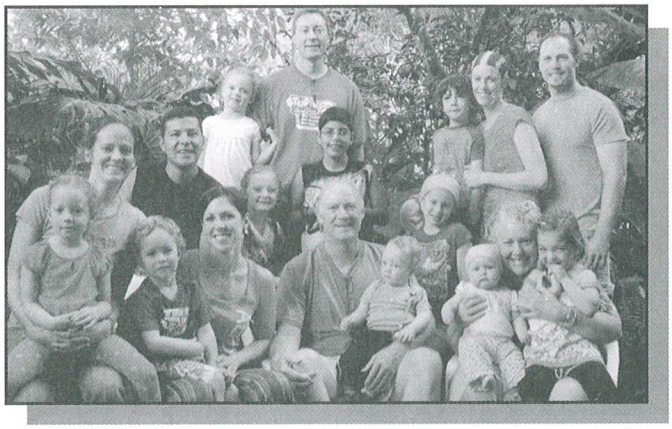
OperationEcuador

FALL 2018

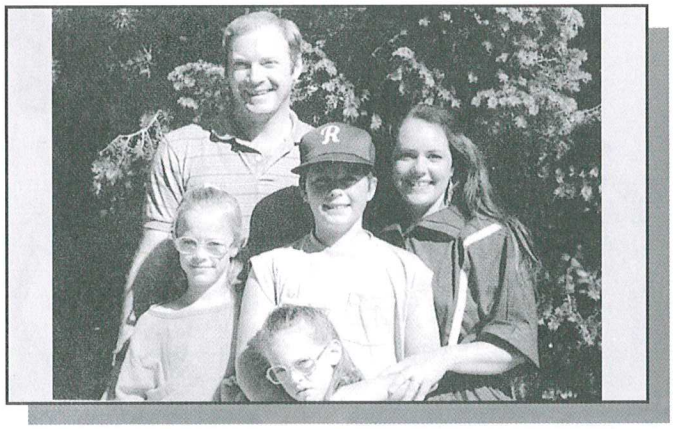
Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. *(Deut. 7:9)*

Operation Ecuador: Three Decades of Ministry!

Exactly 3 decades ago, I was in Quito studying Spanish, working on visas, and looking for housing possibilities for the soon-to-arrive five-family team of Operation Ecuador. My family was living in Pueblo, CO, being blessed by the Southwest Church of Christ which had agreed to take on the sponsorship for the Marcum Family. Now, as the Stateside Coordinator for the development of Operation Ecuador Ministries, I write this article from the ranch outside of Indiahoma, OK, where I spent a lot of time growing up. During the last ten years, we have gradually phased out of a full-time role working in Ecuador to the point that we now live full-time in the States, and only visit Ecuador several times a year, usually forming and accompanying U.S. groups on short mission trips to the Cayapas River where I also serve as director of a mission compound called Kumanii.



Kent & Sharla Marcum Family, 2012



Kent & Sharla Marcum (Joshua, Jauna, & Jenny) - 1988

Looking back on the development of Operation Ecuador seems like a dream that went by in the blink of an eye! Many wonderful people came and worked in Ecuador for different lengths of time, and added

(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
Joshua & Julie Marcum
593-2-252-8943 (of.)
593-99-329-6008 (cel)
jjmarcum22@gmail.com

Hacienda of Hope & HOH Academy
Justin & Jauna Reeger
593-98-406-3744
justin.reeger@gmail.com

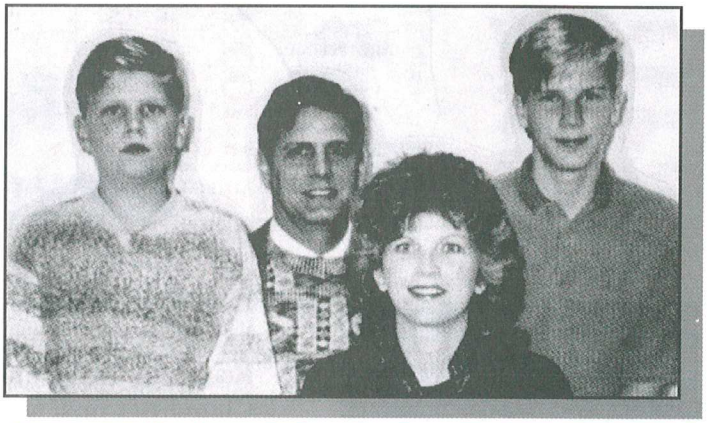
Camp Bellevue
Rusty & Laura Campbell
593-99-196-8244
rustyandlaura@gmail.com

Kumanii & Medical Missions
Kent Marcum
Kumanii Director
&
OE Stateside Representative
22938 SW Bishop Rd.
Indiahoma, OK 73552
580-595-0799
kentmarcum7@gmail.com

Joe & Susan Placencia Family (2018)

Joe & Susan Placencia (David & Adam) - 1993

Dan & Kathy Leaf Family at Joshua & Cristin's Wedding, 2014

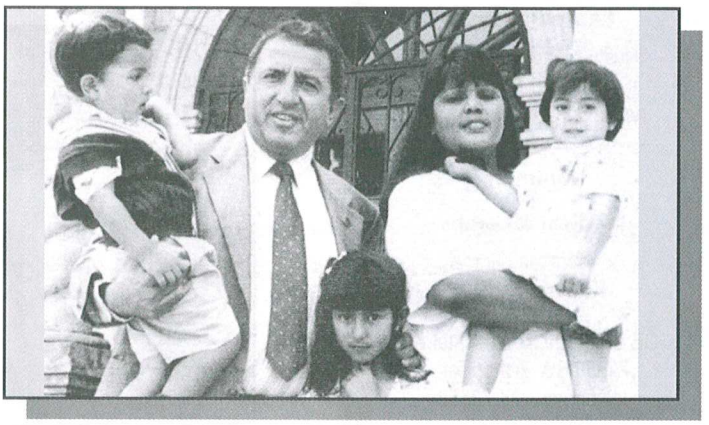


Dan & Kathy Leaf (Joshua & Stephen) - 1989

Kevin & Dani Haynes Family (2018)

Kevin & Dani Haynes (Joshua & Mathew) - 1989

Dante & Chamely Chalco Family
at Sasha & Liam's Wedding (2014)



Dante & Chamelly Chalco (Sasha, Ivanka, & Franko) - 1993

their giftedness to enhance the ministry. Some of those have not only left Ecuador but have truly gone home and await us on the other side of Jordan. Of course, we feel a special sense of appreciation to the 4 families, all SIBI graduates, who accepted the invitation to pioneer in Ecuador some 30 years ago. We each made a commitment to stay 5 years with a goal of staying 10 if possible. This group could be known as the "sod busters" like those prairie pioneers who literally broke virgin sod to begin what became the fertile, cultivated farms of the Midwest.

Dante and Chamelly Chalco from Peru stayed about 6 years in Ecuador before returning to Peru. Dante went home to be with the Lord just a few years ago. Chamelly lives in Lubbock, TX, with her daughter, Sasha. **Kevin and Dani Haynes** returned to the States at the end of 1993. Kevin has been associated with SIBI in Lubbock for the last 11 years. He now serves as Director of Continuing Education and one of the instructors there. **Dan and Kathy Leaf** also returned at the end of 1993 and have been working with the church at Southside in Fort Worth for the last 20 years as their Local Missions Ministers. He and Kathy have used their special giftedness well in that exciting congregation. They plan to retire from that ministry at the end of this year. **Joe and Susan Placencia** returned to the States after 7 years in Ecuador. He now works with the U.S. government in a civil service position and Susan is assistant director of a pre-school.

Camp Bellevue

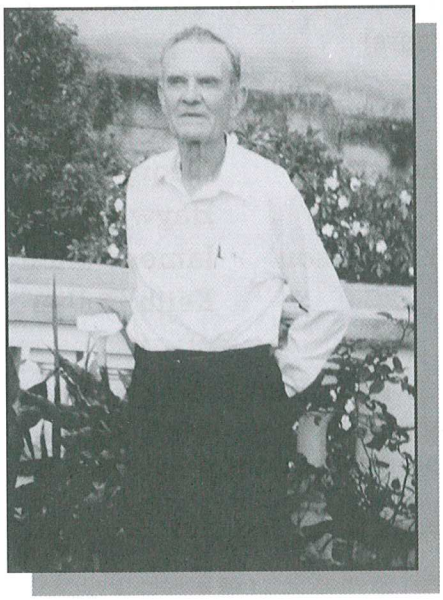
It is extremely difficult to mention all of those who came and served for lengths of time. It especially became challenging to know of the many comings and goings in the more remote ministries of Camp Bellevue and Hacienda of Hope. However, it is needful to mention a few. **Ulf and Margret Hallen** (1997-2006), of Bellevue, WA, worked diligently for over 10 years to develop Camp Bellevue, a ministry that has blessed countless children and served as a location of great edification for the church in general. The Camp has a capacity for 200. Ulf continues making yearly trips to Ecuador to work with the church which he and Margret began in Cayambe. Following the Hallen's, **Justin and Jauna Reeger** served over 5 years as directors at Camp Bellevue (2006-2013). In 2013, they assumed HOH responsibilities and **Rusty and Laura Campbell** transitioned into this role. The Campbell´s are now celebrating their sixth year working in Ecuador.

HOH & HOH ACADEMY

Jerry and Pat Snyder (2002-2013), of Prague, OK, gave 11 years of themselves to begin the Hacienda of Hope. As with the Hallen's, the infrastructures they built from nothing within that time period have become the home of 40+ children! **Justin and Amanda Snyder** (2006-2013) joined "mom and dad" to begin the Hacienda of Hope Christian Academy, now a ministry serving over 250 children. **Jake and Tanya Wilson** just returned to the States after about 5 years as director of HoH Academy following the Snyder's. Five years ago, **Justin and Jauna Reeger** transitioned over to the Hacienda of Hope and became directors, following the Snyder's. They have had several key staff members who have been with them for several years: **Cathy Frances** (7), **Stephanie Brookshire** (5), **Ivanka Chalco** (4), **Ashley Moore** (4), **Kyle McDaniel** (3), and **Courtney Hard** (2),.

QSOBS

Operation Ecuador knew it would need to train national leaders to carry on the work beyond the influence of North Americans. The original team and subsequent teachers laid the solid foundation of the International Quito School of Biblical Studies which continues today. **Arthur and Carmen Puente** and **Jorge and Maritza Pineda** invested five years of intense teaching and building up the curriculum for the QSOBS from its beginning in 1997. **Joshua and Julie Marcum** entered the O.E. work in 2011, first as Assistant Director of the QSOBS, then replacing me as director in 2014. I had served in that evolving position since 1990. Others who came and served several years in different capacities



A.C. Gibson, Ecuador 1993

were: **A.C. Gibson, Donna Brooks, Jon and Brenna Camp, Steve and Josie Mock,** not to mention the **40 AIM students** who passed through Quito during seven years in the 90's. I would be remiss to not

mention **Jerry Lawlis** (though he never lived in Ecuador) who worked tirelessly as the Stateside Representative for the QSOBS from 1998-2010, building the economic foundation for the new international institute.

For the purposes of our U.S. audience reading this bulletin, I have limited mentioning only U.S. missionaries. The truth is that much of OE´s success is due to the many **Latin Americans** who have worked alongside us or even launched out into virgin territory to "break ground" for new ministries. This fundamental principal is precisely why Operation Ecuador will reach way beyond 30 years of U.S. influence. The QSOBS, in particular, implements every day this long-range objective to prepare men and women to assume the task of ministry to their own people. Those trained are now scattered throughout the ministries mentioned above and are living in more than 15 countries on 4 continents throughout the world! They are evangelizing and planting churches in remote villages and mega-cities throughout Latin America and beyond! Evangelizing Quito, reaching Ecuador, and certainly Latin America was never even remotely possible for a team of 5 families in 1989. But in multiplying the number of prepared spokesmen of the gospel–now over 222–Operation Ecuador surpasses our human objectives and surprises with kingdom-power results.

U.S. Partnerships

Finally, I must express thanks and praise for the foundational congregations who sponsor and oversee the ministries mentioned above. **Southwest Church of Christ in Pueblo, CO,** has been the oversight for the Marcum Family, the QSOBS, and three church plants since 1988. **Bellevue Church of Christ in Bellevue, WA,** has been the overseeing congregation for Camp Bellevue, the Hallen's, the Reeger's, and now the Campbell's since 1997. The **Twickenham Church of Christ in Huntsville, AL**, has been the supervision for Hacienda of Hope, the Snyder's, and now the Reeger's since 2002. **Faith Village Church of Christ in Wichita Falls, TX,** has partnered with the Southwest congregation to handle the finances of the ever-growing QSOBS. I must mention a key volunteer player, **Phil Pendergraft,** who rescued me from the management of the financial blessing of the QSOBS a few years ago. What a asset he has been! The **37th Street Church of Christ in Snyder, TX,** serves as the oversight of the Kumanii Ministry on the Cayapas River.

Operation Ecuador? It is an incredible group of God's people, both North and Latin American who understand that we can accomplish much more working together in harmony, while maintaining our autonomy in the Kingdom. What a blessing to work in partnership for the salvation of many!

Kent Marcum

So That Others Might Hear

Honored:

Don Marcum & Robbie Sikes. Two heroes loving and serving the Marcum-Sikes family for more than 90 years!

Memorials:

Cloe Ann Newhouse	**George Bailey**	**Kristy Lyn Anderson**	**Ronnie Cooper**
Craig Reinolds	**Hayward Burton**	**Lois Lorene Lafferty**	**Virginia Mays**
Dwayne (Andy) Anderson	**James Bolton**	**Marion Thurman**	
Edwin White	**Keith Collier**	**Mickey Ford**	

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.

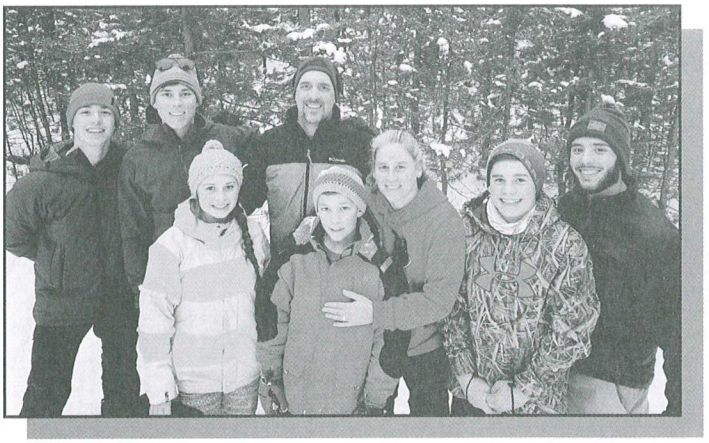
Faith Village Church of Christ,
ATTN QSOBS
4100 McNiel Ave Wichita Falls, TX 76308

NEW TO OPERATION ECUADOR

My name is John Schadegg. However, my story doesn't start there; it starts with a girl named Jill Jerome. You see, this girl who has furiously pursued God her entire life, stole my heart, and agreed to be my wife if we would pursue God together. From the beginning of our relationship she has had an intense desire to serve God on the foreign mission field. She would plead her case, I would listen, and then reply how stateside work is also a mission field, specifically campus ministry. So, for the last 20 years I have served in three locations and preached the gospel to college-age adults in Laramie, WY, Lincoln, NE, and Logan, UT. This time was rewarding, but also difficult at times, and God used it to teach me a number of great lessons concerning evangelism and connecting people with the gospel of Christ. While Jill saw how God was working in our ministry, it never quite quelled her desire for the foreign mission field.

As our first born approached his teen years, we discussed the necessity of taking him on a mission trip out of the United States. Despite the most obvious reasons to do this, our reasons also included the Schadegg homeschool philosophy for our children to experience life beyond the comforts of America. An opportunity arose for us to join a mission trip to Guatemala. Since we had all the young ones at home and limited finances we opted for Silas and myself to go due to the fact that they also asked me to speak. It was a great experience! However, I could see the hope in my wife's eyes when I returned that she would go next time. I decided at that point that she would take the next oldest of our children on their mission trip and I would stay back and take care of the younger ones. She had the opportunity to go to Haiti a couple times alongside our two oldest. They had a great time serving the orphan´s home there. But there was still a longing in her soul.

Jill was praying for and really felt pulled to go to a Spanish speaking country. So one day, as we were visiting Dalhart, TX, Jill asked Dwight Gray if he knew of any mission trips going to South America.... to which he replied, "Let me show you some pictures." And there began our direct connection to Operation Ecuador. Jill immediately "signed up" to go with our older sons in 2013 and then returned to Kumanii four more times after that. Each trip was followed with, "John, you really need to go down. I think you would fall in love with it." This was combined with Dwight communicating, "You know, your wife loves it down there and I think she might want to move there." It was VERY obvious to me and I knew if I said "Let's go" that Jill would move there in a second. Then Kent and Sharla started planting that seed in Jill's heart and asking if we would be



Schadegg Family (from left to right)
Simeon, Rylan, Sydney, John, Joshua, Jill, Titus, Silas

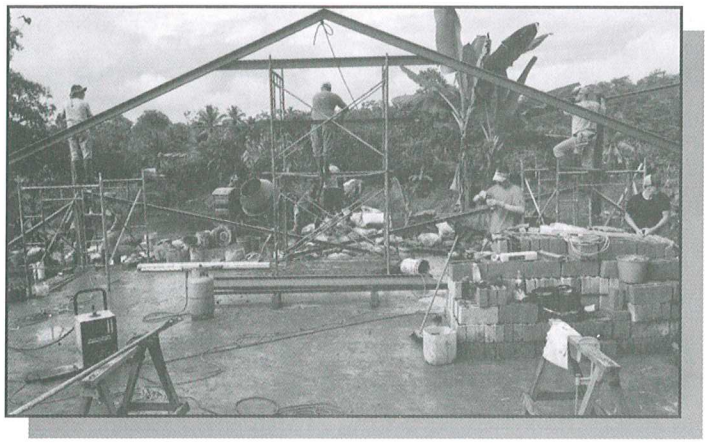
interested in working there. You just need to get John down here," Kent would tell her. However, I still felt led to work stateside. I struggled with this... and then Jill got sick. Many thoughts ran through my head. "We can't move now. We'll need to wait and see how Jill's health is moving forward. I don't know if I am the right man for the job."

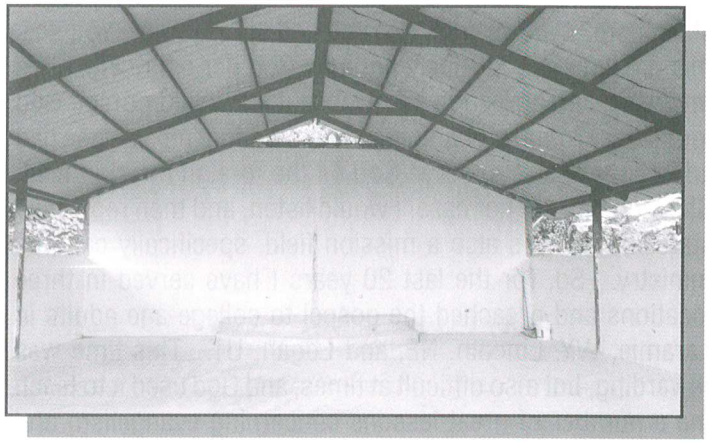
Well, here we are.... 2018. Jill has almost completely recovered and we have a firm grasp on her Lyme's disease so that it is no longer an "excuse" for me. So where does that leave me? I decided to follow Kent and Dwight's advice to "go and see" what opportunities exist at Kumanii. I arrived for the first time in Ecuador the last week of February 2018 to join the medical mission along with four of my children and then stayed for the following construction week. This was nothing but inspirational and I saw how much love and work has been poured into the Kumanii mission. After this trip I knew I could work there and continued to seek God's will to see if this was where he wanted me. By April it was clear this was exactly what God wanted, but I decided to go for another three weeks in June to make sure. This trip solidified my conviction and God has continued to open the door wide for my family and I to work in Ecuador. So, after 9 months (and 5 years) of pondering, praying, and preparing, Jill, Sydney, Titus, Joshua, and I plan on moving to Ecuador in January 2019 to begin a four-year working commitment with the Kumanii mission. This commitment will be re-evaluated at the end of four years to determine if we are being effective and if God wants us to continue the work there. We are all excited and look forward to the great adventure God has laid before us!!! Please pray for us first of all, and if God has placed it upon your heart to help my family fulfill this calling, please let us know.

John Schadegg

KUMANII UPDATE

GREAT NEWS!





Construction and Finished Church Building for Loma Linda And San Miguel Brethren

The Schadegg Family (John and Jill Schadegg + 3 of their children) should be on Ecuadorian soil by January to begin working with Kumanii as they learn culture and language. If you don't know them already, God has a blessing in store for you. We believe they are the answer to years of prayer and waiting in Him! If you know a good congregation (or individuals) that are interested in supporting an exceptional family, get in touch with them: jjschadegg@hotmail.com

One-time $$ Needs at Kumanii:

As you know, God has worked through many people to create an oasis on the Cayapas: a base from which we can minister to the Chachi Indians and the Afro-Ecuadorians with groups of up to 50 people. Our goal has been: one, to provide safety and two, a sufficient level of comfort that the week is more enjoyable and productive.

We are tired of replacing rotting sidewalks that are costly to repair, dangerously slippery, and a haven for snakes! All the steps and some sidewalk has been replaced with permanent cement. Galvanized handrails are also being installed. We need $3500 to finish the work.....and it is a lot of work! Our staff, with the help of some neighbor-labor, is ready to do it so that we are set for February. So, we need 140 people (or the equivalent thereof) to pay for one foot of sidewalk at $25 per foot.

Monthly $$ Needs at Kumanii!

The weight of ministry is overwhelming at Kumanii. We desperately need to add an additional evangelist to our group. A round figure to begin supporting an evangelist with a family is about $800/month. Funding has been provided for 2019. Help me find the folks that can make this happen on an on-going basis beginning in 2020!

2019 Short-term mission opportunities at Kumanii:

February 22 - March 3	Medical Mission
March 1 - 10	General Construction Week
March 8 - 16 or 17	High School/College Spring Break Week
March 15 – 24	Construction Week with Dewey, OK (open to others as well)
May 24 - June 2	General Construction Week
May 31 - June 9	Medical Mission
Summer or Fall	Totally open for your desires and suggestions!

Let's begin to fill up these weeks and pray for God's guidance as we make ourselves available to Him to spread His word on the Cayapas River! Your cost: Airfare + $1000. Don't worry about the $$ right now; let's just get your name on a tentative list and begin working and praying in that direction!

We really appreciate each of you for all you do on behalf of this ministry! Saying, "Thank you," seems insufficient but His abundant blessing to His people is more than we can imagine! You have helped make Kumanii what it is today. Let's continue the task to reach as many as we can "while it is day!"

Send all Kumanii donations to: 37th Street Church of Christ, 2500 37th Street, Snyder, TX 79549. Ear mark your checks for purpose of donation. **Communication: kentmarcum7@gmail.com**

Kent Marcum

Hacienda of Hope

Almost 20 years ago Twickenham Church of Christ decided to change their focus on international mission work. God led us on a journey to our current Hacienda of Hope (HoH) mission to provide much needed care for children in Ecuador. It has been exciting to be a part of this ministry as we have learned to better serve the children in the surrounding communities of Tabacundo. We are now providing a safe environment for over 30 abandoned and abused children to heal and grow a relationship with Jesus. We have seen some amazing transformations take place as God has worked in these children's lives. Where possible, the HoH staff work with families to change behaviors that allow children to go back to their homes. The new

Students Gather in the New HOH Academy Gymnasium

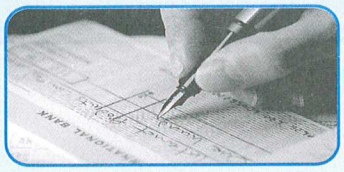
Ellis Administration and Counseling Center

Ellis Administration and Counseling Center now provides excellent facilities for our staff and their counseling sessions.

Our HoH Academy provides a strong Christian education for the children in our care but also for the surrounding communities. We now have over 250 children attending the HoH Academy where we are able to provide a Christian influence in their families' lives.

God has blessed this mission and we give Him all the glory as we continue to show Jesus to the children of Ecuador.

For HOH
Steven Owens



Ways to Give

OperationEcuador

QSOBS

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

Hacienda of Hope

Twickenham Church of Christ
7500 Whitesburg Drive S.
Huntsville, AL 35802

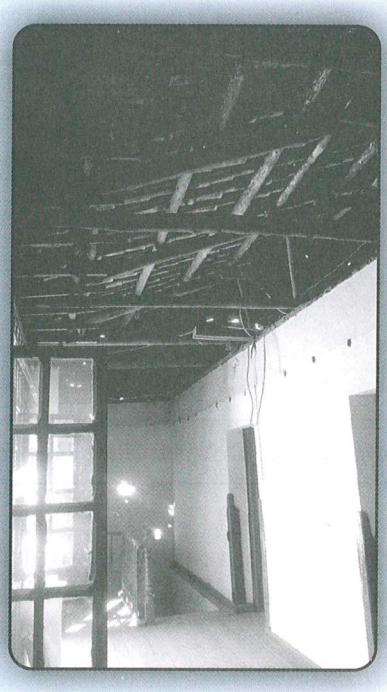
Kumanii Or Medical Missions

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

Camp Bellevue

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

UPDATE ON CAMPUS HOUSE



The QSOBS Campus House has a Name!

"El Puente"

Connecting Young People to God and Each Other

God has been good and has used so many of you. This ministry will:

- Bless the QSOBS
- Minister to University Students.

We have had to increase our goal by almost 5% to cover unforeseen construction costs. With your help, we can easily raise this in 2018!!

Lack
$7,000.00

OPERATION ECUADOR

- QSOBS & GSOBS Teams
- HOH & HOH Academy
- Kumanii & Medical Missions
- Camp Bellevue

SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE OPERATION ECUADOR NEWSLETTER
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