar were purchased and distributed, along with other items like toothpaste and toothbrushes. We could have easily used another \$4,000 to make the distribution more complete. Our people got the supplies to Kumanii, and then leaders of the villages came to pick them up and transported them to their



Little girls dresses made by Wanda Miller from Andrews, TX, were a "big hit" with the many little girls, and their mothers on the river!



Chuck Martz of Bartlesville, OK, made another trip to Kumanii for several days of work. Some men want to call him Chuck Norris!

villages. The leaders were commissioned to distribute the supplies to each household in accordance with our count and calculation of pounds. As with medical missions on the river, the people were elated to know that churches of Christ are praying for them and doing

something to help with their on-going dilemma. This project was definitely a “door-opener” for the gospel of Christ! Just seeing the marvelous reception of this effort to distribute basic food commodities, I think we will want to repeat this as often as possible according to the support we receive from our stateside brethren.

My visit in May was something of a test. With vaccinations almost complete in the States and now beginning to arrive in Ecuador, I think a fall medical mission, perhaps the first week of November, could become a reality IF we begin right now. I need your input concerning dates and availability ASAP to Kentmarcum7@gmail.com. Depending on the response I receive by the 20th of June, we will make a decision about a 2021 medical effort. Most of the attention will be at the Kumanii clinic where we can more easily manage the flow of patients. One downside is that we do not have any stock of meds left in Ecuador. Everything will have to be purchased and brought in. God already knows that; I'm just giving you a heads-up!

Kent Marcum

OPERATION ECUADOR

Having worked with Operation Ecuador since its inception in the late 80's, I have written countless articles and shared the dream of Operation Ecuador with God's people across the USA more times than I can remember. Now, after more than three decades, trying to communicate the concept and opportunity of this mission work continues to be a challenge. In short, Operation Ecuador has the simple goal of encouraging churches of Christ to work together in harmony for a greater potential, bringing glory to the Name of the One who sends us, rather than seeking personal or congregational recognition. Being raised in the churches of Christ, I understand well the biblical principle of autonomy. Yet too often, we deny our potential as a fellowship of believers by insisting on “doing our own thing.” Autonomy is necessary, but not a license for pride or congregational ego.

Under the Operation Ecuador “umbrella,” various ministries have come about during the last 32 years. Church planting remains central to all ministries. The Quito School of Biblical Studies is not an end within itself; it is a ministry training facility to encourage church growth throughout Latin America, and it is accomplishing that task both by edifying existing congregations and establishing new ones. Camp Bellevue reaches out to impoverished children on a daily basis with the goal of evangelizing the families from which they come. The work on the Cayapas River is focused upon planting congregations in the countless villages that dot its shoreline, often using medical missions to assist, both with evident physical needs, but ultimately allowing the opportunity to share the gospel of Christ. I'm often asked where Operation Ecuador is located. There is not a central, physical location (main office), nor is there a USA

administration for Operation Ecuador. Every ministry and every church plant has its own overseeing congregation, most of those in the USA. This means that no funding is lost in USA administration. A congregation or individual that is moved to financially support one of the missions of Operation Ecuador sends his free-will donation directly to the sponsoring congregation, whose eldership is responsible for making sure that accountability is built into that ministry and its use of that funding. That congregation and its missionaries are also responsible for reporting the details and progress of that particular ministry to all of their supporters.

Each year, for decades, we have enjoyed an Operation Ecuador Summit, which takes place somewhere in the USA. Congregations involved in the various ministries of Operation Ecuador take turns hosting the two-day event. All sponsors, supporters, and interested individuals are invited to attend and soak in the “nuts and bolts” progress reports of each ministry. The excitement and encouragement are contagious, often inspiring congregations to become involved in more than one ministry, realizing how the different ministries complement one another. From noon on Friday to noon on Saturday, it becomes evident that working together -- both the USA support base of congregations and individuals, and the varied ministries of Operation Ecuador -- is producing a greater harvest of souls. So often throughout the years, I have heard elderships say, “This is the best mission work we have ever been involved in. We know what is happening and the funding we are providing is bringing forth an abundant harvest.”

Kent Marcum

CAMP BELLEVUE COLLABORATES WITH OE SISTER MINISTRIES



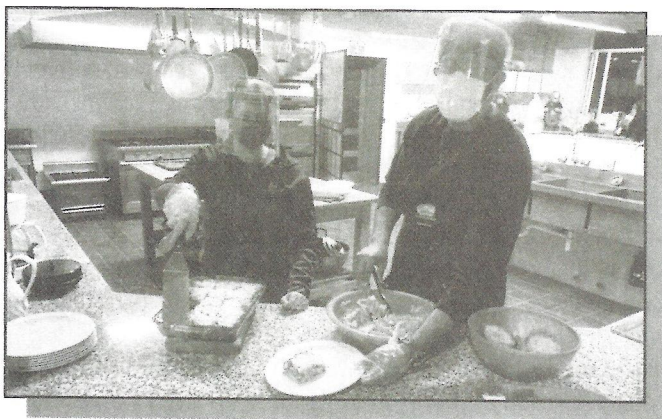
A remnant of the Los Chillos church meets under Camp Bellevue's tent.

Camp Bellevue continues to seek out ways to collaborate with our "sister ministries" here in Ecuador. The pandemic has severely curtailed many of our normal ministries and programs. However, we have not been idle; in fact, over the past few months, several doors have opened that have allowed us to help and serve in new ways. Here are just a few examples of ways in which the camp has been able to be a blessing to other works here in Ecuador.

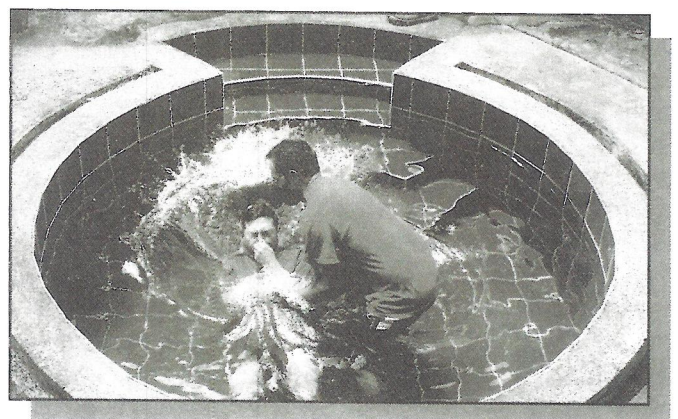
- 1) Many years ago, Camp Bellevue had several large meeting tents made. The tents gradually fell into disuse, but a year before the pandemic started, thanks to a generous donation, we were able to

have them repaired and build new metal support frames for them. A few months ago, the Valley Church of Christ was considering renting or purchasing a meeting tent in order to hold services outdoors at their facility. Camp Bellevue was happy to loan them the use of one of our tents and save them this expense.

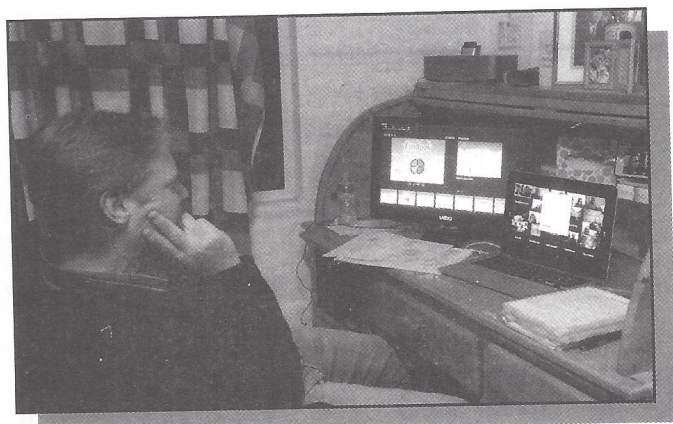
- 2) The Camp has also helped build and install cabinetry for the remodeled kitchen at the Bible college. For the past several years, we have employed a full-time carpenter at the camp who does excellent work. The kitchen cabinets turned out beautifully, and allowing the EQEB to "contract" a camp employee for the project was financially beneficial for both ministries. As an added bonus, we are also able to offer a "lifetime guarantee" for the craftsmanship!
- 3) I continue to help the EQEB with various teaching and equipping programs. This quarter, for example, I taught an 8-week class entitled "Team Work" or "Working as a Team." I was also asked to be a guest lecturer for one of the master's level classes. Additionally, I did an equipping seminar for the Tumbaco church planting team. In all of these, I use a program that focuses on the different personality styles and the ways they interact with one another. I



A young mother gracefully descends a slippery ladder stairway with her small baby to our canoe to attend services.



Guillermo baptizes our new brother Esteban into Christ.



"Personality Styles in Marriage and Family" virtual workshop -- We started this workshop with about 40 couples! Of course, a few dropped out over the course of the month. However, it is apparent that there is a real need for this kind of teaching. We will probably offer the class again in a few months.

enjoy sharing this knowledge with students and teams and pray that it helps them have healthier relationships and more effective ministries.

- 4) We recently hosted our first U.S. visitors in over a year! One of our guests was a former missionary in Latin America and currently serves as a missions professor at Harding University. He was able to do a mini-workshop for the students at the EQEB.

The camp continues to be involved with a variety of online Bible studies, kids' programs, and various workshops for people all around Latin America. The bulk of this work is being shouldered by our coworkers, Guillermo and Syndi, although Laura and I did just complete the pilot program of a four-week virtual workshop for couples on "personality styles in marriage and family." The camp has passed out hundreds of food kits and helped in other benevolent ways. Most encouraging, perhaps, is that God has used His servant Guillermo to baptize 17 since the pandemic started. God continues to grow His kingdom here in Ecuador, despite the challenges of the past year!

We thank God when we think of all those that are supporting the work here in Ecuador. Please know that whether you are giving financially, interceding through prayer, or offering emotional support in some other way, this ministry would not be possible without people like you behind us! May God bless you and continue to keep you safe and healthy.

Rusty Campbell

So That Others Might Hear

Remembered:

John Albright
Kent Carter
Frank Graves
Sam Grissom
Bryan Hake

Dayton Keese
Charles Kelsey
Chuck Leonard
Doe Leonard
Perry Nash

Alan Ramsey
Barbara Satcher
Marilyn Shingleton
Eddie Stegal
Danny Witten
Virgil Yocham

Honored:

Rodney Blackwood Retired
Andy Cassidy Retired
Greg Dwyer Retired

Charles & Bonnie Sheppard 70th Anniversary!
Bob & Gina Waldron 60th Anniversary!

Honor one of your loved ones with a gift towards the mission advance at QSOBS. Please include a memo so that this might be properly allocated.

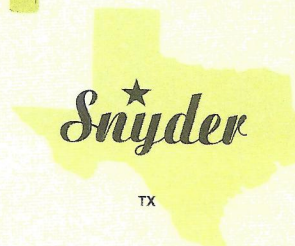
Faith Village Church of Christ,
ATTN QSOBS
4100 McNeil Ave Wichita Falls, TX 76308



QCE SUMMIT 2021

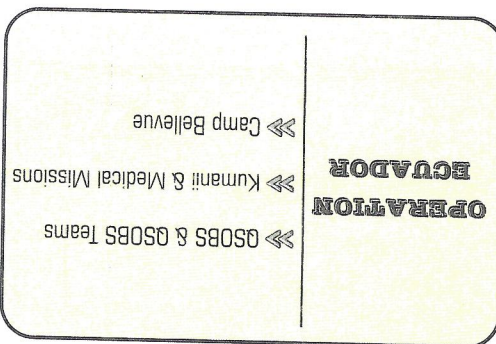
Save the Date: October 22-23

37th Street Church of Christ (Snyder, TX)



The church in Snyder Texas has been a long time supporter of the QSOBS and is currently sponsoring the Kumanii ministry. Come south when it get's cold and enjoy some genuine Texas hospitality. Due to our having to cancel last year, there is MUCH to talk about!

Please register with Kent Marcum:
kentmarcum7@gmail.com



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THE OPERATION ECUADOR NEWSLETTER
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Pueblo, CO 81005
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