

SIFAT Journal



Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways

Spring/Summer 2013

May Field Study Brings University Students and Community Leaders Together

Sarah Murphree
Field Study Participant

This year, I attended the Field Study from May 12 - 25. The two-week course, held at SIFAT's international campus, is designed to help train students in appropriate technologies. During the course, international community leaders and university students learn how to help better serve those living in poverty. Students live, sleep and eat together, becoming a blended cultural family.

This year, 35 participants from Alabama, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Honduras, Nigeria, the Congo, Zambia, India, Somalia, Atria and Bolivia attended. The people I met, conversations I had and technologies I learned will forever remain with me. I have never been around a group of people so determined, selfless, passionate and kind hearted. Some people were nervous about living together, but after the first few days, we became a big family. When a full day's worth of information and training should have drained us, we always found energy to enjoy each other's company at night. After our last class each day, we spent the evenings dancing to international music, playing cards, telling stories, taking hikes and laughing.

Not only did we share many laughs, but we gained valuable knowledge on appropriate technologies. Dave and Therese Kennedy, founders of Leaf for Life, taught us how to extract green powder from leaves, which can then be used in cooking. We made green pasta, green pita chips, green peanut butter balls and green smoothies. We even had a green birthday cake one evening. We also had the pleasure to learn from Dr. Martin Price, founder of ECHO. We learned about food production, community development and useful farm techniques.

Dr. Frank Franklin, Emeritus of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, taught us about protein malnutrition. We ate desserts with meal worms, proving bugs can be a great protein alternative. We concluded our week with lessons from Dr. Larry Winiarski, inventor of the Rocket Stove. We made our



own fuel-efficient cookstoves from clay. We spent our last night together outside, cooking homemade tortillas and Hispanic food on our stoves.

Everyone should experience the Field Study. Not only do you learn ways to solve world hunger, but you make lifelong friendships. Manuel Bueso, a participant who also translated, described his week here by saying, "This place is like a little piece of heaven, so many cultures and good people all getting along and coming together. It is very inspiring." I could not have said it better myself. These past two weeks left me with knowledge, memories and new perspectives on life I could not have found elsewhere. To learn more about my two weeks at the Field Study, read my posts on the SIFAT blog (www.sifat.org/blog).

Get Involved: Donate a Scholarship

Help empower community leaders in developing countries by donating to the SIFAT scholarship fund. The practical technologies and training students receive at SIFAT improve the lives of children and adults living in developing countries for years to come. Please designate your donation "Scholarship Fund".



Spring/Summer 2013

Jacinto, Mery and Patricia Have Plans!

We shared the following article in our Valentine's e-mail. For those of you who do not receive our e-mails, we wanted to make sure that you saw it. If you would like to receive our e-mail updates, sign up on www.sifat.org (on the bottom right of the page).

Michael Franklin of AHMEN (Alabama Honduras Medical and Educational Network) has written several blog posts about the partnership between SIFAT and AHMEN in Honduras. SIFAT and AHMEN have been partnering for the past few years to provide community development training to communities with whom AHMEN has worked for many years. In the last issue of the Journal, we shared about the training Byron Morales is leading there. Michael spent time with a group of women receiving some of this training. He asked them about themselves, their vision for their training and what they planned to do with their new skills. You can read Michael's full post (Feb. 10) on his blog, michaelfranklinhonduranmissions.blogspot.com.



(Left to Right) Mery, Nehun, Lydia, Patricia, Claudia, Belkis, Jacinto, Irene, Carlota are taking part in training provided through a partnership with SIFAT and AHMEN. These women are gaining confidence and skills that give them plans for not only their future, but their communities' futures.

Here are just a few things the women shared:

- “I knew about the workshop and didn't think I had any business being a part of it. I didn't think the workshop was a serious thing ... I started a savings and loan cooperative before, and it fell apart. After SIFAT's Sara Mamani from Bolivia came to teach us how to save our money, I feel confident that the group will succeed the next go around.” ~ Jacinto
- “The workshop has changed the way I think about my village, my family and my life. I am 17-years-old with 2 children. ... Personally my favorite part is the way the workshops make me feel about myself. My self-esteem has improved a lot since beginning the program. For the first time I feel like I belong somewhere. I think I would like to specialize in HIV prevention and awareness.” ~ Mery
- “I heard about the program and joined late, but I plan to graduate with the rest of the community agents. I am 41-years-old. I have four children and one grandchild. I have joined the workshop for them. My biggest interest is in how to prevent and treat anemia and diarrhea. It is always easier to prevent than to treat.” ~Patricia

SIFAT appreciates your prayers and support, which allow us to continue training people like Jacinto, Mery and Patricia from countries around the world. These three ladies are just examples of many who participate in our training and then go impact their communities for the better. They want to make a difference for themselves, their families and future generations!

Take a SHARE in SIFAT - Commit to Donate Monthly

Become a SHAREholder of SIFAT by giving monthly. Visit the donate page on www.sifat.org or contact Marie (lanierm@sifat.org) for more information.

Letson's Progress in Zambia

In the last issue of the SIFAT Journal, we introduced you to Letson Kachoronga, who is holding agricultural training using the Foundations for Farming method at our training center in Zambia. This May, Letson came to the United States to participate in our Field Study. Letson was not only a student, but taught composting (top right photo) and helped with some of the other agricultural classes. The SIFAT staff here enjoyed getting to know Letson and learning about his progress in Zambia.

SIFAT's training center is located outside of Lusaka, Zambia. Letson has set up agricultural demonstrations that are already having an impact in the community. As more locals see how productive his gardens are, they are asking for help with their own. Pastor John, whose family lives on the SIFAT/Zambia UMC property, worked alongside Letson learning his methods and has been able to produce enough excess crops to buy land for a farm two hours away. His family will eventually be able to relocate to this property, securing a home and future for them!

This year, Zambia suffered drought conditions. Usually, the rainy season lasts about five months. However, this year's rain only came for two months. Letson was disappointed with his yield, yet it was still more than the average local farmers produce annually.

Our Zambia Training Center needs to be completed! Letson is reaching the local community with his training sessions, but we have pastors and community leaders from all over Africa waiting to receive training in agriculture and appropriate technologies.

To finish the buildings, we need short-term mission team members. If you are interested in leading a team, please contact international team coordinator Peggy Walker, walkerp@sifat.org.



Alumni Update: Sara and Eva Mamani

Sara and Eva Mamani
SIFAT Graduates from Tarija, Bolivia

Five years ago, we were introduced to Primero de Mayo, a dangerous neighborhood near our city. Primero de Mayo is plagued with high rates of youth crime, street assault, murder, witchcraft, poverty, illiteracy and school dropouts. Our father told us about this area, and gave us a passion to work with the children there. We began teaching the children and focused on Conflict Resolution. Not long after, we formed a Sunday School. Our classroom was in the back yard where abandoned shingles became our tables and chairs. We tried to move our teachings into a school hall, but the answer was always the same, “very soon, very soon.” Despite our lack of a classroom, we enjoyed learning and studying the bible together. We taught the children that Jesus spoke to people on lakes or in mountains, so a room would not define us.

As our kids got older, it became more vital to find a secure place. It was not safe to hold teachings outside. One day some rough men entered the school yard where we were holding Sunday school. They tried to recruit our students to play in their soccer games. In Bolivia, it is common for people to play and bet on soccer games, but they are not played for fun. A lot of gambling and drinking takes place, and it is not a safe atmosphere. We were friendly towards the men and shared our food in hopes they would leave us alone. The relentless men took our food, but did not leave us alone. They yelled loudly, “This is not a church; it is a soccer yard! It is here to play and not to study

the Bible. You must get out!” We were scared and fearful of what would happen next. We didn’t want problems so we left. With nowhere else to go, we went to the streets and prayed with the children, repeating Romans 8:28, “The people are the Church; it is not a building.”

We continued to hold classes in the street, but without the privacy of a fence or walls, the children began to feel uncomfortable. Some quit coming. We were broken by this situation, but continued to pray. We asked others to help us pray God would provide us a place, a room, a building, anything. We knew God would listen and help. We just had to keep praying.



Sara and Eva Mamani taught Sunday School classes combined with appropriate technology to children in a rough neighborhood. For years, their classroom was a schoolyard, a soccer field and a street.

One morning, Ronald, the treasurer for the children, told us his father would rent us a room. This was a miracle. We had tried to rent a room before, but nobody wanted to rent to us because kids would be in their home. We spoke to Ronald’s father to make sure it was true, and it was. Ronald’s father was so pleased with our group and the confidence we had given his son that he was willing to rent us a room for 100 bolivianos, which is less than \$15.

This was a miracle of God! We were so happy when we saw how close and spacious the room Ronald gave us was. The next Sunday in class, we taught a lesson about the power of prayer. We told the children, “You prayed with all your hearts. This is what God did. He could have done it before, but maybe He wanted to listen to a specific voice from one of you kids, praying, and see if we kept trusting in Him.” From this experience, we learned our trust in God must be constant, and he will always provide what we need.

My Quesimpuco Experience

Britt Carter

Short-term Mission Team Member, Mt. Bethel UMC

Leading up to our trip to Bolivia, I was unsure of what to expect. I knew it would be a great trip and that I would leave with many memories and lessons learned, but I could not picture exactly what that would look like. I often thought that the “work” we were doing would be the highlight of the trip. And although the parsonage we worked on was very important for the village of Quesimpuco, it was not the highlight of this trip. We helped to scout a new water project, which will provide irrigation water for multiple villages and will greatly improve the crop output for the locals. This was also a very important part of our trip, and it involved incredible hiking and camping in the Andes Mountains. Although it was cool, still this was not the highlight of my trip.

For me, the best part was connecting with the villagers in Quesimpuco. The relational aspect of the trip was by far the most impactful for me, and I hope, for them as well. This was my first international mission trip, so I was cautious, maybe nervous, and even unsure of how to engage with the villagers. I watched others on our team who had been to Bolivia before, and I could see how much emphasis they put on interacting with the people instead of just worrying about the “work”. There were language and cultural barriers, but those did not matter when I was with the people.

My most vivid memory on the trip occurred while working on the parsonage. Tom Corson asked me to follow him to the backyard of a nearby mud-brick home owned by an elderly woman. She was in her backyard with two young girls. Tom had known her for many years. Many local children joined as we walked into the backyard. Once we arrived, they were shucking corn and

working with crops. We sat down on the ground and started to help shuck. Sitting with this woman and the young girls and taking part in their normal way of life was surreal. I felt God’s presence at that moment; I felt peace and love.

Afterwards, she offered us a few pieces of corn to take home, and then she walked over to her back door step and began to hand-spin wool. Hand spinning wool into yarn is something that Bolivian women have done for hundreds of years. She reminded Tom that years ago she taught his mother how to spin yarn. Tom asked me if I wanted to learn how to spin wool. I was caught off guard, but reluctantly agreed.



Britt Carter went on his first trip to Quesimpuco last year. Although he was unsure of what to expect, his time in a different culture impacted him.

The elderly lady and the two young girls began to teach me. It was much tougher than I expected, and the language barrier was challenging. The elderly lady was speaking Quechua, which was then translated to Spanish by the girls and to English by Tom. The girls who had been guarded and quiet began to laugh and giggle. The more I messed up, the more fun they had laughing at me. It was great! After 15-20 minutes, I finally made some progress, which made them happy. I felt God’s love as this family, Tom and I interacted. It was the happiest I had been on the trip. Earlier, it seemed as if we were two different groups, speaking different languages,

and feeling cautious while around each other, but during this afternoon, we were just one group of people sharing life together. I will never forget it!

I enjoyed my time in Quesimpuco. God planted many seeds in my heart on this trip, and each day as I pray, he waters those seeds that are a growing part of my life. I will be going back to Bolivia and will continue to help with projects and spread the word of God and the love of Christ. While at home, I will continue to pray for them.



Spring/Summer 2013

Look at the Progress in Puengasi!



This year, SIFAT teams are continuing to build an addition onto Pastor Oswaldo's church in Puengasi, an urban neighborhood in Quito, Ecuador. During our first 2013 team's trip, Pastor Oswaldo said that they are already seeing growth in their church because of the presence of SIFAT and visiting teams. Although the building addition is not completed, the church has been able to increase the number of students in its after-school programs and more are on the waiting list when the classroom spaces are finished!

**Learn More About
SIFAT's International Projects**
www.sifat.org/international-missions

Go to the International Missions section of our website and explore the pages for Bolivia, Ecuador, Uganda and Zambia to find out how our teams are serving SIFAT graduates. Click on the page for International Projects to learn about other SIFAT-approved projects of our training graduates.

Agape Christian Academy Student Exchange Program

Katie Firth

Agape Total Childcare Center Committee Member

Agape Christian Academy (ACA) in Mukono, Uganda, and Lafayette Christian School (LCS) in LaGrange, Ga., will build upon an already established relationship and become partner schools. Students, graduates, grandparents of students, and friends of LCS have visited and supported both the orphanage and school at Agape.

"The International Student Program challenges our students to grow spiritually, academically and socially, while giving us a platform to be a blessing to students around the world. It is a win-win situation for the school and our students," states John Cipolla, LCS headmaster. "The International Student Program helps us fulfill our mission statement: to impact our culture for Christ."

Mr. Cipolla, a current LCS student and an LCS alum will travel to Uganda this summer to serve and teach at Agape. The goal is for two students from ACA to attend LCS for the 2013-2014 school year. We also have the vision of teacher exchanges in the future. Please pray that the Kingdom of God is advanced as students and teachers are challenged to grow spiritually, expand our vision of the world and Church, and embrace new cultures and situations.



A New Bridge Over Mad Indian Creek



Last July, the bridge over Mad Indian Creek connecting the two sides of our campus collapsed. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured. Our SIFAT staff and participants felt love and prayers from all over the world as we received e-mails and Facebook posts of support.

Once we realized everyone involved in the collapse would be OK, the questions about when and how we would rebuild began. Volunteers and work teams have stepped up to help! We decided to build the same type of bridge SIFAT teams built in Quesimpuco a few years ago, so that not only would we have a safe, functioning bridge, but also have an example of an appropriate technology used internationally.

Thank you for donating your money for materials, your time and energy for construction and your prayers of support.

Our Home Away From Home

Clear Lake United Methodist Church

Starting from the Houston, Texas, “suburb” of Clear Lake City, our mission team heads east on I-10 and then north from the Alabama coast nearly every spring to help SIFAT with campus maintenance. Clear Lake United Methodist Church’s 2013 team arrived on April 14 ready to pitch in and help wherever we were needed.

What a joy to be a part of this wonderful ministry that blesses and improves the living conditions of those in developing nations! We look forward to the work each year, which usually involves improvement of facilities, such as upgrading the dormitory-style housing and the cafeteria. Teams do some basic construction, painting, some electrical work, masonry and find a way to help out wherever the need is. Highlights from this year’s team

include putting a roof on the cafeteria, painting the bunk house and preparing items for sale the Village Store.

We love the beauty of Alabama’s springtime on the SIFAT campus, but the true beauty here are the wonderful, loving folks that maintain this campus and its activities, as well as the volunteers that come from many areas and states to serve and support, improving the lives people they will never meet. Amen!

If you would like to bring a work team to SIFAT, please contact Mary Corson, learnandserve@sifat.org, for available dates, needed projects and other information. To contribute to our campus improvement fund, please designate your donation Campus Improvements.





Spring/Summer 2013

The Lodge Gets a Makeover!

This spring, our campus was filled with work teams, volunteers and hired labor. When you visit, you will notice many improvements. The footbridge across Mad Indian Creek is almost completed (see story on page 7). The cafeteria's interior has been completely repainted, new curtains have been hung and the roof received a much needed replacement.

One of the most noticeable changes, however, was the Lodge's makeover! The majority of our campus guests stay in this facility, so we wanted to make their time at SIFAT comfortable. We swapped the damaged, worn out carpet with new laminate wood flooring and carpet, replaced 42 mattresses and changed the seating with matching sofas and chairs. The Field Study participants enjoyed the improvements after classes each evening, and our Learn & Serve students are benefiting from it this summer.

Many of our other facilities need new furnishings and flooring, too. To help SIFAT update our buildings, please designate your gift Campus—Refurbishments. For more information about specific needs, contact Terry Haynes, haynest@sifat.org.



Worship on the Water at Lake Wedowee



SIFAT sponsors a casual worship service each Sunday at 9 a.m. from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend at Lakeside Marina in Wedowee. Guest speakers and musicians lead the nondenominational service. If you are in the area this summer, we invite you to come by boat, come by car, come as you are!



What's Being Said About 2013 Retreats?



As of mid-April, more than 1,200 people have participated in Learn & Serve (L&S) programs. From church youth groups, confirmation classes and Christian schools to college academic classes, Greek organizations and campus ministries, each week brings new visitors to our campus.

The Around the World day retreat is a popular field trip for home school, public school and private school groups of all ages, while other groups choose to stay overnight and customize their retreats with multiple programming options, such as Global Village Overnight, Challenge Course or Slum Experience.

We wanted you to see a few of the things our participants have said about their experience with Learn & Serve.

- “I wish I could tell each of you how much you impacted every single one of my students. Their time with [L&S] sparked so many conversations in our classroom the week we returned to school, and I know these are only glimpses of how God is using you to work in their hearts.” ~ Kala Holt, teacher, Bayshore Academy, Fairhope, Ala.
- “I’m grateful our students have the opportunity to learn about empathy and to begin to develop an awareness of the suffering of others. You have helped lay a good foundation in their hearts and minds, and with God’s help, we help build on that foundation.” ~ Terri Darden, Springwood School, Lanett, Ala.
- “Thank y’all so much for an amazing confirmation retreat! It was truly an incredible experience. Several of the youth have already approached me about feeling called to mission work after what they learned at SIFAT, and numerous parents have e-mailed with positive feedback. Thank you for sacrificing so much to serve us and the people around the world whose stories you are exposing.” ~ Parker Garret, Director of Youth Ministries, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Birmingham, Ala.
- “My favorite part about SIFAT was the slum experience. It’s very interesting to see how people in third-world countries live. My favorite lesson from SIFAT this year was that for Christians, every day should be a mission trip. You do not have to go overseas to glorify God.” ~ student, Bayshore Academy, Fairhope, Ala.
- “The Challenge Course was amazing. I got closer to my classmates than I ever thought I would...I’m so glad I got to experience what it is like for other people around the world.” ~student, Springwood School, Lanett, Ala.
- “The Slum Experience was a very eye-opening experience to me. I realized that some people go [to bed] hungry and scared every night.” ~ student, Springwood School, Lanett, Ala.



For more information about retreat programming options or to plan your group’s trip to SIFAT, please visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve or e-mail Mary Corson, learnandserve@sifat.org.



Spring/Summer 2013

Exploring El Alto During 48: A Slum Experience

Hamp Price
Learn & Serve Program Intern

On January 19-21, 80 participants and 34 staff stepped into the life of more than 1 billion people on the planet during *48: A Slum Experience*. This intense retreat allowed high school participants, adult leaders, and college-aged staff to experience life in an urban slum environment.

This year, our annual 48 highlighted life in El Alto, Bolivia. El Alto is a thriving urban center located near the capital city of La Paz. It is a city built by rapid urbanization; rural farmers from the Altiplano region are relocating to El Alto at staggering rates. This rapid urbanization causes many problems for cities in developing countries, and El Alto is not immune to these issues.

Learn & Serve portrays life in urban slum environments by using college-aged and young-adult volunteers to represent common roles in said communities. Thirty-four volunteers took on the stories of people currently living in El Alto ranging from store owners and workers to women trapped in prostitution. It was into this community that participants were invited to assimilate.

Participants at 48 were divided into family groups and given a task: travel to our represented neighborhood and become a part of the community. Many of these family groups were representing stories of farmers relocating to the city, a common occurrence in El Alto. Participants then spent roughly 48 hours in the community working to meet their needs and face normal problems, such as a lack of employment opportunities, high prices for rent and food and restricted access to water. These struggles challenged youth to examine what was truly necessary for their family's existence. Additionally, they were encouraged to use their outside experiences to impact the community.

Neighborhoods in El Alto are very community-focused. During 48, participants were forced to work with a neighborhood council of landowners to meet their needs. Students were encouraged to purchase land instead of renting, so that they, too, could have input and control over the workings of the community. This allowed participants to experience not only material poverty, but also how community dynamics differ in these environments.

Feedback from participants has been very positive. Madison Simpson, a sophomore from McEachern Memorial UMC of Powder Springs, Ga., said that despite the challenges, the



On January 29-31, 114 participants and volunteer staff lived in our Urban Slum for about 48 hours. During this intense simulation, high school participants, adult leaders and college-aged staff portrayed everyday life in El Alto, Bolivia.

experience taught her several things. "Though this was a physically and spiritually challenging weekend, I would not [trade] the amazing experience I was given," Madison said. One issue that touched her was the reality of human trafficking. "This year, I was faced with a reality that I had never really experienced—prostitution and sex slavery," Madison said. "Though this was a simulation, it stirred something inside me and ignited this passion I didn't even know I had."

This issue also impacted Kelsey Harris, an adult leader with First Baptist Church of LaGrange, Ga. Harris shared her story of her family group's struggle on her personal blog. During the simulation, Kelsey entered into human trafficking only to have her family work to free her. "This scenario broke me. I got to physically feel what the Lord has done for me," Kelsey said. "He bargained and bought and fought for my freedom. He worked all day. He paid extra. He did whatever it took to free me. Talk about a precious feeling of worth!"

For more information about Learn & Serve's programs, visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve or e-mail learnandserve@sifat.org.

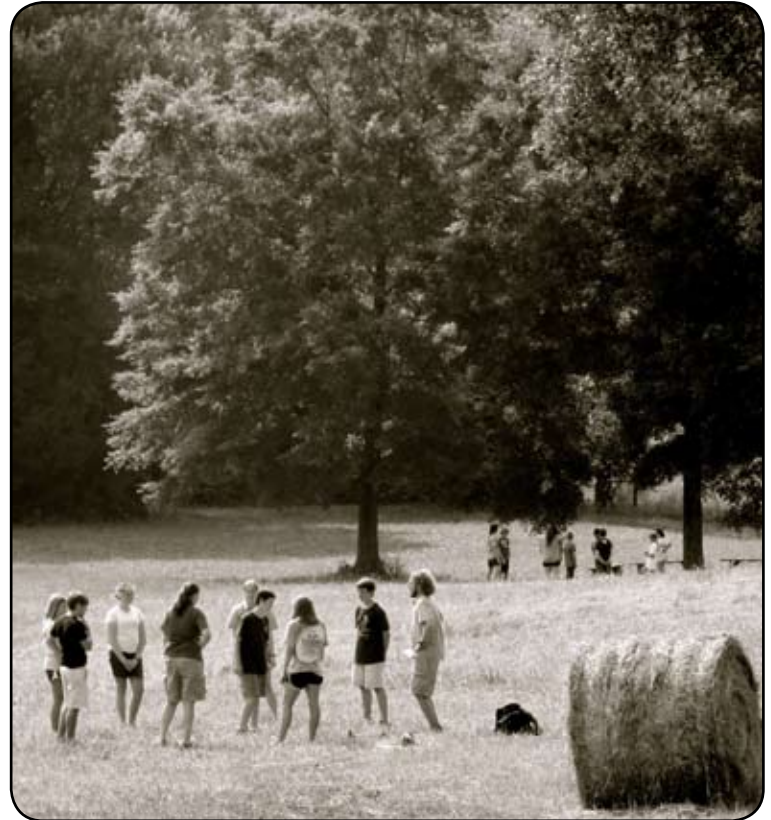
Have You Registered? L&S Summer 2013 Still Has Room for Groups and Individuals!

Missions?

Missions is an increasingly popular topic in today's churches and youth groups. We are all interested in how to foster more "missions-minded" congregations and empower people to serve others. SIFAT was founded for this purpose—to help empower leaders from developing countries to meet their basic human needs.

This summer at Learn & Serve, we will dive into the idea of missions from a Biblical perspective to examine our motivation behind service. God's incredible love for us is why we are called to serve those around us. This idea should be at the forefront of our missions, but we sometimes forget the connection. By reexamining this connection our view of missions may change—loving those around us may mean those in material poverty around the world, members of our own family or both!

We will look at these ideas through the lens of our experiential learning activities to not only examine our view on missions, but also challenge students to step into the lives of people around the world to better understand the needs and feelings of those we seek to serve.



Summer 2013 L&S Schedule

Session 1: June 2-7

Session 2: June 9-14 - Full!

Session 3: June 16-21

Session 4: June 23-28

Session 5: July 7-12

Session 6: July 14-19 - Full!

Session 7: July 21-26

We still have room for both groups and individuals to attend L&S Summer 2013! The cost is \$299, which includes everything a participant will need during his or her time at SIFAT. Have questions or want more information? Visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve or contact Mary Corson, learnandserve@sifat.org, for more information or to register!

Learn & Serve Program Interns Needed!

Are you interested in being a part of Learn & Serve's ministry here in the United States? Are you graduating from college and looking for a meaningful learning experience?

L&S is still accepting applications for our yearlong and semester-long internships for 2013-2014.

Information and applications can be found at www.sifat.org/learn-serve.



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bham, AL
Permit # 3029

2944 County Road 113
Lineville, AL 36266

Phone: (256) 396-2015

Fax: (256) 396-2501

E-mail: info@sifat.org

www.sifat.org

Return Service Requested

SIFAT's Vision: Bridging the First and Two-thirds Worlds to alleviate spiritual and physical poverty, encouraging people to develop their God-given potential.

SIFAT's Mission: To share God's love through service, education and personal involvement with a needy world.

From the Desk of Tom Corson

SIFAT's first international team of 2013—Auburn University Schools of Building Science and Nursing—spent spring break serving in Ecuador. While the nurses' team held a women's clinic, the construction team fell into the routine of mixing mortar, laying blocks and bending steel. Sometimes, it is hard to catch the vision of what laying blocks has to do with changed lives.

One day, some of the team went with me to visit a few of the day care, church and after-school facilities we have built during the last 13 years. We saw the children and youth in these slum areas being tutored in after-school programs, heard many children sing and perform dramas and listened to their teachers give testimonies. Lady, the mother who directs Little Seeds of God day care, told us how SIFAT volunteers had trained her to help these children in the slums, who had previously known no life other than being tied to their houses to keep them out of the traffic, left unattended and hungry until their mothers came home from

work, hopefully with a meal for the day. Lady told how, before, the children were not welcomed into first grade and could not keep up with middle class children. Recently, the Department of Education tested the province's children, and those from Little Seeds of God were now the best prepared of all!

Lady only completed the third grade. But, she is motivated! She trusts God to help her learn how to teach the children and lead the community mothers. SIFAT volunteers have given continuing education to these mothers, and they are eager to learn how to help their children. One of the building science students who heard her story tried to share it with the whole team that evening, but was unable to finish. In tears, he shared how he had wanted to invest his spring break doing something good, but he had no idea what an impact a building could have on children in such great need. What he saw and heard that day helped him understand the impact that *INVESTING* his spring break was having for eternity. He did not

go to the beach. Instead, he laid blocks, investing his life in a way that changes the lives of needy children for eternity.

Space restraints do not allow me to tell other SIFAT stories of similar things happening where our staff volunteers and graduates work in Africa, Asia, Latin America and here among youth in the U.S. We praise God again that Jesus has risen not only in our lives, but in the lives of the children in the slums of Ecuador, orphans in Uganda and all over the world!

As we work to finish our bridge over Mad Indian Creek, we are at the same time building bridges for the Spirit of God to cross over and into the lives of the children in a migrant camp a few miles from our campus...and our bridge building is going on all over the world. I often feel overwhelmed with joy seeing how God is allowing us all to work with Him, so that more of the world can know the Joy of the Resurrection! Thank you so much for being part of this bridge building with us!