



Servants in Faith and Technology /  
Southern Institute for Appropriate Technology  
2944 County Road 113, Lineville, Alabama 36266  
Phone: (256) 396-2015 Fax: (256) 396-2501 [www.sifat.org](http://www.sifat.org)

## A Mission Team Becomes Family

By Marie Lanier Narváez

Promotions and Marketing Coordinator

On June 1, 19 mission team members from four states arrived in Quito, Ecuador, on two flights. Our staff waited for them at the airport, hoping this team would come together as one and not end up staying in small groups with those they already knew. Our prayers were answered immediately. You would have thought this group were all from the same church, instead of eight different ones. They worked well together, willingly serving wherever needed in the construction, medical and VBS components of the team. While they arrived strangers, they left as friends and family.

You often hear about “the family of God” in hymns and sermons, but it is rare that we get to deeply experience that firsthand. Besides the team becoming a family, the church members in Machachi and those helping from Villaflores were like our cousins you only see once a year at a family reunion. All week, we served alongside one another, laughing together and finding ways to communicate despite a language barrier. Even with sickness and challenges, nothing could dampen this team’s spirits and desire to impact the church in Machachi, so that they can continue to effectively meet the needs of those in their community as they are *Sharing God’s Love in Practical Ways*.

Interested in leading or joining a mission team to Ecuador in 2025? Contact [internationalteams@sifat.org](mailto:internationalteams@sifat.org)!



(Continued  
on back.)



## Learn & Serve Summer 2024: *Blessed Are ...*



**Top:** Brandon Methodist Church's youth from Brandon, Miss., helped SIFAT co-founders Ken and Sarah Corson with garden projects at their home. During lunch, Ken and Sarah shared SIFAT stories with the group.

**Left:** Team building on the Challenge Course.

**Bottom:** Youth and their leaders break out in small group discussions led by our summer interns.



Summers on our SIFAT campus are filled with new experiences. Each year, summer interns arrive for training and to prepare for the summer's theme, which is *Blessed Are ...* for 2024 and based on the Sermon on the Mount. This year, we are not only offering full weeks of our Learn & Serve Summer Experience, but also have retreats available. So far, we have welcomed both youth groups and families to SIFAT in Alabama.

Our campus staff always wants to make the Summer Experience different for repeat participants, so this year's team building activities have included cardboard boat races in the pond and Nerf battles. Groups have visited nearby Flat Rock Park to enjoy Lake Wedowee for the afternoon. Add these fun activities to staple programming elements, including spending a meaningful night in our Global Village, learning about appropriate technologies and exploring how to make a difference in the lives of the poor throughout the world, and you get a full Learn & Serve experience. It's more than a summer camp!

Interested in signing up for a last minute summer retreat or planning an event this fall? Contact [learnandserve@sifat.org](mailto:learnandserve@sifat.org) to learn more. Remember, Learn & Serve can be for any age group!