

SIFAT Journal



Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways

Fall 2017

Celebrating Calderon

Tom Corson
Executive Director

Recently, our team from Auburn University's Building Science met with Pastor Raul Flores to plan our last construction team of 2017. While in Ecuador, we finished the project with his church, which we started three years ago with another AU Building Science team. Our meeting was an emotional time of sharing and learning.

Pastor Raul shared his vision to plant a church in the slums of Calderon 20 years ago. As evangelists, he and his wife Ruth began sharing the Word of God from street corners with anyone who would listen. It was a slow start. They were often discouraged by their lack of success. Nine years ago, Pastor Raul attended a SIFAT Ecuador training, which he said changed his ministry and the life of his church. He learned about SIFAT's motto of *Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways* both physically and spiritually. SIFAT training is designed to help people like Raul identify local assets and learn skills to capitalize on them. He returned and established an after-school program with Compassion International that would provide tutoring, hot meals, medical assistance and spiritual formation, helping the children develop to their full ability. Hundreds of poor, marginalized children attended. SIFAT built the facilities to enable them to do it. Today, we witness the astounding results!

Sunday morning, our team attended Pastor Raul's church and experienced firsthand the results of these efforts. The worship was led mostly by teenagers and young adults. Each of them has been positively impacted through this project. Tonight, we heard testimonies from adults who attended this program as a child. Now, they have graduated from high school and some from college. Many are serving in the church and the project as teachers, worship and church leaders. This project that changed their lives could not have been accomplished without your support!

Pastor Wilson, another SIFAT alumnus joined us last night. We reviewed the blue prints for his new project in Aida Leon. SIFAT plans to begin early next year working on this new project which will allow his church to serve 300 more children in his community. Studying the blue prints, I cannot help but reflect on the sermon Pastor Raul shared with us from the Prayer of Jabez — His mother called him Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in sorrow." And Jabez called "Lord, Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

Through the years, we have been part of many of these children's lives, most of them born in sorrow. But God is continuing to bless this project and enlarge our borders for His Kingdom! Thank you for being part of this journey with us, as we successfully conclude the project in Calderon and open a new one in Aida Leon.



In October 2017, the last construction team said goodbye to the church staff and members in front of the new building.



In February 2015, teams began working in Calderon on the new building behind the sign in the picture above. The sanctuary is on the far left (rounded windows).



Fall 2017

From the Field...



In late October, SIFAT training director Kathy Bryson met SIFAT graduates in Haiti to plan for the Haitian Alumni Association. In the photo above, graduates Esai Dorce, Josue Michel, Kathy Bryson and Paul Souffrant visit. SIFAT board of directors member Bill Brawner also flew to Haiti to be part of the planning for future training and alumni networking.

Campus Volunteer Workshops

Angie Stryker
Campus Director

The Galilee Campus of SIFAT is an extraordinary place. Nowhere else can you immerse yourself in the developing world and learn how to practically meet those needs in love—all in one day! With such a great space and mission, we need all the help that we can get to keep these 176 acres beautiful and functional.

Our volunteers are vital. You have gifts, strengths and talents with which the Lord has blessed you. How can your gifts meet the needs of our campus? That question is the purpose of the Volunteer Workshop. We are holding these workshops on the first Saturday of the month from 9 to 10 a.m. Join us for coffee and blueberry muffins as we work to find where your passions meet our ongoing opportunities to serve God in love.

For more information or to register for an upcoming workshop, e-mail Angie, strykera@sifat.org.

August Field Study



Students from Central America join students from Alabama to learn how to make tortillas fortified with nutrient rich dried leaf powder to combat child malnutrition and to use a fuel-efficient cookstove.

Right: SIFAT graduate Bola Lawal of Nigeria harvests fresh leaves with SIFAT gardener John Carr for class demonstration during the August Field Study.



Board of Directors Creates Graduate Project Committee

Marie Lanier

Promotions & Marketing Coordinator

In 2016, the SIFAT Board of Directors appointed a committee led by Art Stephenson to restructure our international graduate projects, so that SIFAT alumni know how to submit proposals and the criteria on which they will be evaluated, as well as to help donors easily find and support projects, helping more graduates' projects with fund raising and encouragement. In 2017, we are seeing the fruits of all of the meetings, e-mails and hard work!

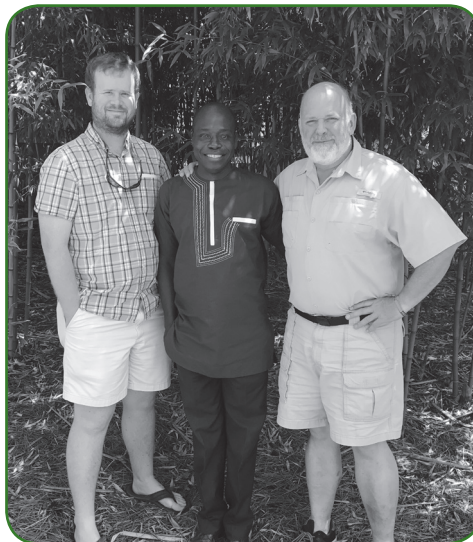
How does the new process work?

Graduates of SIFAT training submit proposals that are reviewed twice a year, and approved projects are assigned a champion, who is in charge of looking for new donors for the project and communicating regularly with the graduate. You can browse approved projects on our website under the International Missions tab. Each project includes a summary, funding needed and button to donate online.

An Example with Raphael. You may have met Raphael — either in person as part of our Learn & Serve programming and training sessions on the SIFAT campus or from updates in previous issues of the SIFAT Journal. He is a great example of how The SIFAT Process is being implemented effectively.

Raphael, a missionary to his own people in northeastern Nigeria, first attended SIFAT training in 2008. For years, he

taught communities around him how to build fuel-efficient cookstoves and biosand water filters. He brought these people together, regardless of faith and political beliefs, which was uncommon in this area. As tensions and violence increased, Raphael was forced to move his family to a safer location.



Project champion Jarred Griffin, SIFAT graduate Raphael and executive director Tom Corson visit at SIFAT this summer.

Raphael and his wife Helen saw many people fleeing to escape persecution and violence. They were refugees in their own country. Helen began training a group of women in microenterprise to help them start their own small businesses. Raphael, who has a passion for teaching fuel-efficient cookstoves, faced a tough question, “What do you cook on the stove?” The men have no jobs — the city in which they now live has swelled from 180,000 people to a conservative

estimate of 250,000. Raphael said that he kept seeing the men leave their families each day and assumed they were going to find work. But, he soon found out they were demoralized and were going to hang out together under mango trees. They had no way to provide for their families and communities.

Raphael and Helen developed a plan! Raphael will teach men how to farm, while Helen continues training the women. He started with a group of 20 this fall, because his approved project received funding to buy 6.5 acres of farmland about an hour's walk from town. This group of men will have a direct impact on about 150 people. Raphael is teaching agricultural techniques that are new to these men — no till gardening and irrigation. Raphael's goal is to provide a plot of land they can begin cultivating, and after two to three years, they will have learned how to farm, raised enough food for their families with extra to sell and have saved for their own properties.

Jarred Griffin, a former SIFAT staff member, met Raphael years ago and kept in touch. When Raphael came to visit churches and find donors for his project, Jarred became his champion. They traveled to speaking engagements and developed a network of new donors interested in Raphael's ministry. When Raphael left in July, Phase 1 was funded. Since then, Jarred worked tirelessly behind the scenes to fund Phase 2, another 4.5 acres. In late October, Raphael's project was completed!



Fall 2017

Serving as a Family

Rita Anderson
Mission Team Member

In July 2017, our family was so blessed to serve on a SIFAT mission team from Lineville Baptist Church in Quito, Ecuador. So many thoughts go through your mind as you prepare for a mission trip. The biggest question for us was should we take our young girls.

There are so many reasons for not doing international mission trips with children: the cost, immunizations, effort of preparation, risks to health and safety, travel and jet lag, and the distraction our children may pose to the “real work” of missions. All these are valid reasons to keep us at home. However, when God lays it on your heart to take the good news to the nations, he can use any resource—your education, your finances, your free time, your personality, your skill set, and yes, your children.

After praying about it, we felt led to take our girls, ages 4 and 6. It may seem crazy to some, but I am so glad we did. It forced us to see the world through their eyes. How are they adjusting? How are they interpreting what they see? How are they seeing and sharing Jesus in a way you have never considered before?

Children have a way of breaking down barriers. They had no idea what the Ecuadorian children were saying, but it did not matter. They played, were involved, and loved each other. They do not see differences. They see opportunity. I truly believe this will shape who they become. Also, there are benefits to taking your kids along for educational purposes. The connection to culture,



Michael, Rita, Raylin and Kella Anderson traveled together as a family to serve on a SIFAT mission team this summer.

language and history are all worthwhile reasons to get a stamp on your passport. Yet, as a follower of Christ, you can offer your children more than just the excitement of adventure or knowledge. As they experience new cultures, they realize that people from other countries are not just interesting people. They are our brothers and sisters—people Christ died to save. We can now pray for them, by name.

There is something incredibly life changing and life giving when we have the opportunity to serve together. We grow deeper in love with one another and discover new ways to serve. Our bedtime conversations made me aware that they get it; they understand we are here to serve and be a blessing to others. Who knows how this will change their heart for missions. If God opens the gateway for your family to serve together, He will supply all your needs and use you (and your children) for His Kingdom.

Thank You 2017 Teams

Thank you to everyone who made it possible for our 2017 short-term mission teams to serve in Bolivia and Ecuador. It takes a village to send a team, and these churches and their communities work all year to help team members travel, host VBS and medical clinics and be part of construction projects making a difference in international communities. Thank you!

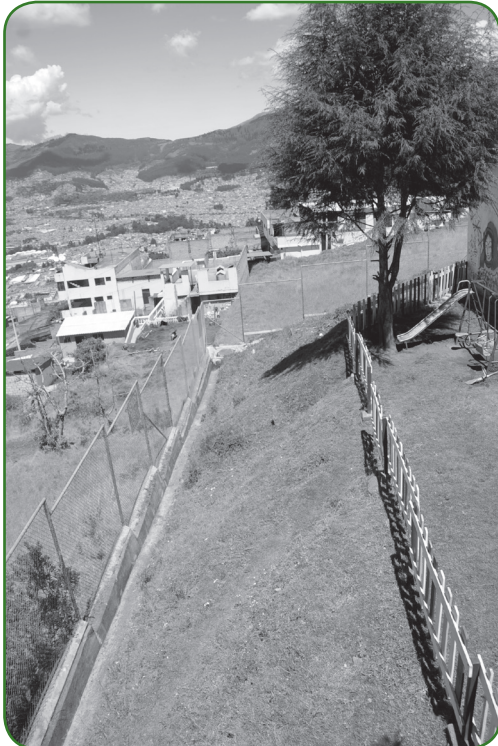
Bolivia

Mt. Bethel UMC, Marietta, Ga.
Texas A&M University Health
Sciences Center
Auburn UMC/Montgomery FUMC
Auburn University Engineers
Without Borders

Ecuador

Auburn University McWhorter
School of Building Science (x2)
University of West Georgia School
of Nursing
University of West Georgia
Psychology and Communication
Sciences
Gulf Shores UMC
St. Luke UMC, Pensacola
Guntersville FUMC
Duncan Memorial UMC
Montgomery FUMC
Clear Lake UMC, Houston, Texas
Alexander City Methodist Church
Lineville Baptist Church
Fairview UMC, Centre, Ala.
Centerpointe Church,
Palm Bay, Fla.

Ecuador 2018: Aida Leon Project Begins



Peggy Walker
International Teams Coordinator

On a small, steep plot of land with a breathtaking view of Quito, a project called Gotitas de Esperanza / Little Tears of Hope, is waiting to be transformed by SIFAT teams. Never losing their hope, Pastor Wilson and his wife Gerardina have waited 10 years for SIFAT teams to build a 10m by 15m two-story addition to Iglesia Bautista Esperanza Eterna / Eternal Hope Baptist Church. In Aida Leon, one of the poorest areas of Quito, they continued leading their church to minister to the children by forming a partnership with Compassion International for their afterschool program. Many obstacles kept SIFAT from starting the project, including the former president of Ecuador's plan to seize the land and build a bunker for himself. After years of prayers, paperwork, patience and hope, we will break ground in 2018!

We need 20 construction teams to complete this building in two years, in addition to medical teams for our other project sites around Quito. Please prayerfully consider leading or joining a team in 2018. Contact Peggy, walkerp@sifat.org for more information.

Meet Becky



Becky Swanson started working at SIFAT in August. She and her husband Dennis live in Wedowee with their two sons, Ryan and Colin.

Becky splits her time between our international teams and accounting departments, while also helping with other administrative tasks. Becky is fitting in beautifully with our SIFAT staff, and we are so glad she is willing to help wherever we need her.

Say hello and welcome Becky to our staff the next time you call the SIFAT office!

Buy a Brick for SIFAT's Commemorative Garden

Plans are being made to install our commemorative garden, but bricks are still available! Two sizes are available and can be personalized in honor or memory of your favorite people.

Don't miss having your brick in our first phase! You can order online at www.bricksrus.com/order/sifat or contact Marie by email, lanierm@sifat.org.



Fall 2017

Technology in the Mountains

Angel Roman
SIFAT - Bolivia

Next year, I will turn 30. When I see where I was as an orphan with no hope for a home or family and compare it to where I am now, I feel my heart is full of joy and gratitude for all who through SIFAT made it possible for me to have the education that reached the wholeness of me: body, mind and spirit.

There is still much work to be done in Bolivia and ministering to school children continues to be the best way to reach families in rural areas, such as Quesimpuco. Having a secured audience in a school setting allows us to have a direct impact on the children by using the school system as a medium to reach the whole community. During past few weeks, we have worked with the teachers and children in the fifth grade. We have spent time teaching them how to make chairs out of old tires. This craft will help them furnish their houses or public places while meeting one of the teaching goals in the district regarding recycling and a cleaner environment. These students and their teachers participate not only in making the chairs, but through the church in Quesimpuco, they receive biblical instruction to nurture their spirits as they develop a closer relationship with their Creator and Savior, just as I experienced growing up as part of a SIFAT project.

A water filter project for Quesimpuco, other school districts and churches in other villages has been submitted to SIFAT.



Angel Roman is working through local schools to teach fifth graders appropriate technology classes. In the photo above, Angel explains how a Sawyer water filter works to provide clean drinking water for their families and classrooms.

CENATEC and Covenant Life Ministries-Bolivia are ready to reach more than 700 students and several families with training on health issues related to water consumption and the operation and maintenance of simple water filters that will give them access to clean water. Your prayers and support will help us impact our Quechuan brothers and sisters, not only with clean water to quench their physical thirst, but also with the kind of water Jesus offered, which quenches the thirst of our souls and spirits. For more information on how to help call SIFAT or email Ivan Roman, romani@sifat.org.

Agape Students Strive for Higher Ed

Our sponsored children at Agape Total Child Care and Agape Christian Academy are doing incredibly well in their studies. It is still amazing to think how many are attending university or vocational school, ready to go out and conquer the world. These are the same scared, homeless children brought in by SIFAT graduate William Nsubuga only a few years ago to live, study, learn about the love of God and become part of a real family. William had the vision and these young people are truly the fruits of his labor and love.

As most of our sponsored children graduate high school, SIFAT's role is changing from orphan sponsorship to raising scholarships for higher education. They are taking the Ugandan national exams this month, and each child's results will determine if he or she is eligible to continue to university or to a trade school, where after two years training they are able to find a job and support themselves. No matter what they decide to do, all know that Agape will always be their home, their safe place. They will always be grateful for the love and support from so many of you who have given through the years to ensure the success of Agape. To help with tuition or learn more about Agape, e-mail Peggy at walkerp@sifat.org.

Speaking Without Words

Amber Yates
Mission Team Member

When I first learned of the trip to Quesimpuco, I had never heard of SIFAT. I only knew that I had a love for South America and the people there, so I was intrigued. I joined the combined team from Auburn UMC and Montgomery FUMC for my first mission trip.

The trip was more than I could have imagined it would be. I can honestly say it has changed me at my core. Bolivia is a breathtakingly beautiful country. At 14,000 feet, the stars appear to be so close you can reach up and grab them! More amazing than the scenery, though, are the people of Quesimpuco. Never would I have imagined that I could go into a place knowing none of the native language and be made to feel welcomed and at home. The people there will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Our trip was mainly a medical missions trip, and since I did not have any specific experience in the medical field, I helped wherever needed. I learned how to give simple eye exams to distribute reading glasses. I worked in the pharmacy and assisted in a small surgery. I assisted with the construction of a new roof for a clinic being built in a neighboring village. I worked in the bunkhouse preparing and cleaning up after meals. Every job is important, and there is something for everyone. It was impressive to see 17 people, mostly strangers, from different backgrounds and professions work together to achieve amazing things and make such a big impact.

One of my most memorable experiences

was helping with the surgery. A woman came in the clinic complaining of pain in her wrist. She had a stick/twig (not a splinter!) deep in her wrist; the skin had completely grown over it. One of our doctors decided it must be removed, and we did our best to set up a surgery room. Having no medical experience, I was observing and running to grab supplies. As the doctor began the surgery and gave injections around the site, I wondered what was going through this woman's mind. Here she was surrounded by strangers, foreigners, with the only explanations given through a translator. The people here are so very stoic, showing very little emotion, and she was being brave. As the doctor was about to make the incision, I grabbed her hand, and our eyes met. I smiled at her and let her squeeze my hand when she hurt. A universal language was spoken just through connecting with each other and caring. The surgery was a success, and she came back to have the site checked. It was clean and healing well. When our eyes met, we smiled and waved. I saw gratitude in her eyes, and my heart overflowed.

At the high altitude of Quesimpuco, the sun is brutal and does severe damage to the villagers' eyes over time. We gave out sunglasses to the adults and children that came through the clinic. I loved watching the people pick the style of glasses they wanted and showing them a mirror so they could try them on! Mirrors are something we take for granted here in the United States. It was a treat for them to see themselves and check out their new shades! Many of the young women especially were shy about



trying them on, but once they saw the mirror, smiles covered their faces! One of our team members brought a portable printer, and we printed pictures of them to take home. That was a hit!

Finally, the most impressive thing to me was the relationship Tom Corson and SIFAT staff have built with the people of the Quesimpuco area. Even without speaking Spanish, I could tell how much they genuinely care for one another and the high level of trust and respect they have. A bond like this certainly does not happen overnight. The most awesome thing is that it was all done by showing what it means to love the way God loves. Not by telling, but by loving, teaching and caring for our fellow brothers and sisters.

Since being home, I have visited the SIFAT campus, read three of their books and am hungry to learn more about this organization that is making a difference in our world. I had no idea such incredible things were happening right in my backyard, just 45 minutes from where I live! I am excited to get more involved and to be a part of future mission trips!



Fall 2017

SIFAT Field Trip Impacts Future Career

Zach Thomas

Learn & Serve Retreat Participant

There was a time in my life when agriculture and medicine existed as two separate worlds. One was for producing food; the other was for saving lives. I completely missed the connection between the two.

The future of medicine depended on newer drugs, invasive procedure and advanced technology ... or so I thought. That belief changed the day I met SIFAT's gardener John Carr.

The first time I visited SIFAT was with the University of Alabama in Birmingham's Honors College during my sophomore year. I remember pulling up and being impressed that such a place existed in the backwoods of Alabama. What intrigued me most was the teaching gardens. I was captured by John's enthusiasm and plant knowledge. Listening to John was like taking a sip from an open fire hydrant. While some were left staring with eyes glazed over, I was trying to soak up every word. I was fascinated by the different uses and health benefits of each plant. I left that day wanting to know more.

Fortunately, I visited SIFAT again as a nursing student with my community health class. I learned more about sustainable agriculture and a green powder that was being used to treat malnutrition in undernourished populations. At that point, I began to see the intersection between food and medicine. My views on medicine began to shift from a focus on treatment to a focus on prevention.

For the first time, I began to consider pursuing a career in

community health, but the thought of being a community health RN sounded terribly boring. Where was the action in that? Instead, I began working in a trauma/burn ICU shortly after graduating.



Learn & Serve retreat participants cook nutrient enriched cookies in an appropriate technology oven at SIFAT.

I began to see a trend that was concerning to me. Many patients were kept in the hospital longer, received more medications and required more life sustaining devices because of complications due to preexisting conditions, not the initial injury. Many times, these were conditions that could have been prevented with the right lifestyle change. I began to think more about how this vicious cycle could be stopped. My mind often wondered back to the garden at SIFAT, the random plant knowledge I picked up from John, and how I could apply that knowledge to the nursing field.

After two years of working in an ICU, I am convinced that prevention is the best intervention, and it starts with what you eat. I believe Hippocrates got it

right when he said, "Let food be thy medicine, and medicine be thy food."

With the help of SIFAT, I have begun to navigate the grey area between agriculture and medicine. My goal is to develop a preventative healthcare model that will leverage the power of high-quality, nutrient-dense foods, exercise and lifestyle changes to treat and prevent disease. I believe this ground-up approach to medicine is the future and can remedy the gap in our current healthcare model. John and the teaching garden at SIFAT have changed my views on medicine forever.

Winter and Spring Retreats Available

Did you know that SIFAT's Galilee Campus has lodging of all types that can accommodate women or men's retreats, youth groups, meetings and more? For two nights of lodging and four meals, our 2017 prices are only \$61 per person. Programming is available for an additional cost. Contact Angie (strykera@sifat.org) to schedule your event or for more information.

Work Teams Needed for SIFAT's Campus

Angie Stryker
Campus Director

Since SIFAT began, work teams have been vital for our campus. We invite you to bring your group to our RV park or dormitory-style lodging options to help get some of our projects in motion. Please contact Angie (strykera@isfat.org) for a complete list of projects or to schedule your work team!

Our list of work team projects ranges from skilled craftsman to the unskilled, but willing. Here is a partial list of projects.

- Outdoor Dumpster, clean / fence and gate construction
- Urban Slums reinforcement — repair and rebuild for safety
- Install gutters for Cafeteria, Campus Director House, Duplex
- Build storage sheds for Appropriate Technology Outdoor Training, Education Building and Village Store
- Build a fire pit at the Guest House
- Forge new hiking trails and clean up existing trails
- Buy and install noise dampening sound panels for the Cafeteria



Boy Scout Troop 50 from Auburn, Ala., completed a work project cleaning up the slum gardens during their retreat at SIFAT this fall!

Book your work team now!

==== Save the Date — #GivingTuesday ====
==== Nov. 28, 2017 =====

Register Now for 48: A Slum Experience

This year's 48: *A Slum Experience* will be held on Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, Jan. 13-15, 2018. This year's theme explores Hope in the Slums and begins at 12 p.m. on Saturday and finishes at 12 p.m. on Monday. Because of the intensity of living in our simulated urban slum for 48 hours of programming, this retreat is recommended for mature youth in 9-12th grades.

Book today! Call Angie at 256.396.2015 to make reservations for individuals or youth groups.

Volunteers needed! College aged volunteers needed for characters and programming support from Friday at 6 p.m. until Monday at 12 p.m. Contact Angie if you are interested or have questions.





Fall 2017

An Evening in the Garden

Angie Stryker
Campus Director

Our first *Evening in the Garden* on July 29 was a beautiful dinner held on the Lodge walkway, overlooking Mad Indian Creek and SIFAT's garden. We were served dinner by the farm to table interns. They learned so much this summer with John Carr in the gardens in the morning and with Donna Medforth in the cafeteria in the afternoons.

Tickets were available for a \$20 donation. Twenty guests enjoyed a homemade garden-fresh menu of mint tea, bread with pesto, caprese salad, tomato pie, stuffed bell peppers and blueberry muffins with blueberry basil ice cream. The only items purchased were the cheese, milk and meat. It was a lovely evening, and we will be sure when we host another to let you know!



Our first Evening in the Garden was held in late July and hosted by our Farm to Table interns. This event featured a menu of items grown at SIFAT.

Summer Staff Reunion

Angie Stryker
Campus Director

At the end of summer, we hosted a dinner to celebrate the summer staff and all of their hard work. We invited former staff members to come back and share stories of life on campus. We laughed so much, enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by the farm to table interns and had the opportunity to say thank you to this summer's employees. What fun we had!

If you have served as summer staff, then you are invited to join us at the end of summer 2018 for our next reunion night (tentatively scheduled for the last weekend in July).

Learn & Serve Interns and Counselors Needed for 2018

Are you a college-aged person wanting to serve on our campus? Internships and summer staff positions with our Learn & Serve campus programs are available!

Questions? Go to www.sifat.org/learn-serve for information or email Angie, strykera@sifat.org

Meet Maggie



Maggie Moore joined our staff in October as Campus Program Manager. Originally from Birmingham, Ala., Maggie has always had a passion for those in need. In 2016, she graduated with a bachelors degree in interdisciplinary studies from Auburn University. Her time at Auburn helped cultivate a passion for equipping people with tools necessary to make a long-term and sustainable impact in underdeveloped communities both locally and internationally. After serving as an exchange student with a campus ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, Maggie served as an intern with Auburn Christian Fellowship. Welcome, Maggie!

SIFAT Journal



Learn & Serve Summer 2018: Eyes Opened

Angie Stryker
Campus Director

We are making plans for Learn & Serve (L&S) Summer Experience 2018. Our campus staff is working hard to develop with the best possible training and experiences for your youth, college students and families. You read correctly — this year, we are introducing a college half week and a family half week!

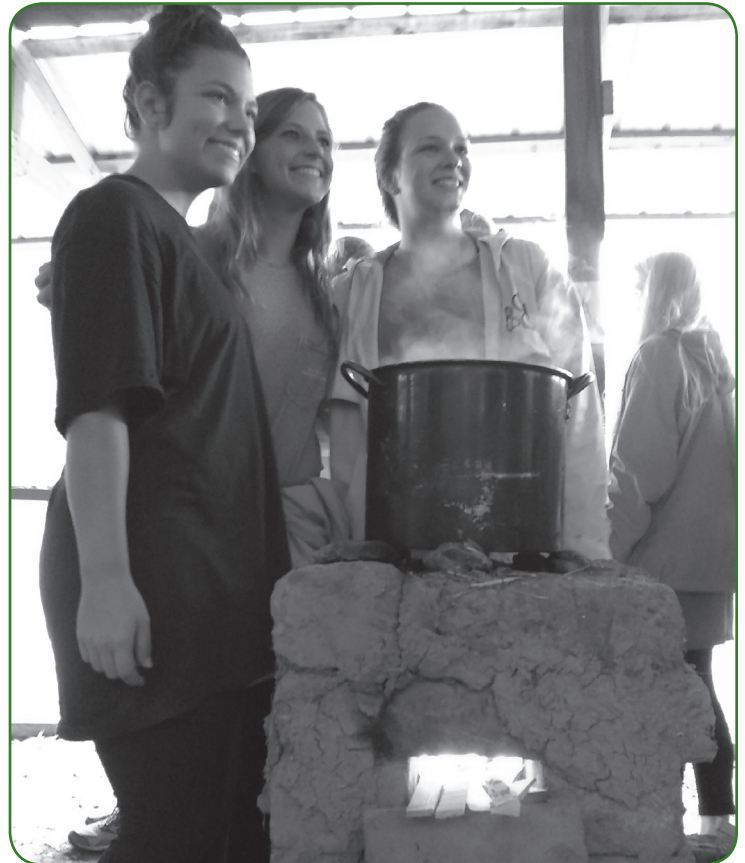
Why should someone participate in the L&S Summer Experience? One mom shared the following after her child attended last summer. “I had been praying for a meaningful summer experience for my child. Learn & Serve was an answer to that prayer. Months later, we are still hearing about his experience and the things he learned.”

There are incentives to register and pay deposits before the end of 2017. We need 20 youth groups of 20 to fill our summer for the youth weeks. This blesses us so much when we have a full summer experience! However, both individuals and youth groups (rising 7th through 12th graders) of any size can attend.

Visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve for rates and discounts or to register an individual, youth/college group or family. Questions? E-mail Angie, strykera@sifat.org.

2018 Summer Dates

- Session 1: June 10 - June 15
- Session 2: June 17 - June 20 — College Week!
- Session 3: June 24 - June 29
- Session 4: July 8 - July 11 — Family Week!
- Session 5: July 15 - July 20
- Session 6: July 22 - July 27



Until we walk in the shoes of our brothers and sisters around the world, how can we know their struggles? Until we are exposed to the issues they face, how can our eyes and hearts be opened? By immersing ourselves in their world, we can emerge with eyes opened. As we begin to see their needs, then we can begin to address them. Will we choose to have our eyes opened?

Come journey together with us at Summer Experience 2018!

Stay Connected with SIFAT for our Latest News!

Visit our blog (sifat.org/blog) and find us on Facebook (facebook.com/sifatbook) for updates between newsletters! Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website (www.sifat.org).

Are you moving? Don't forget to send us your updated contact information. E-mail info@sifat.org with your new mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.



Southern
Institute
For
Appropriate
Technology

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.

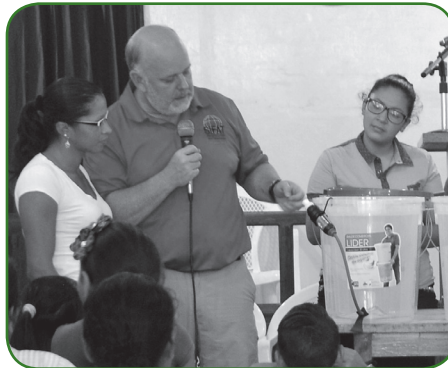
SIFAT's Mission: To share God's love through service, education and personal involvement with a needy world.

From the Desk of Tom Corson

As I write this, a month has passed since Hurricane Maria ravaged Puerto Rico. The people continue to be in emergency mode after the worst storm to cross the island in 85 years made landfall. They still struggle to meet their basic human needs: shelter, food and water. Last week, I received an e-mail from one of our friends in San Juan, asking, “Doesn't SIFAT teach how to purify water that could help our people? You were born right here in Caguas; isn't there anything SIFAT can do?”

The answer is YES! Thanks to some of you helping support the effort, I will be traveling to Puerto Rico on Friday, October 27. Hopefully, we will be able to assess how we can best help in the near future, as well as taking filters that can purify up to 300 million gallons of water. Please keep us in your prayers as we embark on this endeavor to help our brothers and sisters in Puerto Rico.

Please designate any donations with *Clean Water for Puerto Rico*.



In 2016, Tom traveled to the earthquake-stricken area of Ecuador to train communities on how to use these simple water filters. He leaves on October 27 to take filters that provide 1 million gallons each of clean, safe drinking water to the people of Puerto Rico devastated by Hurricane Maria.

Take a SHARE in SIFAT

Be part of SIFAT all year! Our monthly commitments — the SHARE program — help us budget throughout the year. Sign up at www.sifat.org/donate or contact Marie Lanier, lanierm@sifat.org, for more information.

Planning 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, for more information.

Give Online
www.sifat.org/donate