

SIFAT Journal

Christmas
Edition

Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways

Christmas 2012

Make Your Gift Count this Christmas

We recently celebrated Thanksgiving at SIFAT with a potluck lunch for our staff. As a small staff, more of an extended family than co-workers, we jokingly started the traditional "what are you thankful for" roundtable discussion. All of our answers boiled down to being thankful to work in a Christian environment and for a goal greater than ourselves that helps people all over the world.

We are the most thankful for each of our donors. Without you, SIFAT would not exist. We hope you read this issue of the Journal and understand how your gifts are impacting lives in the United States through our campus programs and around the world through our training and short-term mission teams.

Here are a few ways you can make your gifts to SIFAT count even more!

Matching Funds for SIFAT

SIFAT is so blessed to have donors offer to match funds up to a certain amount on projects about which they are most passionate, maximizing our fund raising efforts with their gifts. A generous donor has offered a \$10,000 matching fund to support the Agape Total Childcare Center in Uganda and a \$10,000 matching fund to help complete construction of the new SIFAT training center in Zambia. Worthy SIFAT projects in other countries need this same kind of support. As we continue our work to care for children in marginalized communities in Ecuador, support a SIFAT-built school and churches in the Andes and build a training center in the jungle of Bolivia, you have this opportunity to make a real difference. Please consider the offer of a matching fund donation for SIFAT projects in Ecuador, Bolivia, Uganda, Zambia, Nigeria and Congo. To donate to one of our existing matching funds, please designate the country name and "matching fund" on your check.



Matching Funds Through Employers

Does the company for whom you work offer a matching fund for charitable giving? One of our faithful donors found out his company will match his donation with a gift of three times the amount he gives. When he donated \$2,000 to us recently, his company donated an additional \$6,000! Each company's policies

differ, but it is worth asking your HR or accounting departments about matching funds. We will fill out any paperwork needed for these contributions. Contact Diana Cline at accounting@sifat.org.

Selling Your Extras

Do you have items that you no longer need or want? One of our supporters recently let us know she is selling her crystal and china at a party in December. She asked us to find a matching donor for whatever was sold. She was excited to tell the ladies coming to the party that whatever they spent would be doubled and given to SIFAT. She found a creative way to use what she owned to raise money. She is making her gift count!

Online Searching and Shopping

You can give SIFAT a financial gift without using your own money! Two online services, iGive.com and GoodSearch.com, allow users to perform online searches and shop for charity. Each gives about a penny per search to the charity of the user's choice. On these sites, retailers offer a percentage of each online purchase to be given to your charity. SIFAT uses these websites when making online purchases. Both have downloadable toolbars that automatically track your donations and have special coupons, or you can navigate through their sites. If you are already planning to shop online, try using one of these services before making your purchase to make it count!



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From One Week to Three Months

Matthew Vaughn, a senior in Spanish and international trade at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, traveled to Ixiamas, Bolivia, when he was 15 years old for a week-long mission trip. Fast forward eight years, and when the time came for an internship for college requirements, Matthew knew he would return to Ixiamas.

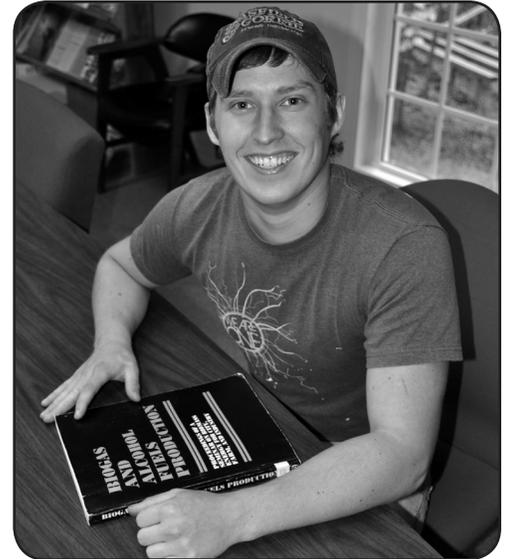
“Everything I’ve done since 2004 has been in preparation for missions,” Matthew shared. “It is easy to go back to Bolivia because of the impact of my first trip. At 15, I didn’t want to come back home at the end of the week.”

Like many mission team members, Matthew’s experience impacted his life. While preparing for a life in missions,

Matthew got his pilot’s license, taught English as a Second Language classes, helped with disaster relief after the April 27 tornadoes and has been actively involved in two church plants.

“I could have gone to Spain, but wanted to do mission work and spend as much time in Bolivia as possible,” Matthew responded to the question about why he chose to serve with SIFAT.

While in Ixiamas, Matthew taught English classes, helped at the local Awana program, constructed and repaired chicken houses, modified the rope and washer pump, and finished a biogas project, which will provide usable gas for cooking since propane is in short supply.



Matthew Vaughn completed a university-recognized internship in Ixiamas, Bolivia, this summer working alongside SIFAT graduates Rachel and Mateo Tenorio.

Ixiamas Update from Rachel & Mateo



Rachel Parsons Tenorio (above) and her husband Mateo continue SIFAT’s work in Ixiamas, Bolivia. Mission teams are needed for 2013 to help them with projects to finish our training facilities.

Rachel and Mateo Tenorio serve in Ixiamas, Bolivia. In a recent report to their supporters and SIFAT, it was exciting to see the many ways they have begun expanding SIFAT-Bolivia in Ixiamas and the surrounding area.

As this rural, jungle area grows, more schools are opening in smaller communities and many families are moving into Ixiamas from remote villages. The need for an internado (boarding home) for children to attend school is no longer there. Now more than ever, the people of Ixiamas and the rural villages need the appropriate technologies and agricultural skills SIFAT has to offer!

Mateo and Rachel have spent years building relationships with families and community leaders. They are partnering with an organization called FAUTAPO to offer beekeeping classes, culinary classes (including kitchen hygiene) and later this year, classes on raising pigs. FAUTAPO usually works with local municipal offices. Because Ixiamas’s leadership is not willing to participate, SIFAT-Bolivia has been asked to step in to offer

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Letson Begins SIFAT Training in Zambia

Letson Kachoronga
Agriculturalist, SIFAT Zambia Training Center

It has been always my pleasure working with the poor people in Africa. I moved from Zimbabwe to Zambia late last year to work for SIFAT. Only eight people attended the first training I held, but I was happy with that, especially when four implemented the Foundations for Farming technique that I taught.

One of the people who attended that training is Pastor John Ilunga. He has a wonderful testimony of what transformed his life and his family. Pastor John had recently moved to the area. He had grown maize and soya bean, but because his crops did not perform well, the neighborhood men laughed at him. After the training, Pastor John prepared his field and planted his crops using what he learned. He planted one acre and produced 22 50 kg. bags of maize, which was his first bumper harvest. He has not had to buy extra mealie meal (a staple maize flour used in Africa) and is also using the harvest to feed his pigs and pigeons!

Another example of the impact of the training among our neighbors is Mr. Banda. When I invited people for training last year, Mr. Banda did not bother to attend. He thought he was an expert, because he had more than 30 years of experience farming. But, after a long dry spell, he was surprised to see his crops wilting, while his neighbor's crops thrived.

Ixiamas

(Continued from page 2)

facilities and land on which to hold classes and have the demonstrations! Rachel and Mateo are also raising chickens, ducks and rabbits. They are using Bio Intensive Gardening methods learned at SIFAT in a small area on the property. They often get lots of questions not only about how they are growing so many different things in the small space, but also about the vegetables that are new to the area, such as okra and zucchini.

Rachel and Mateo are working alongside a local church to host an AWANA program for children each Sunday with about 20-25 children attending. They are also teaching English classes in the local school.

Teams are needed in 2013 to complete construction on training facilities, help set up a demonstrative farm and provide VBS for up to 200 children. Contact international team coordinator Peggy Walker, walkerp@sifat.org for more information.



Letson Kachoronga works with SIFAT in Zambia at our training center. He is setting up demonstration gardens using the Foundations for Farming technique, as well as holding agricultural training for farmers in the local community.

That neighbor was Pastor John, who was using the Foundations for Farming methods. This year when I called for training, Mr. Bnada was the first to register! He learned about crop rotation and how to turn his family farm into a business.

Reuben, one of the guys I am mentoring, is a very hard working young man. He wakes up early in the morning to work in his small plots before joining me. He wanted to thank SIFAT for the training we are providing. He says his life and family will never be the same. He has already planted plots of maize, soya and groundnuts. He has followed the training he has received by planting on time, to a very high standard and by not wasting. He is planning on not only feeding his family with what he grows, but also selling the surplus. I am proud of him!

I thank God for what he is doing in this community of Kabangwe, but there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in terms of farming. A lot of people are still practicing their old way of farming which is making mounds. So far, I am happy with the response because most of the farmers that I taught have started to implement what they have learned. We have finished preparing our demonstration plots, and we are looking forward to a great rain season.



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I Do Not Want It to be an Exciting Mission Trip!

Katie Firth
Uganda Mission Team Member

Katie wrote the following essay as part of a scrapbook she made of photos from her second trip to Agape Total Childcare Center in Uganda. SIFAT staff read her honest feelings and asked if we could share it with you. Thankfully, she obliged!

There's something about this place that has stolen my heart. I love the dirt, the filth, the smell and everything else that seems to be "different" about it. My heart has been captured by a truck full of goats and a boda boda with six adults on it. Somehow I feel at home here. I have a connection that I cannot even begin to explain.

When I came here a year ago, I could not have imagined such a connection. I assumed this was a great trip that I would talk about for years to come. Instead, the Lord has knit Uganda and these precious people in my heart. He has given me a love that I myself do not understand. All I know is that I do not want to leave. I feel a part of their world, their culture and their heart.

I do not want it to be an exciting mission trip. I want it to be MY life. I want to bring my children here. I want them to fall in love just like I have fallen in love. I want them to understand the contentment that these people have and the love and gratitude they share for ALL that God has given them. I want them to rely on the Lord for their next breath. I want them to be content playing with a piece of Styrofoam. I want them to lay hands on a mother and her child and pray for the Lord to heal that child because they have nothing else to turn to. I want them to have the heart of Christ. I do not want them to wake up 30 years later and suddenly get it.

Our prayer after this trip is for God to show us what He wants of us next. My heart almost begs Him to send us there for good. But God is sovereign, and He has a specific plan for our family. I do not know exactly what that is going to look like. Is adoption it? We cannot wait to raise our birth children and adoptive children (however many the Lord gives us) and take them back to minister in Uganda. I can see four little muzungus feeling at home in the red dirt of Uganda. Lord, use us mightily! Make us a family that loves like You love. Give us an unconditional love for Your people. Every time we open our mouths, let it be to BOLDLY proclaim Your truth!



From helping roof new dormitories to teaching music classes, Katie Firth became part of the Agape Total Childcare Center in Uganda. Two SIFAT teams served the children of Agape this summer by priming and painting the computer lab, roofing the dormitories and chapel/cafeteria, and painting the outside of Agape Christian Academy. Many team members taught classes to the secondary students

Short-term Mission Teams Needed!

SIFAT needs short-term mission team leaders and members for 2013 teams! We work at the invitation of SIFAT graduates in Bolivia, Ecuador, Uganda and Zambia. Visit each country's page on the mission section of our website to find out about current projects and how teams are needed to help our graduates and their communities.

If you would like to lead a team from your church or community, please contact Peggy Walker, international team coordinator, at walkerp@sifat.org. If you are interested in being part of a short-term trip, contact Peggy and she will help you connect with one of our existing teams.

www.sifat.org/international-missions



Merry Christmas from Agape

God has done amazing things in the lives of 45 precious children in Mukono, Uganda. They have been brought from living on the street alone with nothing to a loving, Godly home with their every physical need met. Praise the Lord for His mercies are new every morning! God has continued to stretch our tent and expand our impact on Mukono. The goal is to have 250 students enrolled in the school. Christmas is a time of remembering the birth of our Savior. We celebrate with the giving of gifts. Instead of a tie that will never be worn or another sweater that is out of style, you and your children can give a gift that will mean more to these children that you could ever imagine. The gifts range from five dollars to four hundred dollars. Whatever you want to give. May the Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

Please send donations to SIFAT with checks designated Agape Christmas.

Agape's Monthly Needs

- \$15 - Agape primary child's tuition
- \$20 - Internet at Agape
- \$25 - Phone at Agape
- \$75 - an ACA teacher's salary
- \$125 - Utilities
- \$200 - School supplies
- \$250 - Truck fuel
- \$300 - Truck maintenance

Gift Items for Agape Christian Academy

- \$5 - Dinner Set: plate, cup, fork and spoon
- \$22 - Blanket for a child
- \$28 - Mattress
- \$250 - Bunkbeds with mattresses
- \$400 - Cafeteria-size XL steel pot
- \$1,305 - 8 billboards



Thank You from the Children of Agape!

This poem was written by the children living at Agape. They asked our teams to send their thanks to all SIFAT supporters.

Our friends, brothers and sisters
All from America, thanks for loving us
What you have done for us
The list is endless

All you have been is
Parents to the orphans
Hope to the hopeless
Courage to the discouraged
Joy to sadness

Comfort to the discomfort
Defenders of the weak and afflicted
Mouth piece to the speechless

Our friends, brothers and sisters
All from America, thanks for loving us
Miles you have traveled
Down the jungles of Africa you came
Homesteads temporarily left
Business stood
Not for pleasure
Neither for leisure
But with love, care and support

Our friends, brothers and sisters
All from America, You have ministered
to us

With hugs, with jokes
With smiles, with tears
With kindness, with comfort
Blessed are the feet that bring good news
To the poor and afflicted
Through you, we see God Jesus



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2013 Short-term Mission Teams

01/25 - 01/26	SIFAT	Team Leader Training
03/07 - 03/15	Ecuador	Auburn University School of Nursing - Medical
03/07 - 03/15	Ecuador	Auburn University McWhorter School of Building Science - Construction/VBS
04/13 - 04/20	Ecuador	Fairhope UMC - Medical
04/27 - 05/05	Ecuador	Montgomery FUMC - Medical
05/25 - 06/01	Ecuador	Gulf Shores UMC - Construction/VBS
06/01 - 06/08	Ecuador	University of Tennessee - Dental
06/01 - 06/08	Ecuador	Albertville FUMC - Construction/VBS
06/06 - 06/15	Bolivia	Mt. Bethel UMC Men - Construction
06/08 - 06/15	Ecuador	Faith UMC - Construction/VBS
06/15 - 06/22	Ecuador	Wilmer UMC - Construction/VBS
06/23 - 06/30	Ecuador	St. Luke's UMC - Medical
06/28 - 07/09	Uganda	Western Heights Baptist - Medical/Construction/VBS
06/29 - 07/07	Ecuador	Aldersgate UMC - Construction/VBS
07/07 - 07/17	Bolivia	Auburn UMC- Medical/Veterinarian
07/13 - 07/20	Ecuador	Guntersville FUMC - Medical
07/20 - 07/27	Ecuador	Friendship Community Church - Construction/VBS
07/27 - 08/03	Ecuador	Alexander City Methodist - Construction/VBS
08/02 - 08/12	Bolivia	Auburn University Engineers Without Borders - Construction
10/26 - 11/2	Ecuador	Centerpoint Community Church - Medical

Medical Personnel Needed for Existing Medical Teams

Are you a doctor, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, nurse or other medical professional that wants to go on a SIFAT short-term mission team? We need you!

Several of our medical teams listed above need team members. Contact Peggy Walker, our team coordinator, at walkerp@sifat.org for more information.

Dayana — Fully Recovered!

A few years ago, we shared the story of Dayana, a young girl in Ecuador whose family lives at the top of the hill above Agua de Vida Methodist Church and Mama Yoli's House. Most team members remember her daily greetings as they arrived on site in Atucucho and were saddened to hear of the severe burns that she suffered from a fire her mother was using to cook their meals.

Although we once worried she would have lasting difficulties, Dayana has fully recovered. She and her family attend Agua de Vida, and this year, we watched her dance for team members as part of a cultural performance by the children and women of the church. Dayana is back!



Dayana (far left) and her family join SIFAT executive director Tom Corson for a picture after church at Agua de Vida in Atucucho, Ecuador.

Cayambe Blessings: the Real Meaning of Missions

By Joyce Henderson
SIFAT Mission Team Leader

We say it at every pretrip meeting: “A mission trip is about people, making friendships, connecting one to one.” And we mean it. But we still focus on the numbers, how many people we saw, how much medicine we used. The numbers are important. They help us plan for the next trip; they validate our efforts. But the numbers are not why we go.

October 2012 was our 12th mission team to Ecuador. We had been to Cayambe several times with both construction and medical teams. Four years ago, we said a tearful goodbye because we knew we needed to let them move forward on their own. Leaving meant we might never see these friends again, among them, our godson and his family, and the child we sponsored through Compassion International.

When the opportunity to return to Cayambe came up, our original response was negative because we did not want to have to say goodbye again. But over the course of a few months, we changed our minds and decided to return to the area we love so much. What a huge blessing! Being in Cayambe felt like going home.

One highlight of the trip came when Pastor Jose asked team members to share their feelings at a community church service. Never before had the community heard what a mission trip means to us. One team member shared his sadness of missing his grandchildren and of feeling so welcomed by the children of Cayambe his grief was eased. Another talked about the friendships we have formed over the



SIFAT teams serve on project sites of our SIFAT Ecuador graduates. In 2013, construction teams will continue building in Puengasi, while medical teams hold clinics at sites around Quito and in Cayambe. Teams are needed throughout the year in Ecuador. Contact Peggy Walker, walkerp@sifat.org, for information about leading a team.

years and how much she has been blessed by the people of Ecuador. With tears and hugs, we came together as brothers and sisters, as one in the Body of Christ.

We saw 687 patients in the clinic, about 200 more than our usual. Team members got to visit with sponsored children and several more children were sponsored that week. By far, the most important part of the trip was watching the team and the people of Cayambe embrace. We were not there to serve, to treat, to heal. We were one with them and they with us. We were truly brothers and sisters, the children of one Father, blessed with the opportunity to spend this time together.

Art in the Andes

By Sarah Corson
SIFAT Co-founder

When Alfredo Linares, a portrait painter, traveled to Quesimpuco with a team last summer, he recognized that the artistic talent of the Quesimpuco youth could become a resource for the whole community. Quesimpuco has such a harsh climate and is so remote that they seem to have few resources. This project finds the resources within the young people themselves. Painting for tourists could become a microenterprise for the people of Quesimpuco.

SIFAT has approved a project for Alfredo, a SIFAT graduate, to return to Quesimpuco to teach the youth to paint the beautiful scenes and faces around them. Isaac Paredes and Huber Ramos will oversee the project and help them market the paintings among tourists in La Paz. The proceeds will buy more art materials to continue, give a percentage to the development projects, and support the young artists who do the painting. Also, Alfredo will give a percentage of each sale of his beautiful paintings of Quesimpuco for the community projects.

You can support this project with a contribution to SIFAT designated *Art in the Andes*. Or, you can buy one of Alfredo's Quesimpuco paintings, which you can see on www.linaresart.com. To watch a short video about this project, go to www.vimeo.com/54785966.



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Reflection on L&S 2012: Belonging

By Hamp Price
2012 Learn & Serve Counselor

What does it mean to belong to the Kingdom of God? If someone I just met asked me that question in our first conversation, I would probably stammer out an incoherent response made mostly of stereotypical Christian buzzwords. That question, however, is what Learn & Serve (L&S) asked all of our 6th -12th graders upon arriving at camp this year. Together, staff and students worked through this topic throughout the week.

This was my third summer as a counselor for the Learn & Serve summer program. As a recent college graduate, I have definitely grown a little bit since my first summer on staff. As I have grown, I have noticed two different things stand out to me about our summer program.

First, students at L&S 2012 did not get a stereotypical “pump-you-up” summer camp curriculum. We dove into the topic of belonging to the Kingdom and studied lots of scripture, including a whole

message built off of the Old Testament. I did not receive this type of teaching when I was that age, and it was an awesome experience to be able to explore these passages with my students.

Second, I was able to see the impact we have on these students. This summer, I was repeatedly reminded that some of the biggest things we can do for these kids is love and affirm them. I specifically saw this impact in one of my former students.

This student has been coming to camp since my first summer on staff. She came from a home that seemed to be lacking in affirmation and a display of love. The first two summers, she was quiet, quick to put herself down and distant. Through talking with others from her church, I knew that the love and support she was shown at camp was being continued through her friends and church family. She returned to camp this year bright and full of joy. Though the problems in her life had not subsided,



As part of each week's programming, students and leaders learned team-building skills on the Challenge Course. The Challenge Course and other programming are available throughout the year as part of L&S Retreats.

her attitude toward them seemed to have changed for the better. It was amazing to be able to witness these changes over the last couple of years, and I even had the chance to share this with her.

Learn & Serve's curriculum teaches students what life is like in developing countries; Learn & Serve's staff shows them love. From my experiences, I think the latter is the most meaningful of all.

Hamp Price (second from left) and this year's summer counselors spent their summer break leading 6th-12th grade youth during Learn & Serve's summer program.



From Repeat Camper to Counselor

By Becky Retzloff
2012 Learn & Serve Counselor

As I attempt to formulate words to adequately describe the incredible things that the Lord did through SIFAT's Learn & Serve (L&S) program this summer, I'm first unable to find the right words, or even enough words, that would be able to do so. As I reflect more on the summer, though, I am left pondering the words of C.S. Lewis; "If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world." The root idea of this quote became the central topic that staff and students worked together to dissect and define all summer long: belonging to the Kingdom of God.

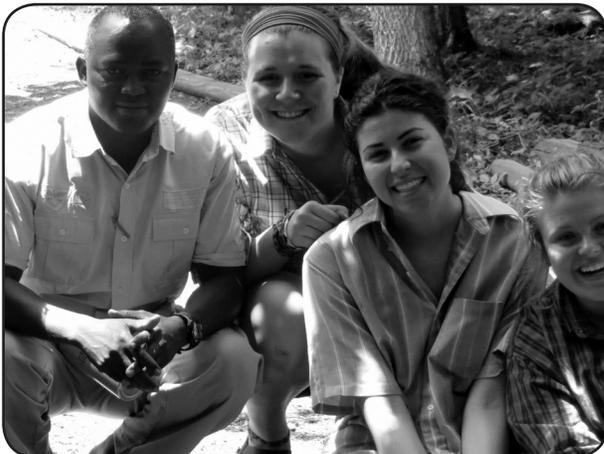
Alongside curriculum that exposed students to life in developing countries, they were empowered to take what they had learned on a global scale throughout the week and translate that into actively participating in the Kingdom of God in practical ways on a local level. It was absolutely beautiful to see students—students that live in a society so desperately dependent on acceptance and searching for ways to belong—learn through meditating in scripture that they were made for the Kingdom of God and belong to the Creator of all things and to see them get excited about actively participating in the Kingdom of God.

After being a student in L&S for six summers, this was the first time that I was a staff member. It was such a blessing to see a different perspective of the work the Lord continuously does through this organization. Before, I had been on the receiving end of things—receiving the love that SIFAT staff always abundantly showed. I can recall some of the past themes and parts of the messages, but the one aspect of this program that I consistently remember every summer of camp is the love I saw in this place, through this program and from this staff. Now, having been a part of that staff this summer, I have once again been reminded of how this love affects our campers, how it gives them a glimpse of community and encourages them. L&S staff can plan curriculum and coordinate programming, but without the love that this staff displays to the students, none of it would be effective. Loving the students that stepped onto SIFAT's campus was the most significant thing we, as a staff, could have done all summer.



As a summer counselor, Becky Retzloff led youth in community serve days each week as part of the L&S experience. Becky was an L&S student for six years prior to becoming a counselor!

The Lord was faithful this summer. He generated a revolution and stirred in the hearts of both students and staff members alike—the desire to belong solely to His everlasting Kingdom and to desperately seek Him!



Each week, SIFAT graduate Pastor Pam Dagwom shared an international perspective of daily life in Nigeria, the need for the appropriate technologies SIFAT teaches through its training programs and how he has implemented the skills he learned since returning to his country.

A Glance at L&S 2012

Total Participants: 580 students and leaders
States: Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas

Interested in L&S 2013?

Visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve for dates, prices and more information. To schedule an individual camper or group, contact Mary Corson, learnandserve@sifat.org.



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48: A Slum Experience

MLK, Jr. Weekend - January 19-21, 2013

Our annual retreat gives students and leaders an opportunity to experience how nearly two billion of our brothers and sisters around the world live every day. This event is one of our most challenging experiences, and it is a great opportunity for connecting students to other areas in our world that they may never get to experience.

This retreat is suggested for older youth and costs \$65 per person. To learn more, visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve/retreats, or email learnandserve@gmail.com



New L&S Retreat Options

Learn & Serve continues to grow! Did you know that SIFAT offers retreats for groups of all ages and sizes? Retreats can be customized to fit the needs of your group. We can do all, some or none of your programming.

We are excited to announce two new retreat options, the Slum Prayer Experience and Refugee Camp Overnight. The slum prayer experience is a creative, engaging way for participants to connect with and pray for the people of the world that they may otherwise never personally encounter. It gives participants the opportunity to experience life as a citizen of an urban slum around the world and to intercede on behalf of people living there today. The refugee camp overnight allows participants to experience a night in a simulated refugee camp. It exposes participants to the struggles of millions of men, women and children living in these situations and is based largely off of the personal experience of one of SIFAT's graduates.

Spring retreats are already being scheduled, so call now to book your group! For more information about these retreats and other options, visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve/retreats, or email Mary Corson, learnandserve@gmail.com.

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.

SIFAT Journal



Work Teams Make Campus Improvements

One of the most encouraging times of the year for our staff is when we have the opportunity to work alongside volunteer work teams. Each year, teams from all over the country come to SIFAT and invest their time, energy and skills into improving the overall appearance and functionality of our campus.

This investment is a vital piece to SIFAT's ability to train and equip people of all ages and walks of life to go and to serve in their communities. This year, more than 200 work team members came to SIFAT. Although some were skilled carpenters or electricians, the majority were simply willing to help wherever they were needed. Some of the projects these teams completed were reroofing our Guesthouse, enhancing the worship experience of our guests by building a weatherproof sound booth and installing new lights in our Quonset Hut, painting the Bunkhouse, building picnic tables roofing the new India house in the Global Village, replacing windows in the Cafeteria and inventorying the Village Store. Less visible projects included painting and sanitizing the Cafeteria pantry, replacing old light switches, cleaning out gutters and preparing snacks during the fall training.

SIFAT has year-round opportunities for work teams of all sizes, ages and skill levels to serve. These work teams continue to give us a great example of what sharing God's love in practical ways looks like!

If you would like to learn more about work team opportunities on SIFAT's Campus in Lineville, Ala., please contact Mary Corson at macinnism@sifat.org.



This year, work teams worked on many campus projects, including giving the Guest House a new roof, new closet and complete interior repainting!



Our volunteers worked in almost every building on campus, including the India house being built in our Global Village, which received a roof, front wall and porch from the NOMADS.

Whether you are skilled or unskilled, SIFAT needs your help on projects around our campus!



Did you know SIFAT has a campground on our campus? Several of our retired volunteers bring their RVs and live here for a few weeks while helping. At one point this fall, we had six campers from as far away as Canada enjoying our recently renovated campground.

www.sifat.org Got a Makeover

Have you visited our website lately? If not, do so now! Late this summer, we launched an entirely new site. Although a few kinks are still being worked out, we are pleased with the overall look and an easier way for you to navigate to find information.

Don't forget to sign up for our enewsletter, subscribe to our blog, friend SIFAT on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to stay connected.



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Remember

End-of-Year Giving Must be Postmarked by **Dec. 31** to receive tax credit for 2012

International Training in Haiti and Honduras

By Kathy Bryson
International Training Director

Our training has continued in Haiti and in Honduras. We are in the midst of a three-year program training local community leaders in health and development. SIFAT staff member Dr. Byron Morales has facilitated the effort

giving periodic training in both countries, which will culminate in a SIFAT certificate as Community Health Promoter for the participants who complete the program. The training is also recognized by local authorities, opening up many avenues for collaboration in community work. Classes for the first year of the three year program have been completed in both countries. Byron does community follow-up work with the participants between sessions, supporting them as they implement their new skills.

The Haitian training grew out of SIFAT's

relief work in water purification after the earthquake in that country. A group of Haitian community leaders came to SIFAT for a Field Training session. At the conclusion, they united to form a group they called "The Dream Team." They worked through Byron to give 50 community leaders more in-depth training, so that they can be recognized by their government as trained community developers.



Pictured (left to right) at a summit in Honduras are Dr. Byron Morales, SIFAT; Dr. June Henton, dean of Auburn University College of Human Sciences and director of the newly formed International Hunger Institute; Porfirio Lobo, President of Honduras; and Dr. Harriet Giles, AU faculty member and program director for Universities Fighting World Hunger.

The Honduras training program was begun at the invitation of AHMEN (Alabama Honduras Medical Educational Network) for SIFAT to join them in their efforts to find longer solutions to poverty and sickness among those with whom they work in Northern Honduras. It is a joint project of SIFAT and AHMEN.

Haitian Community Development Leadership Training

Oct. 19 - Nov. 6, 2012
on SIFAT's Campus
Lineville, Ala.

This fall, we held a training at SIFAT designed especially for Haitian church and community leaders. The focus was on strategies and practical skills for meeting basic human needs and promoting holistic development. We welcomed alumni Raphael Ogbole and Livinus Obi, both of Nigeria, and Sara Mamani of Bolivia back to help teach some of the classes. Despite continued difficulty for our students to attain visas, 10 Haitians participated in this training.

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International Hunger Field Study at SIFAT Successful

By Kathy Bryson
International Training Director

The two-week Field Study, “World Hunger and Malnutrition: Practical Skills to Make a Difference,” ended with graduation June 2. Participants from Kent State, the University of Alabama in Birmingham and Auburn University joined with community leaders from Cote d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, India, Haiti and Honduras to learn practical skills, such as urban gardening, extracting Vitamin A and iron from commonly found leaves to prevent child malnutrition, how to prevent and treat dehydration—a major cause of child death in the developing world, how to purify water and make simple fuel-efficient cookstoves. They also engaged in participatory learning activities, including community mapping and resource assessment. The multi-cultural nature of the class made for a rich learning experience for all involved. The participants left inspired to share with others what they learned and make a difference in their own communities.



Local beekeeper Troy Smith shows students in our May Field Study about the benefits of bees and how to harvest honey.

In Memoriam: Dea Lieu

We were very sad to hear of the death of one of our beloved partners in ministry, SIFAT graduate Dea Lieu. He died in the hospital on the morning of November 20 of a fungal infection in his lungs. We ask for prayers for his wife Charlotte, their children, Desire’-Michel, Louis, Fabien, Vistorian and Armande and for his co-workers in mission in their war ravaged country, Cote d’Ivoire, or the Ivory Coast in English.

Dea Lieu founded the Association Chretienne de lute contre la Pauvrete (Christian Association of Fight Against Poverty). He deeply believed in the integrated Gospel to the body and to the soul and led many of his fellow countrymen and women to Christ. He taught agriculture to 25 farming families and helped them organize



Dea Lieu (left) visited SIFAT in May. This is one of our favorite photos from his first time at SIFAT. We continue praying for his family and ministry in Cote D’Ivoire.

into a co-op to become self-sufficient. The approved SIFAT Graduate Project in which we have currently been working with him is to buy a truck to take the farmers’ produce to market.

While he was waiting for a kidney transplant in the States a few years ago, Charlotte and their children kept the ministry going. We pray that they will be empowered by our Lord to continue Dea Lieu’s wonderful ministry. We also pray that they will be comforted by the Spirit of Christ who said, “Because I live, you shall live also.” Surely Dea Lieu’s dedication and service will be a

testimony that will live in the hearts of those with whom he worked and in the hearts of those of us in the United States who were blessed by his presence among us.



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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

Last summer, we were thrilled to take two teams to Uganda to help William and Agape. Five years ago, he took 45 orphans off the streets and gave them love, shelter, food, health care and education. They have become beautiful, dedicated teenagers striving to make their lives count for God and for those in need.

While there, we visited Sam, a SIFAT graduate who works in the slums of Kampala. William went with us to visit groups of the desperately poor organized by Sam and with whom he shares the Gospel and his very life. Sam and his wife have trained them in micro-enterprises. He has sewing and weaving machines for some to use to make a living. Some grow loofah sponges to make useful items, such as slippers. Others make place mats out of natural materials. He has taught them to make roof top gardens and use the moringa tree and other nutritious vegetables. We visited schools where hundreds of children can now have an education and food to eat because of Sam's ministry. It encouraged us to see all these children and adults benefitting from Sam's SIFAT training.

There was also a swampy area full of mosquitoes...the worst of the slums. A group of refugees from the Congo, who had fled from the violence in their war-torn country, lived in this death trap. Malaria was endemic. We met an elderly grandmother with 23 orphaned grandchildren trying to survive in a cardboard shack about 10 ft. by 15 ft. When it rains, the whole area floods, and water comes into their little hut.

The grandmother still has wounds across her face and down her arm where she had been slashed with a machete in the Congo. Her 13-year-old granddaughter had been raped by the rebels and was now pregnant. The only thing they had to eat was some wild spinach, like our Alabama polk salad. None of them could find a job, because they did not speak the languages used in Uganda. They face severe prejudice from the local Ugandans. Sam is trying to get some help for these refugees, but he is overworked and has limited help.

We continued walking to another area with Sam and realized William was not with us. We later found him praying

with this Congolese family. He could not tear himself away from them. William's heart reaches out to embrace the needy of the whole world.

When we returned to Agape, the children were singing praise songs in evening worship. William told them about the refugees he had met that day. The children were deeply moved. One of them said, "We used to be like that, but now we are not orphans any more. Now we have Daddy William." Another added, "And we have food." And another, "And a school to go to...and we know Jesus loves us."

Then they all began to talk together, "Daddy William, what can we do to help the children from Congo? Can we share some of our food with them? What can we do!?"

Jesus! Help us to have a heart like the children in William's orphanage. Lord! What is God calling us to do!?