

OperationEcuador

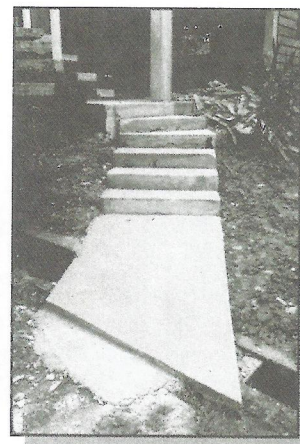
SPRING 2020

"Preach the Word: Be prepared in season and out of season..."

2 Timothy 4:2

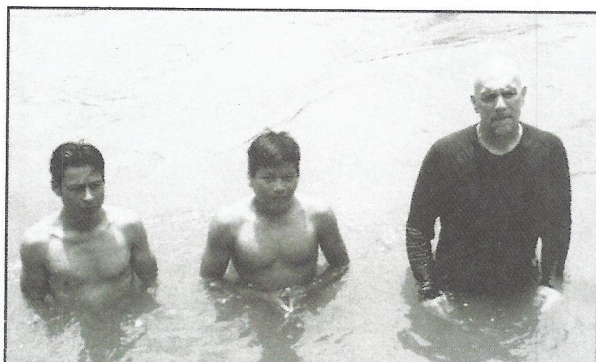
Improvements to the Kumanii Facility Provide Opportunities to Share the Gospel

Howdy everyone! You may have asked yourself, "What happens before we arrive for our weeklong mission trip?" Well, for Kumanii, the answer begins with this photo of some steps. Why are these steps so important? The answer lies in our process of upgrading the compound at Kumanii to accommodate up to 80 people SAFELY in a remote location. There is always a lot of work to be done, as the jungle will quickly reclaim its own if we don't keep on top of repairs and improvements.



We hire all types of skilled laborers and craftsmen before and during these trips. Most of these men are not Christians; however, this provides an opportunity to live a life for Christ in front of them. This February, as I was working with Lider to prepare for our medical mission, I was informed that he had been studying off and on with **Manuel** (a skilled concrete and tile man) for the last year. So, when we needed someone with that skillset, Lider hired him. This resulted in Bible studies about every other evening with another laborer (**Hernan**) joining in on the studies. One day, following lunch, we began casually discussing and then studying the concept of baptism. To our joy and surprise, they both responded with a vibrant desire to be baptized right away -- that very hour, in fact -- and then get back to work. Being that the river is only a few steps away

(pun intended), we only needed to walk down a few steps to help these two men respond in obedience. This is a great example of living our faith and sharing it with others while we work, eat, and recreate together. Please pray for Manuel and Hernan's continued growth and commitment!



John Schadegg

Operation Ecuador

www.operationecuador.org

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Quito, Ecuador

South America

Quito School of Biblical Studies & QSOBS Mission Teams

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QSOBS Graduation 2020

Virtual, Synonymous with Practical

While most schools and universities opted NOT to celebrate graduation during the Covid season, the QSOBS held its first virtual graduation with over 1200 in attendance! Fourteen graduates were capped by their spouse (or dorm parent) and six more ladies earned a Certificate of Bible from the women's program. Though we were unable to celebrate all together with our usual banquet, our ladies in the kitchen boarded at the school for three days and two nights preparing a tasty four-course spread, which was delivered to each one's home accompanied by their diplomas and gifts! I felt like our team truly responded as parents who honor their children with the best that they have at their disposal.

Connect on Operation Ecuador's Facebook group to see the two-minute video of this year's graduates—their heads mounted on previous bodies—walking through the tunnel of flags. It was truly a time of joyous celebration and commission!

Joshua K. Marcum



Lorena Bermejo Azogues, Ecuador
The Tunnel of Flags, Virtually Recreated!



Maykel & Bárbara Guisa
Santa Barbara, Venezuela



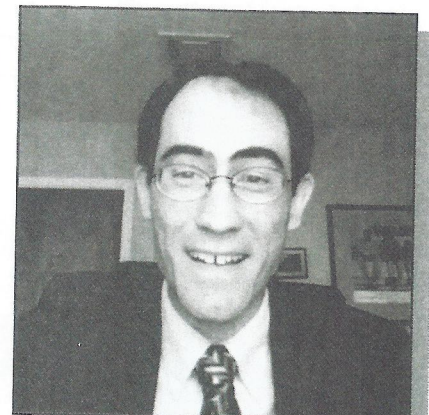
Lourdes Molina
Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Lourdes directs the women's program and decided a few years ago that she would be better equipped for this position if she too went through the three-year program. Lourdes and Oswaldo have served at the QSOBS now for 17 years.



Jose Luis & Grissel Guerrero
Santa Barbara, Venezuela

The QSOBS was honored to have **Kevin Montgomery (TIBI Asst. Director)** give the commencement address, inspiring the graduating class of 2020 to remember their God-given titles they already have from the Lord which should now be employed to their full measure.



PRACTICAL PROJECT THESIS



Since 2016 each student is required to develop a practical thesis in their third and last year at the QSOBS. The thesis gives a theological rationale and analyzes their methodology to implement a new ministry or bless a church in some fashion. These are few of the many

Carlos Alcivar and Jose Rosero
Esmeraldas, Ecuador
Defend their Practical Thesis, "Steps to Begin a New Church in Quinindé, Ecuador."

practical theses from this year's graduates that caught my attention:

1. Introduction of a model that empowers the church's "golden age" members
2. Creation of an audiovisual pilot program for the QSOBS

3. A wholistic revisioning for the Women's Program at QSOBS
4. Creation of a Ministry of Evangelism for the Otavalo Church of Christ
5. A proposal and implementation to encourage Quito churches to collaboratively plant another congregation in Tumbaco, Ecuador.

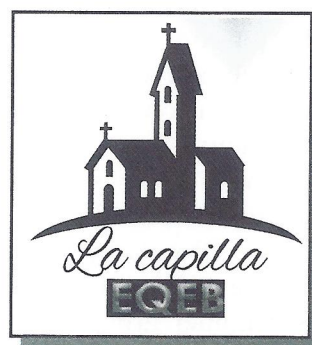
As you can tell, these are no simple projects and stand to yield many years of harvest beyond these students' time at the QSOBS.



MINISTRY WITHIN BORDERS

If there ever was a time when people were looking for spiritual answers, this is it. Kept indoors, the QSOBS chose to open a virtual chapel where its ministers can give counseling, biblical wisdom, and pray with people—all from the safety and comfort of home. More than 30 graduates and ministers have volunteered to serve at the virtual chapel every day from 6PM-9PM. Each has chosen a day where they receive visitors in their private breakout room, while a student in the reception

area welcomes visitors and appropriately connects them to the brother or sister waiting to encourage them during this crisis. Thousands have clicked on our ads in Facebook and many have entered to hear a word from the Lord. This summer, "La Capilla" (the chapel) will continue to offer this service and other programmed Bible studies during the day.



La Capilla: A Holy Space to Connect to a Sovereign God During Uncertain Times."

Joshua K. Marcum

Camp Bellevue Closed Temporarily: Feeling the Effects of the Pandemic



In February, we had our annual Carnival Fun Day for the kids in the After School Program, complete with two giant slip-and-slides!

Normally, our spring bulletin article is full of news about spring break groups and their activities at the camp. However, this year, all of our U.S. spring break groups ended up cancelling their trips to Ecuador and to Camp Bellevue due to the corona virus pandemic. We were able to host a few local groups in February and March before we were forced to close our doors. The lockdown here in Ecuador has been going on since mid-March. Airports have been closed to incoming commercial flights, and all inter-provincial travel has been suspended. Schools nationwide have been closed for the remainder of the academic year; thus, the after-school program has been put on an indefinite hiatus. Most of our employees are sheltering-in-place with their families; the ones that live within walking distance of the camp sometimes work very limited hours. In the coming weeks, some of these restrictions will be gradually lifted, allowing life to begin to return to normal. Obviously, our summer here at Camp Bellevue will be affected by all of this -- all of our U.S. summer groups have already cancelled their

trips. It is still too early to tell if we will be able to host camps in July and August. We are hopeful that we will be able to offer one or two and are exploring options for having "virtual" camps in the event that we aren't able to safely host traditional camps.

Camp Bellevue is located in a pretty low-risk area of Ecuador, where there haven't been too many cases of the virus, and we hope that it can stay that way! Other parts of Ecuador, especially Guayaquil, in the south, have been more drastically affected by this crisis. Our hearts go out to the many people in that region suffering, not only with the virus, but financially due to lack of work, and also to those who are trying to provide care for the sick. Please join us in praying for the people of Ecuador!



In mid-February we hosted Dave Shaner, preaching minister at the Bellevue Church of Christ, for a brief visit. He did a 1-day seminar at the camp on spiritual self-care. The four evangelists that Rusty coaches came, along with their wives. We also invited Hugo and Martin, evangelists from the Cayambe church, as well as Seyber, the camp accountant and a deacon at the Pílanquí Church of Christ in Ibarra, to join us for the day. This group has begun to form some neat bonds and has started calling themselves the "Bellevue Missionary Team." Please pray for these couples and the various churches they minister to.

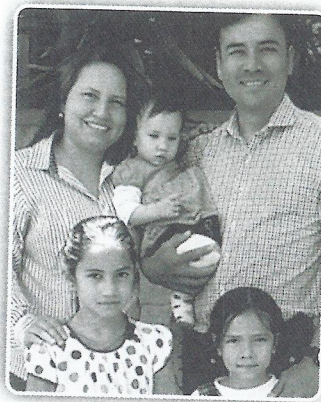
Laura Campbell

Contributions for Camp Bellevue and/or the Campbell Family may be sent to the Bellevue Church of Christ, 1212 104th Ave. SE, Bellevue WA 98004. Make checks payable to the church and earmark "Camp Bellevue" (for the camp general fund) or "Campbell Family" (for our personal support). **Please note that we are seeking additional long-term monthly support for the camp at this time. If you or your church is interested in becoming a part of the ministry of Camp Bellevue, please contact us at rustyandlaura@gmail.com or 615-290-5767 for more information.**

QSOBS TEAM 2020



Hamilton & Sandra Yungan
Samuel (11), Emanuel (7)



Jose Luis & Grissel Guerrero
Veronica (8) Alejandra (6)
and Barbara (1)



The Tumbaco-Cumbaya Team
met in February with representatives from
Woodland West and Western Heights



Diego & Diana Morán

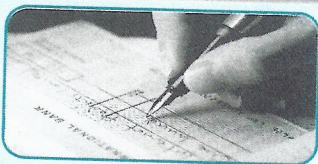
Meet the new team bound to the Tumbaco-Cumbaya valley in July 2020. Long-time partners to Operation Ecuador, Woodland West Church of Christ in Arlington, TX and Western Heights Church of Christ in Sherman, TX, have teamed up to make this church-plant a reality. Three families who have graduated from the QSOBS are courageously embarking on this new work in this growing valley of Quito and home of its international airport.

Be praying for this bi-vocational team as they begin their micro-businesses and launch this important work.



Valley of Tumbaco-Cumbaya
The fastest growing sector of Quito,
now with a populace of 350,000 souls.

Joshua K. Marcum



QSOBS

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

Ways to Give

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

CRAZY FOR JESUS!



Judd Adams, now a veteran medical mission ophthalmologist from Morrilton is proof that we are an open-minded ministry, accepting even red-necks from Arkansas! He is definitelywell.....special!

What can you say about folks who come to the Cayapas River in Ecuador year after year to work on medical missions and ministry projects? Perhaps they should reevaluate their thinking, or in OKIE terms, have their heads examined! Some of them NEVER miss a year! It is certainly not logical:

- Many of them actually use their precious vacation time.
- Most spend much of their own money for flights and travel expenses.



Our only manner of transportation on the Cayapas River are 45-50 foot-long canoes that can safely and effectively haul incredible loads of supplies, or about 16-18 good sized North Americans!



Steve Prock of Sherman, TX, definitely gets the award and designation of "baby holder" during every campaign! He has been on countless missions and brings a large core group of workers from Western Heights Church of Christ. **Staci McLean**, on the other hand, came for the first time from Lubbock, TX, and brightened up a lot of lives with her unique smile and a pair of sunglasses!

- Others lose money due to closing down their business or source of income.
- Traveling to and from Kumanii Christian Center on the Cayapas requires four rigorous days of air, bus, and canoe travel.
- The climate is harsh; sweating takes on a new meaning on the Cayapas!
- Often, the travelers get soaked by rain during their canoe rides up and down the Cayapas.
- Some visitors offer exceptional invitations to the no-see-um chiggers and experience an itching that is second to none in the world!
- A few have returned to the States with scabies from holding babies in the clinics.

Jackie Dottle attended as a translator for her very first time. Jackie is special in that she was the very first Ecuadorian immersed into Christ in 1989 as part of the Operation Ecuador Ministry! She and her husband served in Ambato for 8 years and now preach in Hamlin, TX.



(Continued on page 7)

- Sometimes clothing and footwear must be left behind due to the mud and smell of sweat.
- The daily living conditions bring some level of personal discomfort -- open-air ceilings in the dorms, sleeping under mosquito nets, sharing the shower house with occasional tree frogs, eating ham and cheese sandwiches for lunch almost every day, navigating slippery, steep stairs and slopes, working through translators for all medical treatment, etc.!



February was our largest medical group ever: 48 from the USA, 16 Ecuadorians, and 2 from England! We were blessed to treat well over 1100 people in 5 days on the Cayapas River. Some were veterans of years and years while others came for their very first time.

You know what? They just keep coming back, bringing family and friends with them, and actually saying it has been a life-changing experience! Well, would anyone want to go again November 6-15th? Let me know asap: Kentmarcum7@gmail.com

We'll see how many want to go and plan according to the giftedness of the group. Actually, small

groups can be a lot of fun and varied in experience! Otherwise, the next PLANNED medical mission is February 19-28, 2021!

Kent Marcum

So That Others Might Hear

Honored:

J.B. and Patsy Tarr
Howard Smith

70th wedding anniversary
Lifetime of missions' inspiration

Memorials:

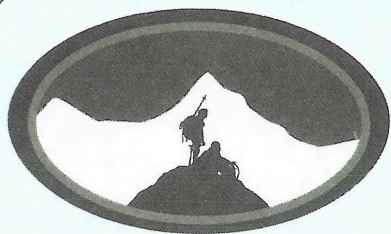
Jon Adams
Brooklyn Albright
Dwayne (Andy) Anderson
Kristy Lyn Anderson
Carl Brecheen
Vaughn Graham
Ruth Green

Billy Harrington
Kimberlin Family
David Lynn
Beverly Moody
Maxwell Robert Moore
Gerald & Bobbie Paden
Sebastian Revelo

Richard Smith
Ivan Stewart
Terrel Taylor
Anton Wallace
Richard White
Ken White
Kerry White

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



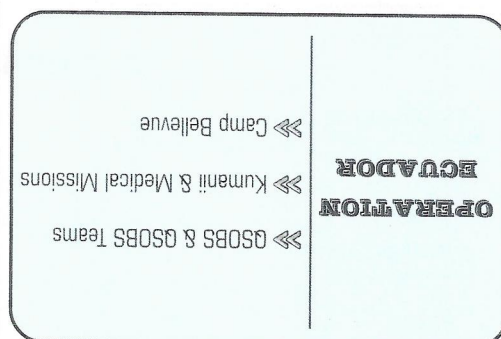
OE SUMMIT 2020

Save the Date: October 23-24

(registration begins 9:00 a.m.)

Hillsboro Church of Christ (Nashville, TN)

As of now, we are going ahead with plans for the annual Operation Ecuador Summit, to be hosted this year by one of the Campbell family's supporting congregations. Be on the lookout for further details in a separate mailing or to be released online via Facebook or other social media outlets. If it is necessary to cancel this year's Summit, that decision will be made later in the summer after evaluating the ongoing situation with the Coronavirus pandemic. For now, we ask you to **"save the date,"** and we thank you for your understanding and flexibility with so many unknowns!



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