

continued from front

In 2024, the HOPE *worldwide* JAX chapter contributed \$6,000 to help provide construction materials, scholarships, and supplies for volunteers from Quito and the United States. We also received \$1,500 in employee volunteer assistance grants from Bank of America for the service of three of our volunteers who are Bank of America employees.

From August 8-18, 2025, another group of volunteers returned to construct additional bathrooms for families in the region. For that trip, the HOPE *worldwide* JAX chapter helped raise funds to purchase construction materials, reaching a goal of \$6,500 through an MLK Day Fun Run in January, volunteering at the GATE River Run, and through personal and corporate donations. This past fall, we received an additional \$13,500 for construction materials, tools, and to provide scholarships to offset participation fees in 2026.

To date, 57 bathrooms have been completed, and the goal is to complete 80 or more. The cost to build one bathroom is about \$350. Tax-deductible donations may be made to HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador. We keep a separate fund for construction materials and have raised nearly \$26,000 total for scholarship assistance and for purchasing construction materials locally, which also supports the Ecuadorian economy.

Consider joining us from July 31 – August 9, 2026. Full details will be available in December 2025. The application fee covers meals, housing, and transportation in-country. Volunteers are responsible for airfare and personal medical/travel

insurance. The total cost is approximately \$2,000, and scholarship assistance is available. If you cannot travel but want to support the work, you can make a tax-deductible donation to HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador. We are also looking for medical professionals to serve the community during our time there.

Participant Reflections

Keith Davis, minister at the JAX church, shared that this experience “is a crash course in empathy. When you leave, your hearts are always full because of the seeds you have exchanged in each other’s hearts.”

HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador country director Edwin said, “For all the team, for me it has been an experience to be able to share so much with each one. Seeing your love for God and your compassion has helped me understand what Jesus’ example is like. I aspire to achieve that. Thank you for everything you have done for the community to meet their needs.”

Another volunteer said “It is not just about building bathrooms. It is about building relationships, not only with the Cuyuacu community, but also growing spiritually with our brothers and sisters.”

For questions and more information, email Jim Mackie, jdmackie@comcast.net. If you cannot go but would like to support this effort, you can make a tax-deductible donation to HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador.

LATEST STORIES ON www.DisciplesToday.org:

Go to www.DisciplesToday.org to read the latest News articles and to access the archives for all channels.

> **The Quality of Humility in a Teacher of God’s Word**

November 12, 2025 • Brad and Ann King – Paris, France

For several years now, the ICOC church in Tallinn, Estonia, has hosted an international conference to promote the teaching ministry in our fellowship of churches. Understanding that there is some...

> **Northern Virginia Church Seeks Youth and Family Ministers**

November 17, 2025 • Paolo Ugolini – Northern Virginia, VA, USA

The Northern Virginia (NOVA) Church of Christ ministers to the dynamic Virginia-based communities of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The NOVA Church is seeking a full-time couple to serve as youth and family ministers. Seated at the doorstep of the...

> **The Story of 6,000: How 21 Disciples Sparked a Movement Across a Continent**

November 12, 2025 • Africa Missions Association

In October 1989, a small team of 21 missionaries arrived in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, with a vision to plant a church. Thirty-five years later, that single seed of faith has blossomed into a movement spanning a continent...

> **Where Truth and Grace Meet: The Messy Middle**

November 10, 2025 • Ellen Radcliff – Jacksonville, NC, USA

When I was twelve, I first read Hebrews 4:13: “Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” Something about it both terrified and thrilled me. Even then, I longed – and feared – to be fully known. But I quietly dared to...

www.DisciplesToday.org hosts thousands of pages of news, articles and images to help connect disciples and churches around the world. All information and content is freely available for everyone.



disciples today

To Inspire, Inform, Unify and Grow
the International Churches of Christ

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN

WWW.DISCIPLESTODAY.ORG • ISSUE 1036

The HOPEww Ecuador Worthy Bathroom Program

UPCOMING EVENTS

Teleios Conference
February 26-28, 2026
San Antonio, TX, USA

Marriage Retreat Cruise
April 4-11, 2026
San Diego, CA, USA

Church Builders Conference
April 23-26, 2026
Boston, MA, USA

Marriage Retreat Cruise
May 2-9, 2026
Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA

DT Travel in Bali 2026
May 2–10, 2026

DT Travel 2026 Mediterranean Cruise: Footsteps of Paul
September 12–22, 2026

Conferencia de Las Americas
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct 15-18, 2026

November 18, 2025 • Jim Mackie – Jacksonville, FL, USA

Imagine living in a cold, rainy, mountainous region near the equator, with very limited income, and a bathroom that’s an outdoor hole surrounded by a tarp. Each day is a struggle to maintain dignity and privacy, particularly for women living in such conditions.

In August 2024, 15 volunteers from the JAX Church in Jacksonville, FL, serving in partnership with HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador, along with brothers and sisters from the Orlando and Broward (South Florida) churches, participated in the HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador Worthy Bathroom Program. The team served in the mountainous region of Cuyuacu, located three hours south of Quito and one hour south of Ambato. During the trip, they completed several bathrooms and spent time with the indigenous families of the community. Earlier that summer, a HOPEww Volunteer Corps team served many families and children by constructing a greenhouse to help grow food.

Volunteers served in a difficult climate and at high altitude alongside the local community to construct bathrooms that connect directly to the homes. Trenches were dug by hand, concrete was sifted by hand, block walls were built and painted, roofs and doors were added, and plumbing was connected to a septic system away from the home. Each bathroom has lighting, a new toilet, sink, and shower. Hygiene instructions were posted on the wall, and volunteers taught safe handwashing.

HOPE *worldwide* Ecuador, which is based in Quito, maintains a strong ongoing relationship with this community and models “doing with” rather than “doing for.” They also partner with a small group of disciples in nearby Ambato, a church planted in 2022. Disciples worshiped together in both Quito and Ambato, which has been very encouraging. Fellowship among disciples, worship, bus ride devotionals, shared meals, morning coffee runs, and a little tourism all help the volunteers grow spiritually and build strong relationships.



CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



International News reprinted
courtesy of Disciples Today
www.DisciplesToday.org
content@dtoday.net
All rights reserved ©2025

continued on back