

# SIFAT Journal



Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways

Spring/Summer 2016

## Earthquake Devastates Ecuador Coast SIFAT Graduates Respond

Sarah Corson  
SIFAT Co-founder

A 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the northern coast of Ecuador on April 16. SIFAT has been working in Ecuador for 20 years. Although the SIFAT project sites in Quito were not damaged, several of our SIFAT partners with whom we work in Ecuador have family, churches and projects for children in the devastated areas.

SIFAT staff will take water filters and clean water systems to this region and provide training on how to use these technologies. The water filters cost \$35 each, and the water systems cost about \$2200. Dr. Roberto Contreras, SIFAT Ecuador director, has also requested granola bars and children's vitamins to ensure the children receive vital nutrients while meals are limited. SIFAT mission teams are taking personal care kits with travel size shampoo, bar soap, hand sanitizer, washcloth, toothbrush, etc. packed in a gallon freezer plastic bag.

According to the Ecuadorian National Secretariat for Risk Management, the death toll stood at 602 on Friday, with 12,492 injured and hundreds more missing. Almost 7,000 buildings have been destroyed with almost 3,000 more severely damaged and considered uninhabitable. Among those buildings are dozens of schools, health clinics and hospitals.

Even though the news media in the United States is not broadcasting much about this disaster now, aftershocks occur daily, with more than a dozen measuring magnitudes of 6.0 or higher. Relief agencies are helping larger cities that were damaged, but remote villages are receiving little aid. Graduates of SIFAT's community development training are from these villages and have asked for SIFAT's help.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) reports that its major concern is disease, either from unsanitary conditions or from mosquito bites. "There are at least 20,000 people living in shelters and thousands more are sleeping outside their homes," reported PAHO's Gina Tambini. Conditions are ripe for widespread Zika virus, dengue fever and other mosquito borne diseases. Water systems have also been polluted.

SIFAT staff members are traveling with a team to Ecuador on May 4 to work with our partners in Quito. They are taking suitcases overflowing with small water filters, granola bars, children's vitamins and personal care kits. Summer mission teams, including medical teams, are ready to be redirected to serve the earthquake victims as needed. Your response for donations has been overwhelming. Thank you from your SIFAT family for always stepping up when needed, and a special thank you from the people in Ecuador!



Photo Credit: El Comercio newspaper (via Facebook)



Photo Credit: Liliana Intriago (via Facebook)



# Spring/Summer 2016

## Monthly Contributors Needed!

Diana Cline  
Accounting

I am making an appeal to you to help SIFAT once again, but this time in a different way. I serve as your accountant for SIFAT. Four years ago, I received a call from our Lord to sell my accounting business, retire from nursing, and join the SIFAT team. WOW! Did you know that most employees here have had a similar experience? To work for a nonprofit usually means less money than in the public sector, more hours and many times less benefits.

What a wonderful journey it has been! My thanks go out to all of you that have been so generous with your time as volunteers and your funds to our many different projects.

For the last few years, we have been stressed to be sure we can cover our operating expenses. Most of our funds come in designated for a particular project, and we are grateful to tell you most every project ends up being fully funded.

However, I am appealing to you to think about setting up a regular monthly donation to the general fund to help us cover our increasing operating expenses. SIFAT has grown a lot since I came on staff, and yet we are still operating with the same number of personnel. Each staff member has taken on more work to help us economize on our administrative costs.

And during the four years I have been here, we have seen our utilities and vehicle and building repairs increase. Insurance for health, property and liability has increased 25% just this year. Our general fund has not increased proportionally.

We have tried to be good stewards of the funds that we receive, but we are struggling. We bundle our purchases to get the best discounts, and we renegotiate contracts rather than pay more for the same services. We praise God for the volunteers who are here working with us. These measures have helped, but it is still not enough.

Please consider a monthly automatic withdrawal. You can contact me at [accounting@sifat.org](mailto:accounting@sifat.org) or (256)396-2015 to set it up. Or, when you are mailing donations, please remember our general fund. If you give to our general fund, we are able to use it for the most urgent need of the moment.

Again, thank you for all you do for this great organization and for all the projects we promote.



## Thank You!

Sweet Home Alabama! During the last year and a half, many people have worked hard to fund and build a house for the Campus Director's family. Friends from Wisconsin, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Indiana and Alabama volunteered countless hours. Others gave generous donations out of love for SIFAT. After much work and prayer, the house is complete! Thanks to all those who have helped make this house a reality for SIFAT. If you would like to contribute to help finance the last few finishes, please designate *CD House* on the memo line.

Once the Suits family gets settled in, we will host an open house to celebrate what God has done and will do through the ministry of this home.



# SIFAT Journal

## Honduras Graduates Prepare to Train Others

Byron Morales  
SIFAT Trainer

(translated by SIFAT Co-founder Sarah Corson)

After almost four years of attending the AHMEN-SIFAT Initiative training sessions, 45 community leaders graduated on December 12, 2015, in Yorito, Honduras. They received a diploma as Community Agents in Integrated Health. Graduates included farmers, youth, health workers in the Honduran governmental health program that are dedicated to helping their communities at a grass-roots level. Graduation was a long-awaited goal for which they diligently worked. This ceremony showed their persistence and dedication to learning things that could help their communities supply their own basic human needs.

Dr. Jeremy Chavez, municipal director of health, explained that the government is implementing the New Model of Integrated Health, which we have also been teaching. He told the graduates that with their certificates, they can now participate in teaching in the government programs. It is hard to put into words the celebration during this graduation. These graduates will be returning to their villages with hope for development! May our prayers be with all our graduates as they face harsh conditions in their communities and that they can help their people understand the hope that only Christ can give!

Many of the graduates have already begun applying their training to projects in their communities. Here are three examples of the impact the AHMEN-SIFAT Initiative is having in rural Honduran communities:

- A donation from the Peace Corps of \$2000 for the construction of latrines in communities where these graduates will be working.
- While participating in the training, Rosibel Hernandez has been voluntarily helping more than 100 children prepare to enter school and succeed. Because of her dedication to the children, the mayor built a classroom for her ministry. Her community appreciates her dedication and doesn't want to lose her help. Now Rosibel can help her community even more with the knowledge

*Continued on page 4*

Kathy Bryson  
Training Director

April 24, 2016, marked the inauguration of the Honduran Alumni Association of SIFAT-UNA (National Agriculture University of Honduras). Some 23 graduates gathered with university president Oscar Redondo, SIFAT training staff Kathy Bryson and Byron Morales and others to celebrate.



These agricultural university graduates of SIFAT's training program in Community Development and Appropriate Technology for Basic Human Needs met for three days to decide how they are going to work together with communities across Honduras to offer practical training on clean drinking water, food production, combating child malnutrition, protecting the environment, replenishing soils and more. They are committed to sharing all that they have learned at UNA and at SIFAT in their beloved Honduras to improve life for all.

SIFAT has founded the Honduran Leadership Institute to offer continued training to alumni for capacity building of future leaders of Honduras. Additionally, a small fund has been started to provide seed funds for alumni who work together to support these community leaders as they train others in marginalized communities of Honduras.

To invest in the long-term development of Honduras, you can sponsor a student to SIFAT for 2016 trainings; contribute to the Honduran Leadership Institute; or support the graduates through the small project fund.



## Alumni Update: Aina in Nigeria

Marie Lanier  
Promotions & Marketing Coordinator

Aina spent last fall on our campus, helping with training events, speaking to visiting groups and traveling to Haiti to lead training. For 33 years, Aina and her husband have been in full time ministry, serving in countries including in Guinea, Senegal, Liberia and Sierra Leon. In 1998, their family returned to northern Nigeria. In 2003, they founded Blossom House, a temporary home for discouraged pastors, depressed missionaries, street children and abused girls. Their ministry now includes vocational training for women and a school that helps students catch up to their grade level or provides literacy and foundational math skills for uneducated youth.



Aina and her family live in a place that few can imagine – with no running water, electricity or paved roads. Aina said that if they need to use the internet, they must use a generator or travel 20 minutes by car to an internet café. The land on which their compound is built was formerly a shrine for the local tribal believers. These beliefs often cause resistance to the work of Blossom House.

“Light and darkness cannot stay together,” Aina said. “There has always been darkness, but we brought light. It cannot stay dark.”

In 2009, Aina participated in SIFAT’s fall practicum with the support and encouragement of her husband. Two technologies – moringa and fuel-efficient cookstoves – made an immediate impact on her and have become part of their ministry. When attending the Leaf for Life class, Aina discovered that moringa, a plant with which she was familiar but had not eaten, can positively affect malnutrition and poor diets. She was excited when Dave Kennedy, founder of Leaf for Life, gave her seeds. She now has eight mature trees, five seedlings and plans for an orchard. Aina sells leaf powder, tea and syrup. She wants to expand to moringa oil, but must first purchase a press. She gives these

products to the women and children who cannot afford them, but desperately need the nutrients and vitamins.

When she first introduced moringa in her community, the people were unsure of it. However, one mother accepted the leaf powder because her child suffered from sickle cell. At a checkup, the doctor was impressed with the child’s increased weight gain and overall healthier appearance. The mother excitedly shared these results with the community.

One week after returning from SIFAT in 2009, Aina built three different sized cookstoves. She has now learned about adding a chimney pipe and plans to add this element. “It’s not just saving firewood,” Aina shared. “It’s saving lives because of the lack of smoke.”

Aina also recycles materials to teach microenterprise. They make handbags out of used plastic grocery bags, handicrafts from corn husks or dried grasses, home décor from used matchsticks and other items from tailor shop remnants. She wants these women to make money, so that they can provide for their families on their own.

Please pray for encouragement for Aina, her husband and Blossom House.

### Honduras

(Continued from page 3)

she learned in the AHMEN-SIFAT course.

- Wilmer Alvarado, from the indigenous Tolupanes Tribe, has initiated a program to prevent HIV/AIDs among the youth in his tribe

using the information he learned in one of the training seminars. Wilmer wants to help change his community to help them develop in an integrated way ... spiritually and morally, as well as physically, as he learned in the AHMEN-SIFAT course.



## Hearing from Graduates in Myanmar

Sarah Corson  
SIFAT Co-founder

Pastor BiakCeu, who is part of the Chin people from Myanmar (formerly Burma), came to SIFAT six years ago when Pastor Daniel Zul, also from Myanmar graduated. Pastor BiakCeu recently returned to visit SIFAT. What a joy to hear that Pastor Daniel is now the General Secretary of the Falam Baptist Association, which has 120 churches. We saw pictures of their seminary, which is the only seminary in the area teaching both the Bible and agriculture, so the pastors can help the people feed the body, as well as the soul. He also told us about the work of Pastor Jhony and of Rev. S. Hrangkap Hnin, other SIFAT graduates from Myanmar. Because the use of the internet has not been as easy to access there, we had not heard from them in years. Now, we were able to see pictures of them and their work. We rejoiced that after more than half a century under a military dictatorship prejudiced against Christians, last month Myanmar voted in a democracy.

When the pastors from Myanmar attended before, they had to pay hundreds of dollars in tax to their government for permission to leave their country, in addition to expensive airline tickets. Thankfully, some churches helped us give them scholarships for expenses here, so they were able to come.

Pastor BiakCeu is president of the Chin Baptist Churches in North America in the communities where refugees have settled. There is one church in Canada and the others in various states in the USA. Pastor BiakCeu lives in Iowa, and he oversees

and encourages the Chin Churches throughout North America. His niece, Laura, and her three-year-old daughter came with him from Atlanta with the good news that now more pastors from Myanmar could study at SIFAT, because they would not have to pay taxes to the government to travel. They are now a democracy! He came to discuss possibilities of four other Christian workers coming to study with us from his country.



Campus director Jarrod Suits, training director Kathy Bryson and executive director Tom Corson met with visitors from Myanmar who brought news from several of our graduates.

We were moved by getting acquainted with Laura, who had spent three years in a refugee camp in Malaysia before being accepted into the United States. Her life story made the plight of migrants and refugees all over the world more real. Our Learn & Serve intern, Meghan, sat on the grass and played with Laura’s three-year-old daughter. Meghan showed her our chickens, and since she lived in the city, they were the first real chickens she had ever seen. She was able to gather the eggs, and they gave her one to take home with her. She insisted on holding the egg in her hands as she climbed in her car seat to return to Atlanta.

While here, our visitors shared a short message with a home school group, who were touring SIFAT today. Some members of a work team from Texas were able to get acquainted, too. One volunteer said that the women’s group from their church had been studying the country of Myanmar and the suffering of their people. “But,” she added, “it makes it so real to get to talk with Christians from there instead of just read about it.” Yes, the world comes to our door! We at SIFAT are so blessed to be able to hear the news from brothers and sisters who become dear friends from countries throughout the world.

### Planned Giving for SIFAT’s Future

Did you know that you can donate stocks or leave provisions for SIFAT in your will? Contact executive director Tom Corson, [corsont@sifat.org](mailto:corsont@sifat.org), for more information.



## Excerpts from Ecuador Team Journal

*LaGrange College took its first team with SIFAT to begin our 2016 year of construction in Calderon, Ecuador. Below are excerpts from their team journal and reflection papers. Upon returning to their spring classes, the team presented a program to the student body about their experiences on the project site and home visits (pictured at right), as well as educational visits to a rose plantation and coffee farm.*



“Although today was just a simple day as far as work and the overall schedule, my most important moment probably came when we got back to the hotel, and I realized that I had to pack. When I began to pack, I started replaying every event in my head that had happened since we arrived in Ecuador and how it impacted me. Although the purpose of me coming to Ecuador was to positively affect others’ lives, I feel like my own life was changed in this short period of time. I saw how some with nothing material were still very rich in love and faith. I saw how faith can change a person’s life, and I saw how some who were born into poor situations fought every day to improve their lives without any sense of self-pity.”

— Wade Fegley



“Today started off the same as Monday. We went to start work at the church and got quite a bit accomplished. But today, Tom took me and some others on a home visit. The home visit was the first real glimpse of what a Third World country actually is. This woman lived in a house no bigger than our bus and was currently raising six children under that roof. She talked about how her husband was always out looking for work and how he lost his faith because of the hard times. She explained to us that without the work we were doing, and without the pastor and his wife, that she would not have made it this far. This woman truly had the spirit of God with her, and I believe that everyone could tell. She had absolutely nothing, but was so happy. The thing that touched me the most was how grateful she was. She gave all of us a candy before we left, and she honestly had nothing at all, but she gave us the best thing that she had.”

— Sam Shattles

“I had the life changing opportunity to go with SIFAT to Quito, Ecuador through my college. I had been on

mission trips every summer since the 6th grade, but none were like this. Previously on mission trips, we would go from church to church giving out food bags. I honestly feel like we waved goodbye more than we did any good. I believe this because we were not in the country long enough, much less in the same city long enough. With this trip, we were there. I mean really there—we were invested in the people and in our mission. We built relationships left and right and were waving hello more than goodbye. My eyes, ears, heart and hands were open the entire trip, and they were filled so abundantly that they were overflowing. Getting to see the same kids on a daily basis was incredibly rewarding. Also, having the opportunity to talk with them, play with them and get to know their little personalities meant the world and is something that cannot be adequately explained.”

— Macy Milford



## Finding Family and Education at Agape

Alfred Tucker  
Agape Total Childcare Center

I was born in 1994 in Masaka District, Uganda. My mother, Florence, and my father, Kiyimba John, were parents to me, my two sisters and one brother. My dad contracted AIDS, and after a six-year fight, he died.

My aunt raised me from Primary 4, but she had a difficult time because she had many children of her own. I worked hard, as she constantly reminded me from where I came and told me I had to work to go to school. She introduced me to farming as a way of earning school fees. I worked first with cows and then in the garden in the early mornings and evenings to earn my school tuition money.

Through the grace of God, I managed to complete Primary 7 and joined secondary level, which had even more fees and requirements. This made me work harder, tending cassava, potatoes and maize. The money I earned went to my aunt, who said she would pay for my school.

It was while I was in S3 that the sun dried out the ground and nothing would grow. I studied, but the headmaster demanded fees. I had no thought of going to S4, knowing I could not afford further education because of the drought.

To make matters worse, my aunt was fired from job because she had health issues. She encouraged me to stay hardworking

and trust in The Lord, which I tried to do, but things were not working out well. I do not remember the number of times the headmaster came looking for me to collect the fees while I was trying to attend school. I was stressed with registration and school fees to pay, and I had no hope of getting any money from my aunt, since she was no longer working.

My mathematics teacher, who was also teaching some Agape students, introduced me to Daddy William. Before even hearing my story, William welcomed me and counseled me. He requested I take him home after we talked. My aunt welcomed him, and he offered to pay for my S4 tuition and promised to continue with me if I passed my S4 examinations.



William brought me to Agape Christian Academy, and I am now in my fifth year at Agape. I have had many accomplishments while at the school, including growing food to support the school, learning how to work with computers and running the computer lab, recording the school anthem, being the school president, helping to build various buildings around the school, and learning brick laying. I am currently in my second year of plumbing education at the African Village Hotel technical school.

I also enjoy sports, such as volleyball and soccer.

My favorite thing about Agape is that we stay as a family here. I find life easy here. Thank you for supporting Agape!

### Agape Scholarship Fund

What a joy it is to see an Agape Total Childcare Center youth graduate from our school and continue in a trade school or university. These children, rescued from the most horrific living conditions by SIFAT graduate William Nsubuga, were given a loving and nurturing home at Agape! More than half of our orphans will have graduated at the end of this year. They scored high on the national exams and are ready to continue their educations. We have sponsored them as children, and now we need your help to ensure that they are ready to go out into the world, prepared to become productive citizens of Uganda. Tuition, lodging, food and supplies cost about \$1800 per year. Please consider a one time gift or a monthly sponsorship of one of our Agape kids. Designate your contribution *Agape Tuition*.



# Spring/Summer 2016

## Microirrigation Systems Grow Crops

Ivan Roman  
Latin America Project Coordinator  
Yustakala System

In Yustakala, the microirrigation system is making an immediate impact. This harvest season the rain was late, but the fields have produced because of this system, which was instrumental in diverting a shortage in their food supply. The farmer's association administers the system and the cleaning of both tanks and all four distribution chambers. People are experiencing the value of their hard work with an abundant harvest.

Last year, some of the farmers started a second crop, but encountered a problem that needs solution. Because their crops were the only plants in full bloom, the birds destroyed much of the crops! This year, they are trying again, and they feel prepared to face the challenge.

Wonderful testimonies are coming from this community!

Adolfo Carita from Quesimpuco is an active member of the Yustakala Farmers Association. Despite the late start to the rainy season, he did not fear for his crops. He relies on the irrigation the system provides for his fields. This year, he planted potatoes, corn and onions.

Andres Condori shared that he planted his crops in December, but there was no rain until February. Without the water tanks, his family would have had nothing to eat.

Germán Carita planted prickly pears, parsley, corn and onions. His fields are ready for a second crop of cucumbers and

onions. He now sells his extra produce in the Colquechaca market!

Casimiro Ojeda (pictured at right) had a plentiful harvest of onions, fava beans, corn, potato, carrots and prickly pear. He hopes to harvest his second crops in June or July. Casimiro started a plant nursery for the farmer's association, which will help decrease their production costs.

### Tacana System

We have built the water tank and have worked on diverting a stream to the Tacana watershed to increase the water's volume. However, we still have to complete the distribution grid. We have not had enough mission teams to help offset the costs to complete this project. Most of Tacana farmers were summoned to help in the construction of a new basketball court near the internado (boarding home) in Quesimpuco, leaving little time for them to work on the tank until May. Because we do have the water tank, the neighborhood farmers have been irrigating some of their fields using traditional methods, which has helped them to harvest some crops this year. Once the construction is completed, the association will work on the distribution grid as per design.

After Cristobal Chungara witnessed the success of other neighbors, he now wants to join the Tacana Farmers Association.

### Huasca-Huasca System

This system is managed by the school. After the Tacana water tank was finished in 2014, third grade students started coming with their teacher to fill old soda bottles



to carry water to their potato plot in the Huasca-Huasca sector. Through the local church's children's ministry, the teacher and students began using the greenhouse to produce vegetables. By early 2015, the local teachers bought pipes, hoping that they would be allowed to connect the school fields in Huasca-Huasca to the Tacana System. Unfortunately, this is logistically impossible. Isaac Paredes, CENATEC's executive director met with church leaders, school officials and teachers to find a solution. An old tank that supplied water for the internado before the town's water system was built could be reconditioned and connected to a nearby stream. With the help of teams from Auburn University, Mt. Bethel UMC and Covenant Life Ministries, the irrigation grid was placed and the teachers and students were trained to use and maintain the system. In 2016, we have the school's fields in full production.



# SIFAT Journal

## Our Campus on Mission

Jarrod Suits  
Campus Director

This spring, I have had the opportunity to visit many churches and talk to them about the wonderful work SIFAT is doing here in Alabama and throughout the world. People who were not familiar with SIFAT would always come up to me and say, "What SIFAT is doing sounds amazing; how come I had never heard about it?" This question reminds me that telling others about what God is doing with the work of SIFAT is always ongoing. When we can help our churches, friends, family and neighbors understand the impact SIFAT is having on so many lives, we are giving them an opportunity to make a difference for Christ!

One of the impacts SIFAT has each day is the ministry of our campus. If you have never had the opportunity to visit our beautiful 176-acre campus, I encourage you to do so. From our one-of-a-kind Global Village to our appropriate technology demonstrations, the campus is a unique place for people of all ages to be impacted for a lifetime of missions. Each year, we host field trip groups, nursing programs, youth retreats, work teams, international training groups and our summer experience for youth. In late April, we had almost 500 visitors to campus in one week alone! No matter the age or stage, our campus strives to connect people to the work of Christ in our world.

I want to share with you a couple of examples of how we are making an impact on our campus. Although people of all ages come to the campus, the heart of the campus programming is designed for young people. Below is a quote from a youth minister who recently brought a group of youth for one of our Learn & Serve programs.

"My students will be talking about this for a long time, and we have had some real conversations about practical ways to take care of people who are less fortunate. We teach that we are blessed to be a blessing to others, and my students

grew in that this weekend."

How exciting is it to know that SIFAT is making a lasting impact on the next generation! Visitors and participants to our campus leave truly changed for Christ! I have heard so many stories of young people changing college majors, going into ministry or deciding on becoming a missionary after experiencing one of SIFAT's campus programs.

Each day, SIFAT graduates are in our world making a real difference. A mother in Nigeria now has a home free from smoke because a SIFAT graduate taught her how to build a smokeless cookstove. Children in Ecuador are being fed both spiritually and physically because SIFAT graduates connected Americans to the mission work needed to be done in the country. For so many years, SIFAT has trained missionaries, pastors and community leaders to share God's Love in practical ways. The ministry of our campus is to continue to be a resource for those leaders to come to learn ways to meet the needs of poor people around the globe. However, we also have another ministry on our campus: to help connect and inspire others, particularly youth and young adults, to be the next generation of



SIFAT graduates — to raise up a generation so passionate about working in our world on a level that is truly making a difference for Christ.

How come people do not know what SIFAT does in our world? Maybe it is because we forget to tell them! I invite you to work with us and continue to tell others what SIFAT is doing each day. Tell young people in your churches, families or neighborhoods about how they can come to SIFAT and experience the world. Encourage them to come to our Summer Experience and leave truly changed. Invite them to tour the SIFAT campus or give financially to the work SIFAT is doing. People want to make a difference, and we can help so many be part of the good work of SIFAT. Let's connect others to SIFAT, so they can share God's love in practical ways, too!



# Spring/Summer 2016

## 48: A Slum Experience — Experiencing Homelessness

Meghan Pattison  
Learn & Serve Program Intern

“You can’t take our home!” These are the words that 50 high school students, who are linked arm-in-arm, chanted as their home was about to be destroyed. However, it was not their nice, warm house that was going to be torn down, but the makeshift houses that were made out of tents and duct tape. These students were fighting passionately for a home that had only been theirs for 48 hours. These are the same students that were not excited to leave their warm home and hike through the woods to establish a new one. So what happened in those 48 hours?

There were no showers, no change of clothes and limited access to food, but there was something happening to them. Something that can only be explained by walking in the shoes of someone whose life you otherwise could not understand. A level of empathy is developed that cannot be explained. That empathy is what led to the moving scene at the end of 48: *A Slum Experience* that was held over Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend in January.

Our Learn & Serve staff had the vision to make these students experience poverty and remind them they did not have to go overseas to serve the way Jesus instructed. There are great needs in their own backyards. The youth and their leaders only have to open their eyes to see and hearts to let Jesus move them to action. Because of the work of the Lord in the hearts of students during those 48 hours, students left not just aware of the struggles of the homeless, but empowered to share God’s love in practical ways!



Above: Although this experience lasted 48 hours, shorter slum experiences are available during Learn & Serve retreats.

Below: Sarah Wynn Corson (left) and Jennessa Bryson (right) volunteered for our 48 staff. They are the granddaughters of SIFAT co-founders Ken and Sarah Corson.



### Field Training in Practical Skills to Impact Hunger and Poverty Globally

August 14–20, 2016

Join with students and community leaders from several countries to work together for a better world by focusing on community development processes and appropriate technology skills to meet basic human needs. Contact [brysonk@sifat.org](mailto:brysonk@sifat.org) for more info or to provide scholarship funds

### Learn & Serve Interns Needed for 2016-2017

[www.sifat.org/learn-serve](http://www.sifat.org/learn-serve)

Are you a college-aged person wanting to serve on our campus? Internships with our Learn & Serve campus programs are available! Questions? E-mail [learnandserve@sifat.org](mailto:learnandserve@sifat.org)



# SIFAT Journal

## Don't Miss Out! Register for L&S Today!

Jarrod Suits  
Campus Director

This summer at SIFAT’s campus promises to be one incredible experience for youth. Our 2016 Learn & Serve Summer Experience introduces youth to missions and issues facing our world in an interactive and meaningful way. This year our theme is *Restoration*. Our focus will be helping youth understand God wishes to restore all things because he never abandons that which he created. Through Christ, God is restoring communities and individuals around our world. We desire our participants to see that they themselves can be part of this great restorative plan by Sharing God’s Love in Practical Ways.

We are excited about our programming this summer! Youth will have an opportunity to select from a variety of sessions to explore a topic about which they are passionate. Whether it is learning how to turn bugs into a meal, making Leaf for Life pasta, having a hands-on lesson with crafts from a SIFAT graduate or hearing Sarah Corson tell stories from SIFAT’s early years on the new Campus Director’s House porch, there will be something for everyone. Additionally, new and exciting elements are awaiting the students in our Global Village. We will have a market in the village, hands-on demonstrations of life-saving technologies and so much more.

We need your help to get the word out! Encourage your youth groups to sign up. Individuals can participate even if their youth group is not coming. We welcome all rising 7th-12 graders here at SIFAT this summer.

### SUMMER 2016 SESSION DATES:

- Session One: June 5 - 10
- Session Two: June 12 - 17
- Session Three: June 19 - 24
- Session Four\*: June 26 - July 1
- Session Five: July 10–15 Full!
- Session Six: July 17 - 22
- Session Seven: July 24 - 29

*\*limited space available*



Learn & Serve youth learn agricultural techniques that SIFAT teaches during our community development training. They also help harvest food that is used to cook their meals in the cafeteria. The students above picked tomatoes, one of our favorite crops!



For more information or to register an individual or group, contact Jarrod Suits by email at [suitsj@sifat.org](mailto:suitsj@sifat.org) or by phone at 256.396.2015. Visit our website at [www.sifat.org/learn-serve/summer-16/](http://www.sifat.org/learn-serve/summer-16/) to learn more or to register online!

Left: While in the Global Village, Learn & Serve participants cook their meals over open fires or cookstoves, just as those living in many developing countries do.



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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

**You are invited to join us for a life-changing experience!  
Become a Global Citizen!**

In May, SIFAT celebrates 37 years as an organization. Our mission to Share God's love through service, education and personal involvement has saved lives and helped so many of the poor in the world. Did you know there is another side of this coin? The side that impacts all of us that go out to give and serve others?

A few months ago, I was speaking to the mission committee of a large church. As I started my presentation, a lady asked if I was Tommy Corson and held up a picture she had taken of me as a little boy in 1967 while she was serving on a mission team to Puerto Rico. She went on to share how many of the team members' lives had been changed by that experience almost 50 years ago. Today, most of them are working in some type of ministry.

The words I often hear from people coming out of our Global Village experience here in Lineville, or working with us on mission projects in countries around the world, is *life-changing*. I've so often seen people change their career directions after such experiences. I am convinced that this process of helping and serving others is instrumental in our own spiritual

development.

In April, we had more than 900 people visit our campus learning what it is like to walk in the shoes of people from other cultures and how they personally can engage helping make this world a better place. This year, we are leading at least 25 mission teams to South America and Africa. These teams are going to serve. In that process, they, too, are being served in a way that profoundly changes how they return and invest their lives at home.

On page six of this newsletter, you read excerpts from students after participating in a service learning experience to Ecuador with LaGrange College. These students were deeply impacted by the opportunity to know some of the materially poor of the world on a personal level. They all agreed that we get so much more from the experience of serving than we could ever give.

Through experience, we discover the bridge that serves and blesses both ways. SIFAT does not work FOR the poor, but WITH the poor. We all have something to teach each other. We need each other. I encourage you to come see our campus, join our Learn & Serve Summer Experience or be part of a mission team supporting our international brothers and sisters. Come serve with SIFAT and see how life-changing it is for you!