

Sharing God's Love In Practical Ways

SIFAT

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SIFAT Training Catalog



Community leaders from Ghana, the Philippines, Thailand, Nigeria, Bolivia, and Benin build together fuel efficient cookstoves project at SIFAT.

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SIFAT MISSION STATEMENT

SIFAT stands at the crossroads of the First and the Two-Thirds Worlds. Its mandate arises out of first-hand experience of the violence of poverty both in the Two-Thirds World and in our own. Each year millions die for lack of food, water, and shelter. Hundreds of millions live marginalized lives. Such conditions are an affront to the image of God inherent in every human being.

SIFAT seeks to incarnate the love of God in practical ways. Its purpose is to join faith and technology together as a demonstration of God's love and blessing. SIFAT employs appropriate technologies to facilitate the meeting of essential human needs to improve the quality of life around the world.

God's imperative to love is clearly seen in Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats. We love and honor God by showing love to all our fellow human beings. God's spirit empowers us to minister holistically with people in need, physically, socially, and spiritually; both individually and structurally. The physical and social become spiritual as they are united in Christ's service. SIFAT strives to implement the "thy Kingdom come" of the Lord's prayer.

Appropriate technology as employed by SIFAT joins faith and technology to help reduce human drudgery, to alleviate poverty, and to contribute to a deeper understanding of spiritual truths. Technologies are defined as appropriate when they can be maintained and controlled by the local people, are not harmful to the ecology, are sustainable, and culturally acceptable. They emphasize local resources and self-help. Some basic human needs as addressed by SIFAT include clean water, adequate food, clothing, shelter, basic health care, basic education, meaningful labor, communication and skills to make a living.

SIFAT is an inclusive affirming community. We seek to recognize the diversity of skills and gifts God gives each member, and to honor the integrity of each one's work. SIFAT intentionally emphasizes unity of spirit and purpose, not necessarily unity of doctrine.

SIFAT integrates two major concerns in fulfilling its purpose. The first is to collect, develop, and research appropriate technologies and to train people in their use, emphasizing technical and non-technical aspects of those technologies such as how they affect the rest of a community structure. The learning environment combines hands-on and classroom experience.

SIFAT's second concern is lifestyle and mission interpretation. First World/ Third World relationships among individuals, countries, and forces of power are presented in ways that lead to greater understanding, social responsibility for Christians, and positive action among the affluent and the poor. The aim is to stimulate compassion and non-paternalistic relationships on all sides. We use the resources God provides SIFAT with a conscious sense of stewardship.

SIFAT. Current major training efforts are in Alabama, Ecuador, Bolivia, and the Philippines. A SIFAT Training Center is now being built near Lusaka, Zambia with strategic plans for Africa.

THE PURPOSE OF SIFAT

SIFAT is a channel to express the love of Christ in practical ways
To better enable those who follow Christ
To carry out the task of feeding the hungry,
Giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked
And helpful concern to the sick, imprisoned, and needy.

SIFAT was called into being as part of the body of Christ
With the specific task of collecting developing
Researching and teaching appropriate technology
As a means of promoting self-help concepts and projects to people in need.

SIFAT is a holistic ministry,
A channel for Christian witness and service.
SIFAT seeks for unity of spirit and purpose,
Not necessarily unity of doctrine.
SIFAT believes that appropriate technology
Is for the whole world, not just for the poor.

It is technology sensitive to people and to the earth's resources,
A technology concerned not so much with the quantity of things
As with the quality of life.

Those in SIFAT are committed to the pursuit of a
Faithful Christian lifestyle
Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
With the objective that
We might bring honor and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ
As we seek a more just and sane technology
And lifestyle for all.

THE GOAL OF SIFAT TRAINING

The GOAL of the SIFAT training is to make disciples for Jesus Christ who comprehend the integrated, holistic teachings of Jesus; who minister to the total person, body, mind and spirit; who understand how communities and groups can develop to the full potential God intended for them; and who have the skills to facilitate their development.

THE SIFAT PRACTICUM

The SIFAT practicum is a ten week session in which participants study community development from a Christian perspective with appropriate technologies as tools. Students learn to be facilitators for total, integrated development of body, mind and spirit for individuals and for communities. Upon successful completion of the program requirements, one will receive a certificate in Christian Community Development and Appropriate Technologies.

I. Objectives

Graduates of the SIFAT Practicum should:

- 1.) Understand the importance of being a holistic witness for Jesus Christ.
- 2.) Have the tools to organize and facilitate the holistic development of a group or community, and be motivated to do so.
- 3.) Know how to initiate and carry out a SIFAT training seminar and practicum.

II. Core Curriculum Outline

The SIFAT core curriculum is composed of the following nine courses. All nine courses are required for a SIFAT Certificate in Christian Community Development and Appropriate Technologies. Each course has various class components listed elsewhere in this catalog.

1. Christian Leadership Formation
2. Community Development
3. Appropriate Technologies
4. International Health
5. Micro-Enterprise
6. Communications and Computer Skills
7. Organizing for Action
8. Principles & Methods of Teaching Adults
9. Sustainable Agriculture and Small Animal Husbandry

Orientation and Introduction to the SIFAT Campus

I. Orientation to the SIFAT Campus

In the Orientation to the SIFAT Campus, students will become familiar with the history of SIFAT, meet the staff, learn the logistics of living and studying at SIFAT, as well as safety and general rules. A tour of the campus will be conducted and there will be an introduction to the SIFAT library. A short overview and synopsis of required and elective courses will be given.

II. Introduction to the SIFAT Process

Introduction to the SIFAT Process will explain primary factors of the Process. The training courses themselves comprise one component. The covenant relationship, the SIFAT Network and the role of program planning and proposal writing, micro-enterprise and continuing communication and cooperation following graduation are part of the SIFAT Process. At SIFAT, training is not the end goal, but rather the means by which those things learned may be applied to change lives and communities with God's love. The SIFAT Process is presented in five phases:

Phase I	Complete Training; Alumni Status
Phase II	Begin Community Development Process (Organize community or group; conduct needs and resource assessment)
Phase III	Planning and Proposal Process
Phase IV	SIFAT Communications Network & The Covenant Relationship
Phase V	Implementation A. Training Programs B. Community or Agency Projects C. Micro Enterprise D. Receiving Learn & Serve Teams E. Supervising Interns

III. Key Concepts at SIFAT

Servanthood
Basic Human Needs
Sharing God's Love In Practical Ways
Faith & Technology
Empowerment
The Integrated Gospel & The Holistic Witness

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SIFAT

SIFAT's roots are grounded in the experiences of Ken and Sarah Corson (Alabama) and Benjamin Paredes (Bolivia) as they established CENATEC, a non-profit Bolivian organization. Since 1976 CENATEC has used appropriate technology to enable the poor to become self-sustaining, thus demonstrating God's love in action.

After returning to the States, the Corsons met in May 1979 with some 60 persons from different denominations and from three states in the Wedowee United Methodist Church seeking God's leading in how they could use their faith and their knowledge of technology to make a difference in a hurting world. They envisioned an organization that would gather, develop, disseminate and teach appropriate technologies and develop a training center for Christian workers. In July 1979 SIFAT received non-profit status under the laws of Alabama and thus SIFAT was legally born.

Though SIFAT is ecumenical, the people of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church have from the beginning provided the base of interest, financial and prayer support for SIFAT.

For the first three years, SIFAT operated in the basement of the Corson home along with a mobile home parked in their yard. In 1982, the board of directors voted to buy a 105 acre property on the border of Randolph and Clay Counties which was named Galilee Campus. Today the campus includes 175 acres of woodlands and fields with Mad Indian Creek winding through it in the form of an S. The International headquarters is located on this property. The first training session opened three weeks after purchasing the farm with 28 students from 10 states and 6 countries.

Gradually, buildings were added. Today there is an office building, library, cafeteria, two classrooms, dormitory, guest house, International House, camp grounds with hook-ups, the Lodge for conferences and retreats, a barn which has been turned into rustic living quarters, a shade tree industries mall, outdoor cook stove lab, a Global village which simulates African, Asian, Latin American, and native American villages, staff houses, and a number of different appropriate technology models. The Village Store provides a market for the handicrafts of self-help programs around the world.

Training on Galilee Campus was extended to include programs for children (*CARES*), and youth (*Learn and Serve Mission Camps*). Training for adults is now offered in the form of *Short Term Mission Teams for Long Term Development*. Adults are given an introductory course on cross-cultural communication of the Gospel and then go on a team to spend a week under the direction of one of our graduates who is a native of the country they visit. These teams support as many of our graduates' projects as possible. A committee from our board of directors chooses which of our students' proposals we can accept.

Studies focus on world hunger, appropriate technologies, care of God's creation, communications, integrated community development, missions, Christian lifestyle and discipleship. Hands-on activities include practice in sustainable agriculture, small animal husbandry, alternative energies such as solar, wind, water, and pedal power, skills such as food preservation, water purification, and various appropriate technologies aimed at meeting basic human needs.

Since its founding, church and community leaders from 85 countries have studied at

SIFAT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Elective Option

The purpose of the SIFAT Internship program is to provide an avenue of service to practicum graduates whereby the objectives and teachings of this practicum may be utilized and broadened in either a short term Third World setting or on the SIFAT Galilee campus.

There are two primary objectives for the Internship Program:

- A. To give mid-pew Americans an opportunity to live and learn from Christians in another culture.
- B. To assist the alumni and their communities in establishing, maintaining, or enhancing communications and effective networking with SIFAT.

During the course of the practicum, the intern may apply for an internship assignment. Acceptance into the program must be made by recommendation of an evaluation committee. SIFAT will then train, place and supervise all interns accepted into this program. Placement in Third World setting will usually be made in relationship with a SIFAT alumni.

The intern will be expected to pay all expenses such as room, board, travel, health care, insurance, and tuition to the in-country supervisor of the program.

Internship applications available upon request.



Addison Shock & Jarred Griffin learn to drill a well using appropriate technology. They used this technology during their February-May 2008 internship in Ixiamas, Bolivia.

Classes Offered at SIFAT

The following classes are given to help students accomplish the objectives of the Summer Training Practicum. All Classes are required for a practicum diploma.

I. Christian Leadership Formation

This course is given to help the student grow strong in faith and in character, understand the importance of being a holistic witness for Christ, and develop the skills to resolve conflicts in a Biblical manner. The following classes are required:

Christian Discipleship

Spiritual Formation

Relationships

With Self

With Others

Includes Conflict Resolution

With God

With Creation



Students from different countries study together at SIFAT.

Classes Offered at SIFAT

II. Community Development

To enable students to have the tools to organize and facilitate the development of a group or community, the following classes are required:

Theology of Development
Principles of Development
Processes of Development
Women In Development
Development and the Environment
Obstacles to Development
Strategies of Development
Development in Cross Cultural Situations

SIFAT students from around the globe bring a wealth of real-life experience and wisdom to each Practicum. We all learn from each other in a dynamic cross-cultural setting.



SIFAT WORKSHOPS

The following workshops will be offered periodically in one-day to one-week sessions. Several workshops may be offered concurrently or sequentially.

Water and Sanitation in the developing world

Alternative Energies in the developing world

Water
Wind
Solar
Biogas
Minor Energy Sources
 Producer Gas (Wood Gas)
 Charcoal
 Fuel Briquets
 Other

Community Health in the developing world

Safe Motherhood
Child Survival
Nutrition / Malnutrition
HIV/AIDS
Population Issues
Traditional Medicine
Where There is No Doctor
Major Tropical Diseases
Health Promotions Strategies
Health Communication Methods

Micro-enterprise and Micro-credit in the developing world

Overview of Appropriate Technologies in Development

Classes Offered at SIFAT

IX. Sustainable Agriculture and Animal Husbandry

Emphasis is on organic techniques to enrich the soil and improve food yield and quality in an ecologically sound and sustainable way. Included are composting, natural fertilizers such as plants for green manure, pest control, erosion control, and drip irrigation.

Animal husbandry is integrated into the over-all food production plan for protein, fertilizer and micro enterprise for income. Included are raising rabbits and guinea pigs, beekeeping, preparation for where there is no vet and more.



Lieu (on left) from Cote d'Ivoire learns agricultural techniques to feed hungry people and help rebuild his country in the aftermath of civil war



Using simple technologies to save soil on sloping land



Urban gardening

Classes Offered at SIFAT

III. Appropriate Technology

To expose students to the concept of appropriate technology and to equip them with skills and/or resources in technologies for their specific needs, the following required classes are offered:



Building AT models



Water Purification



Low tech well drilling



Bio-sand Filters

Classes Offered at SIFAT



Making low cost reading glasses



Fortifying foods with leaf protein



Building fuel efficient cookstoves



Giving vaccinations and First Aid



Classes Offered at SIFAT

VIII. Principles and Methods of Teaching Adults

These classes help students learn essentials of adult education principles in general, provide specific program options in adult literacy training, and cover guidelines for organizing training events.

Methods of Teaching Adults

Adult Literacy

Organizing Training Events

Assessments of Needs

Recruitment of Students

Selection of Courses and Teachers

Planning a Seminar, Workshop or Practicum

Requirements of hosting SIFAT Training Events



SIFAT students from India, the Philippines, Venezuela, Guatemala and the U.S. work together on a Leaf for Life project to combat child malnutrition with leaf protein.

Classes Offered at SIFAT



VII. Organizing for Action

Training focuses on crucial skills to help lead communities into action, monitor effectiveness of action, and evaluate the process.

Analysis of Community Structure

Community Needs & Resource Assessment

Program Planning

Proposal Writing

Project Management

Monitoring and Evaluation

Development Agencies and Agents

Classes Offered at SIFAT

IV. International Health

Training focuses on primary health care principles that greatly impact community health in the Third World.

Child Survival

Safe Motherhood

Nutrition / Malnutrition

Water & Sanitation

Population Issues

HIV/AIDS

Traditional Medicine

Where There is no Doctor

Major Tropical Diseases

First Aid

Community Health Promotion Strategies

Health Communication Methods

Community Organization for Health

Training of Trainers I (Medical Ambassadors International)



Classes Offered at SIFAT

V. Introduction to Micro Enterprise

This training provides an introduction to micro enterprise, as well as teaches specific skills crucial to program success. The following are required components:

Micro Enterprise

Micro Credit

Cooperatives

Administration & Management

Bookkeeping Basics



Izabel from the Mam indigenous group in Guatemala has incorporated microenterprise principles to market traditional handicrafts.



SIFAT students from the Tsachila Tribe in Ecuador have taken their training back

Classes Offered at SIFAT

VI. Communications & Computers in Ministry

These classes empower students with computer skills that may greatly increase their ministry and ability to communicate with others.

Introduction to Computers (for beginners)

Desktop Publishing

Design newsletters, brochures, and educational materials using Publisher and Microsoft Word

Power Point Presentations

The World Wide Web:

E-mail as a communication tool
Development information search techniques
Introduction to web page design
Accessing agency and grant information on line

Photography:

Picture-taking skills for publications
Digital photography

Optional class:

Using Excel for
record-keeping and
accounting.

