



Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

We're Back! Summer Camps and the After School Program Return to Bellevue

After two summers with no in-person camps for youth or children due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were thrilled to have 5 weeks of activities scheduled this past July and August. Of course, we were tired by the end of it, but it felt good to be having a more normal and busy summer again after so much down time.

In mid-July, a local church utilized our facility to offer a day-camp for their youth. Then, we rolled right into our teen basketball camp. We had over 60 campers register for a week of honing their skills on the court as well as learning more about God. A group of college students from York, NE helped us put this on.

August began with youth camp, in partnership with a team from the Fort Walton Beach Church of Christ. We had nearly 125 teens and adult helpers at the camp for four nights, our largest group of the year! After the camp ended, the team also hosted a 2-night retreat for church leaders from all over Ecuador.



On the last day of basketball camp, there is always a big tournament. It's a great way to end the week.

Finally, we had Kids Camp (for 8-12 year olds). Nearly 50 kids came this year to spend four days learning about some of the great Bible heroes. We went with a circus theme and had so much fun with it! On the last day, the campers did a service project, hosting a "fair" with carnival style games for the kids in the community. We also invited a troupe of acrobats, jugglers, clowns, and fire-eating stilt walkers to put on a show for all the kids – what a hit that was!

(Continued on page 2)

Operation Ecuador

www.operationecuador.org

Apartado 17-21-0217

Quito, Ecuador
South America

Quito School of Biblical Studies & QSOBS Mission Teams

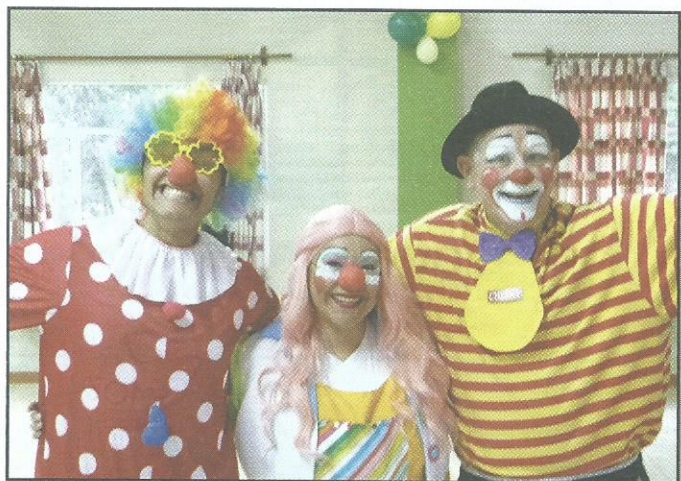
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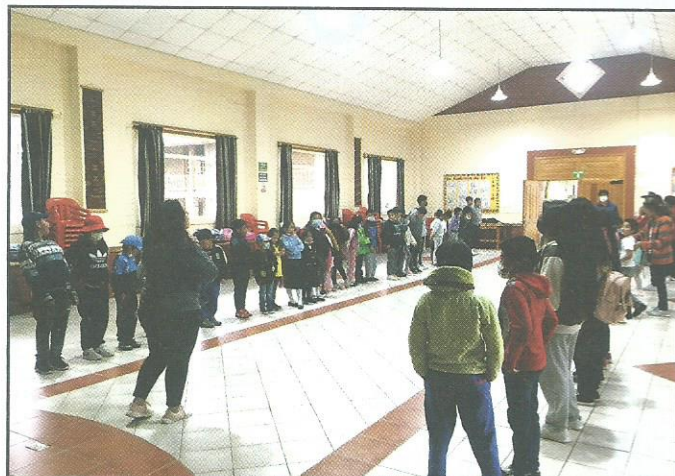
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Kumanii & Medical Missions

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Juan (one of our AME interns), Syndi, and Michael Thayer (a fellow missionary from Colombia) made great clowns during Kids Camp!



One of our first days at the After School Program. We were so excited to welcome all the kids back to the camp!



Oliver, one of the young men from the Tabacundo youth group, decided he wanted to be baptized after basketball camp.

In September, after 2.5 years, we finally restarted the After School Program! This program has been one of the main pillars of the camp's service and outreach into the community through the years, and we are very thankful to be bringing it back after a long hiatus. We already have about 80 kids coming each afternoon Monday through Thursday, with room for a few more. We look forward to serving these children and their families during this school year as we continue to provide help with homework, snacks, English and enrichment classes, daily devotionals, transportation, and a safe place to learn and play.

Laura for the Campbell Family

So That Others Might Hear

Honored:

Randy & Janice Schow
James & Jan Trent

J.C. & Dorothy Newland
Morris & Bonnie Cochrum

Cecil & Barbara Burch

Memorials:

Jane Cummings
Chris Greenhaw

Betty Greenhaw
Dawn Freeman

Jerry Clowser

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

University Ministry Reactivated



The pandemic closures felt by the world were equally experienced by the El Puente University Ministry, Ministerio Universitario El

Puente (MUEP). By February of 2020, the MUEP had assembled its working team and hosted an open house, and was beginning activities to bless the new ministry housed at El Puente. The pandemic quickly put a halt to that momentum, and strict health enforcements kept El Puente closed to the public for most of the past two years. Despite this setback, the QSOBS discovered what a blessing El Puente was to their single men living on the second floor during this time. While the young men sheltered in place, the school was able to get them groceries and have Mami (Nancy) cook for them. As well, the spacious environment and game room became especially important to the residents!

Let's Start Talking (LST) workers, David and Christi Marqués, have blessed El Puente this quarter by teaching an English class at the QSOBS, setting up LST sessions, and encouraging the University Ministry in its new launch.

In this picture, David is off to a nearby university campus to drum up some interest in English classes. Sign reads, "Do you know English? Want to practice with us?"



During this summer of 2022, El Puente hosted three interns from Harding University (TK, Johnny & Landon). They connected fantastically with the Tumbaco Team (Fernando and Diego) and two of our special QSOBS girls (Mila & Anita).



University Ministry Team.

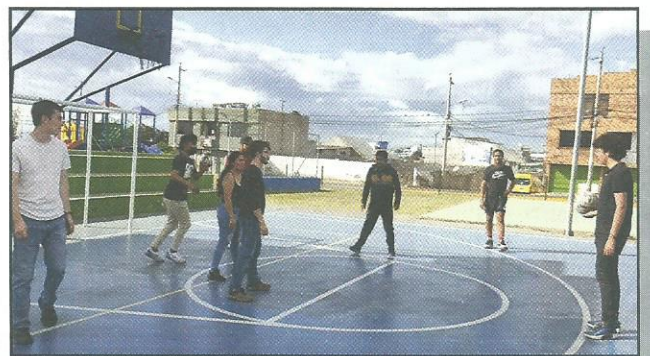
El Puente has continued to host university interns, U.S. mission groups, and LST workers, but it is now also back on track with its outreach to university students. When the invitation to be a part of the volunteer-based ministry team went out, a surprising number of college-aged Christians responded. The current group is composed of four women and five men; seven of these are from the QSOBS, but we imagine as the ministry grows in popularity there will be more representation from other schools. Today, the team plans regular activities, devotionals, and a rotation of staffing duties at El Puente during the week. Next month, the QSOBS will begin its first of several courses as part of the new "University Track" of studies. We wait in expectation to see how God will use El Puente to eternally "connect young people with the Lord and with each other."

Joshua K. Marcum



Parks are interns favorite place to engage community.

On this day, the girls had a following of children, while the young men challenged others in a pick-up game of basketball.



Kumanii Team



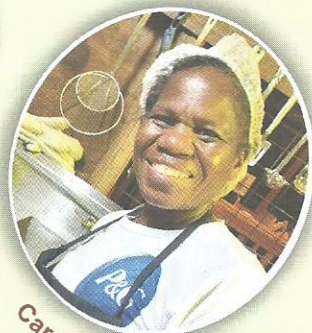
Alberto, Patricia & Ismael



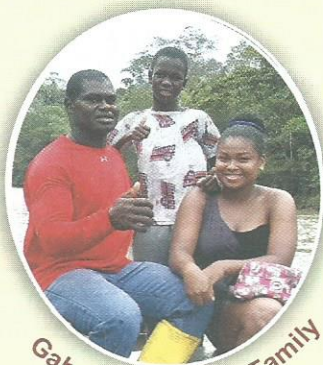
Gregorio & Margarita



Carlos & Maritza



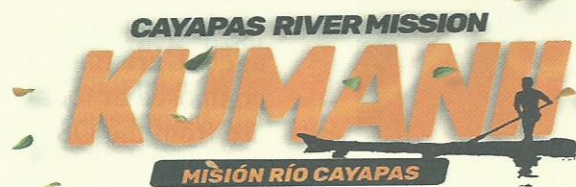
Carmen Nazareno



Gabriel Nazareno Family



Robinson Almeida Family



Darwin Salcedo Family



Ismael Castillo Family



Julio Yumaglla Family

Kumanii Team

THE CALL TO EVANGELIZE

Jesus began training his disciples to “follow in his footsteps,” copying his lifestyle during the years they shared in his ministry. Sometimes the instructions were difficult, almost unbelievable – a call to become totally dependent upon God rather than themselves or even him (Matthew 10). If you are like me, maybe you have struggled to know how to apply this radical mentality to your life and ministry. I suppose I would be the first to say that I have a long way to go, and I pray that God is patient with my sometimes-limited faith.

Kumanii began twelve years ago, and we have had a series of evangelists participate in ministering in a very difficult place. Our evangelists have varied in number throughout the years, but have persevered in the challenge of extending the gospel of Christ to a remote dual culture of Chachi Indian and Afro-Ecuadorian along the Cayapas River. About 20 men have served at Kumanii since its inception, and right now, I would say we have the best team ever on site.

The climate, the diverse cultures, and the requirement of being separated from family for lengthy stretches of time are a high price to pay for serving at Kumanii. The six evangelists rotate in and out of the Cayapas River, serving two weeks at Kumanii and then returning to their families for a week. They have eight days free between stints, but as many of you know, it takes a day to travel to Kumanii and another day to return to the mountains. I should remind you that these men do not travel on chartered buses and canoes, but rather on public transportation, normally during the night in order to arrive at Borbon for an early canoe upriver. If you have not experienced that, you should. Then consider making that journey twice every five weeks. After a night on a public bus (6-8 hours) and then 3-4 hours on a public canoe, the evangelists finally arrive at Kumanii about noon for lunch and then are going out by 2:00 PM for scheduled Bible studies on the river.

Each morning the evangelists are involved in caring for the Kumanii compound. I'd like to say that some of the work is light, but from my experience, any work out on the Cayapas is quite physically challenging! While we have hosted remarkable work groups that have accomplished much, the on-going construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of Kumanii has been

done mostly by the evangelists who serve there, the 2-3 fulltime workers, and hiring local affordable labor for big projects. Some of the thinking behind this arrangement is the reality of life on the river. Everyone on the river gets busy early working on their acreages or caring for their families' daily necessities. Our men are viewed on the river as doing this type of physical work as well; but then in the afternoon when folks begin to arrive back home and slow down from their morning's work (partly due to the heat), there are opportunities for Bible study in homes within the villages. Getting to these villages by canoe could take up to an hour, and, as many of you know, the afternoons are a great time to get soaked with rain!

Alberto Guaman has assumed the role of administrator at Kumanii; he rotates in and out of the river on a weekly basis, spending approximately one week there and then a week in Quito. He is handling all the purchasing and organizing, the coordination of Kumanii with the Quito office, and any troubleshooting required. By having a schedule that varies from the evangelists, he can overlap with all the men and have a better feel for what is going on. His gift of administration is blessing the work more than I can explain.

We have had men and workers with grub worms in their backs, insects in their ears, objects in their eyes, dysentery, Covid, Dengue, flus, intestinal worms, snake bites, and infected insect bites. They have been robbed, wrecked, threatened and overturned – you name it, they have experienced it! Only recently we completed a structure on the compound providing them their own rooms in which to live and have some level of privacy. As North Americans visiting Kumanii, our experience doesn't begin to compare to that of the evangelists and workers who serve there on a more permanent basis. Thankfully, God has provided a harvest of souls and today, there are five small congregations worshiping on the upper Cayapas. Please lift up our evangelists and the work they do daily in your prayers. Ask God to encourage their hearts as they represent Him, and us, with the message of salvation in Christ Jesus!

Kent Marcum

Since ancient times

no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God
besides you, who acts **on
behalf of those wait for him.**

You come to the **help** of
those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways....

However, as it is written:

"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love him"

— but God has **revealed it**
to us by his Spirit...

ISAIAH 64:4-5

1 COR. 2:9-10

Tracing God's Hand at Work

Spiritual discernment gives us a view into the mind of God. It allows us to perceive how the diverse and complicated parts of life might integrate and "work together for the good" (Rom. 8:28). Aligning our sights to God's perspective is no easy task, though. Purposefully, we must train our spirit to agree with His Spirit, establishing a sharpened viewpoint of His plan and our place in it.

The above Scripture in 1 Corinthians appears to be Paul's loose translation of the Greek text of Isaiah 64:4. What Israel sought during this time was assurance that redemption and help were on the way (cf. Is. 64:5). What Paul tells this Grecian church (and us) is that these promises have arrived! Redemption and help have been prepared and provided for all of us who love God! It is only through the new realities of the Spirit that we can hope to understand God's intricate purposes achieved in Christ, "God's secret wisdom...hidden...[but]...destined for our glory before time began (1 Cor. 2:7).

I am so often blessed to notice God's hand at work in lives touched by various facets of Operation Ecuador. Let me

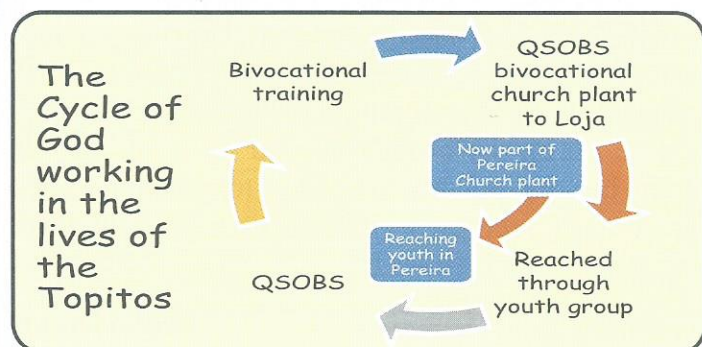


QSOBS-South Yukon Team serving in Loja since 2015.

trace for you one encouraging account that caught my attention recently.

In 2015, long-time OE supporter, the South Yukon Church of Christ, sent its second team to the field, this time with bivocational missionaries to plant a Church in Loja, Ecuador. This team led a young lady named Daniela and her boyfriend, Renato, to the Lord. Daniela explains that even before the team arrived, she had committed to look for the Lord and wait on Him for her future. Her conversion led to Renato's baptism, as well as that of her grandmother, mother, father, and three sisters. This family is still faithful today and Daniela's grandmother is now with her Lord.

Jump ahead two years and this couple, who everyone loving refers to as "the Topitos" [little – moles – due to

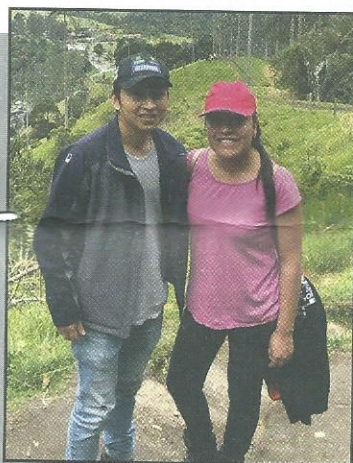




QSOBS-GCM Team serving in Pereira since 2022.

instead of returning to Loja, they feel the call to join the first QSOBS-GCM (Great Cities Mission) team forming for Pereira, Colombia. They first ask the Loja church for its blessing and then go through GCM's training and placement for the field.

I recently visited Pereira and told this four-family team, "No pressure, but as GCM's first team with the QSOBS's bivocational missions' model, you have the responsibility to shine!" And shining they are! In March of this year, they inaugurated the church in a growing and unreached region of Pereira called Cuba. They have patiently endured the storming phase of team and culture adjustment and are now creatively balancing small business and ministry. Their current attendance ranges from 30-50, and they are busily discipling new Christians as God gives the increase.



Renato and Roxana Rosillo stand overlooking the Valley of Cocora, Inspiration for Disney's movie "Encanto".

their small stature] is married and maturing in Christ. The Lojan leaders notice these advances and send them to the QSOBS to be trained and return to Loja to help the work. In Quito, the Topitos excel in their studies, grow as a couple, and are trained to be bivocational missionaries. Renato studies to be a motor-cycle mechanic, and Daniela becomes certified as a veterinarian assistant. Toward the time of their graduation though,

Returning to the Topitos' story -- having recently sat down to visit with them over some of Daniela's "arroz con leche," I marveled again at how God works. He has faithfully established this couple, who are serving Him with natural leads into the community. It is another "God thing" that the church currently supporting them is Shawnee Trail Church of Christ, the very church who sponsored Renato's vocational training at the QSOBS. Renato now works at a motorcycle mechanic shop, where he has been recently promoted to head manager because the boss quickly saw his integrity and work ethic. It is this testimony in the workplace that is already opening doors for him to share the Gospel with his coworkers.



Renato overhauling an old bike at the shop.

Joshua enjoys "arroz con leche" with the Topitos in their new home of Cuba-Pereira, Sept. 2022.



In conclusion, the Topitos have been commissioned by the team to reach and minister to the youth, youth who are searching, as they once were, for eternal answers which are available in Christ. How awesome to see God continuing to work through these two who are trusting in Him and all has prepared for them.

Joshua K. Marcum



QSOBS

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Ways to Give

Kumanii Or Medical Missions

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Snyder, TX 79549



OperationEcuador Camp Bellevue

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

MEDICAL MISSION 2022



The June 2022 Medical Campaign on the Cayapas River is history! What a wonderful group of servants! What a blessed time among a special people of God's creation! And, what a marvelously loving God we serve as His chosen people! Thank you, to all who came and left part of their heart and soul on the banks of the Cayapas River! KM.

Medical missions draw from a wide geographical range among our brotherhood in the USA, uniting and reuniting friends in Jesus who have so much in common! This special group, (left to right), all graduated from high school in 1991. Dr. Vail Stephens, Debbie Worley (School administrator), Dr. Greg Vaughan, Dr. Judd Adams, and Sherri Roberts (Teacher).



79714-630701

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OPERATION	» GSOS & GSOS Teams
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