

# The Kooistras

September 2011

We will be doing quite a bit of traveling this fall. Here is our immediate itinerary:

A couple weeks ago we drove to **Enterprise, AL** and spoke at The Grace Place Church

October 19-23  
**South Lyon, MI**  
Fellowship Evangelical Presbyterian Church

November 5-6  
**Whitinsville, MA**  
Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church

November 9-20  
**Hamilton, Ontario**  
Elliott Heights Baptist Church and West Highland Baptist Church

We hope to visit friends and other supporting churches in the Chicago area early next year.

David was able to celebrate his Birthday with his Scottish nieces and nephew.

Yesterday I was walking and listening to music and a phrase in one song just jumped out at me and has stuck— “He is bigger than my yesterdays”. Isn’t that awesome? Do you get as excited about that as I do? What have your yesterdays been like? Our yesterdays have been full of uncertainty and change and to be honest, some discouragement, but that phrase put things back into perspective for me. He is bigger than the struggles we face and He is in control.

In our last prayer letter we asked you to pray with us concerning the timing of our return to Peru. Since then we’ve wrestled and contemplated and sought out advice and we have decided that for various reasons we need to stay in the US for a full year. We do have peace with that decision. Our kids have started in public school and although it has not been the easiest thing for them, they are all doing well. Dean is even doing quite well. He has started NILD therapy with me at home and we also have been working him through a vitamin protocol. He has been surprising us with his new-found voice and ability to articulate his thoughts. At this point we can’t say for certain what may be causing this change or even if it is permanent but we can give the praise to God. Please pray that God will continue to do a work in Dean for His glory.



David’s mom, Shirley, recently had a scan done to see if the radiation and chemo have been effective. Well, there’s good news and bad news. The bad news is there are two new suspicious spots which means the chemo was not working well. The good news is that the cancer around her spine has gone down considerably and they have now put her on a different medicine that has worked for her in the past and doesn’t give her the negative side affects. She’s pretty happy about that but she still has pain in her back as a daily reminder of the cancer. Please pray for her healing and pray that despite the trial she is in, she may have peace and strength in her spirit.

The time is quickly approaching when we all climb in the van next week and head your way! Well...so we thought. With so much going on in our world we forgot that three of our passports expired October 2. It was not a happy day in the Kooistra household last week when we discovered they were expiring. We have been going crazy since then applying for new passports and rearranging our travel schedule somewhat because we need those little blue books to enter Canada these days. At least we found out before being turned away at the border! Our Canadian churches graciously changed the dates for our visit and we do appreciate their flexibility. I’ll go ahead and ask the question you are just dying to ask. “How do missionaries, who travel ALL the time, forget that the passports need to be renewed?” We plead the 5th. No comment.

While we are traveling we look forward to reconnecting with our support team and meeting with our supporting churches. We have been so blessed by your prayers and generosity. It is no understatement that we could not serve in this ministry without you. We pray that we can encourage you as you have encouraged us. We pray also that the Lord will lead others to join our support team, specifically for the time we are in the US. We are looking for ways to grow our team. If you would like us to share in your church or small group we would love to talk to you about it. The cost of living is much higher here and economic difficulties have met up with our support team as well. If God is bigger than our yesterdays though, I’m confident to say He is bigger than our tomorrows and He knows what’s coming our way. We do appreciate your prayers as we wait on the Lord to provide in His way and in His timing.



## Prayer Requests

- That our new passports would arrive without delays.
- For safety in our upcoming travels and for opportunities to encourage as we personally reconnect with supporters and our churches.
- For the kids in public school. We will be taking them out for 3 1/2 weeks of travel so they will need to keep up with their work on the road.
- For David's mom, Shirley, who is fighting cancer. Pray for daily strength and that the current medicine would halt its progress.
- For times of refreshment for us as a family. The transition "home" has been stressful and somewhat overwhelming.
- For our support levels while we are home in the US.
- Pray for safety of the SamAir team still in Peru. For the guys working on the planes and for the pilots as they fly.
- Please pray for our Wycliffe colleagues in Indonesia. They had a fatal aircraft accident last week where the pilot and the two passenger were killed. We do not know any more details at this time.



*David, Judah and I loved spending a few days with our friends Jodi & Tony Zell in Alabama. We were invited to speak at their church and introduce missions on a global perspective. What a neat opportunity and the church was very encouraging to us. Tony is laid up right now with a broken arm and leg so it was good to help out a bit around the house as well. Tony is a Blackhawk pilot in the Army so we were able to catch a glimpse of military life while we were there. Judah loved the helicopters and playing with the Zell kids.*



*Jim & Judy Ryder host a small group that has been praying for us while we have been in Peru. It was a privilege to meet the group and to spend an evening with them. The kids had fun too—Judah had a turn driving an electric train.*



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