



SIFAT JOURNAL

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN PRACTICAL WAYS

WINTER 2022

SIFAT Mission Teams are Rain!

Marie Lanier
Promotions and Marketing Coordinator

Life has changed for everyone these past two years, no matter where you live. After almost three years of being separated, we had a Zoom meeting with Dr. Roberto and Monica Contreras, our directors in Ecuador, and SIFAT graduate Anita and her husband Pastor Rafael, our project leaders in Villaflora and Machachi. It was such an uplifting time to be together. We laughed and cried during the two hours we caught up on life. And was there a lot to catch up on!

In 2009, the first SIFAT team — a women's health team — served in Villaflora. Then, our construction teams followed in 2009, 2010 and 2014. Medical teams continued to provide care after the building was finished. Everyone quickly fell in love not only with Pastor Rafael, Anita and their extended family, but their church and its vibrancy.

When we think of Villaflora today, we picture a beautiful four-story building with a multi-purpose room, a large industrial kitchen, classrooms, large bathrooms on every floor, a computer lab, a music room, a youth area and even a doctor's office! We see smiling children running through the halls, giving a high five or fist bump as they pass by. But Pastor Rafael reminded us that this space was once a brothel, a dark spot for this urban neighborhood.

When they began working on the church, the community jumped in to help. Imagine this place becoming a church! This church and its programs for children gave them hope! Anita remembers the struggles in the early days. Before SIFAT teams came, makeshift classrooms leaked every time it rained. It was a scramble to grab their supplies and herd the children to the driest building. Despite the hardships, they called this program *Dulce Refugio/Sweet Refuge* because

that is exactly what the humble space gave these children who call Villaflora home.

But our teams came! They remember digging the foundation holes in the rock-solid earth. From something bad, seeds were sown, and a building grew. This is more than a building. A ministry has grown, out of which six new churches have been planted with women's groups that meet weekly for prayer, after-school programs that feed and educate the next generation and other outreach programs to meet people where they are. The children and youth are thriving now! Their popular audio-visual ministry teaches skills that are being used during worship and to broadcast their services online during the pandemic. On March 5, they start a multi-week outreach for youth to heal trauma using Biblical principles.

As Anita praised our SIFAT teams, she pointed out that they did not only build a building. They gave children dignity. The VBS materials left behind empowered the women of Villaflora to reach the children, and the medical teams' extra medicines allowed the church to help the sick.

Beginning this year in Machachi, we can help another group of people change their community. Inadequate facilities are limiting the ability of that church to reach their neighborhood. In March, schools return in person, and this *Valle Hermoso/Beautiful Valley* will welcome 175 children. Currently, their facilities have only one large room that they partition into smaller classrooms and three tiny bathrooms. Despite the minimal resources, hope and love fill this space. They are planting seeds in these children and youth during Sunday school and in the after-school program.

Pastor Rafael closed our meeting with this profound sentiment, "We are like farmers, and we are waiting for the rain to come. You are the rain!" **Join us in Ecuador in 2022!**

We are like farmers,
and we are waiting
for the rain to come.
You are the rain!

— Pastor Rafael

A Lesson from GivingTuesday

Art Stephenson
Member of SIFAT Board of Directors

Volunteering at a homeless shelter in Houston, I met Bruce 13 years ago. He did not have a home and was living on the back porch of a friend out in the Houston weather, hot or cold, rain or shine. When it rained, he slept under a tarp to keep dry. To eat, he often found a quarter or two on the sidewalk.

Three years ago, he finally was approved to receive federal disability payments. He had been trying to get this help for years and was able to move into a very run-down, cheap apartment that has no heat or air-conditioning. When I asked him if he needed an air conditioner, he said, "No, I have a fan and that is just fine." Houston can experience near 100 degree temperatures and high humidity for months in the summer! When it turned cold in Houston this fall, I asked him if he needed a heater, and he said no. But, I bought him a little room heater anyway.

Bruce receives a small monthly stipend from the government for his disability and spends little to nothing on himself, having enough money to buy what little food he needs. When we have talked about SIFAT through the years, he always expressed interest. I was surprised when he recently handed me a check for \$100 for SIFAT's GivingTuesday. Like the widow's mite, this kind soul and good friend gave all he could spare to help others. May we all have a generous heart to give as sacrificially as Bruce!



Thank you! With your generosity, we raised **\$251,281**, including our \$65,000 matching fund. Your investment in SIFAT blesses our ministry, and we appreciate your faithfulness.

Together, our SIFAT Family is Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways!

Learn & Serve Summer Experience 2022

The kingdom of God that we read about in Scripture is rarely what we see in the world around us. How can we walk out our faith in a way that builds God's kingdom here? And what kind of tools do we need to make that happen? Join us for **Thy Kingdom Come** and let's encourage each other to step out in new ways!

Each session begins Sunday afternoon and ends Thursday mid-morning. This experience is designed for youth (entering 7th grade through 2022 graduates). The cost is \$250 per person.

2022 Summer Experience Dates

Week One: June 12 – 15

Week Two: June 19 – 22

Week Three: June 26 – 29

Week Four: July 10 – 13

Week Five: July 17 – 20

Visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve for more information. Questions or want to book a youth group or individual?

E-mail learnandserve@sifat.org

Renovations at SIFAT in Costa Rica



Pictures 1-4. The intern house is the center of the demonstration garden (story on pg. 5).



4

Picture 5. A room with a private bath and entrance was added to the existing house and will be used by visiting trainers and guests.



5



6



8

Pictures 6-8. The Rancho is an open air kitchen, dining and meeting space and was the main renovation project in 2021. A new roof, flooring and updated electricity take advantage of the river views in this central location that is also used for community outreach.



7

Plans for Agro-ecological Demonstrations

Kathy Bryson
International Training Director

In October, professionals from Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica met with SIFAT farm manager Don Jose (center) and Kathy Bryson to plan for future agro-ecological demonstrations at our Costa Rica Training Center. We continue to rely on our regional network to advise us on best practices in agriculture and promotion of sustainable living relevant to the lives and struggles of thousands of struggling families on small farms throughout Central America.



Costa Rica Volunteers



We welcomed Oswaldo Saez, organic agriculture specialist, and Montserrat Serrano, who excels in gardening, cooking and organizing skills, to our SIFAT Costa Rica team in November.

Stay Connected with SIFAT

Visit our blog (sifat.org/blog) and find us on Facebook (facebook.com/sifatbook), Twitter (@sifattweets) or Learn & Serve's Instagram (@sifatlands) for updates between issues of *The SIFAT Journal*! Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.sifat.org.

Are you moving? E-mail info@sifat.org with your new mailing address, phone number or e-mail address.

Would your church like extra copies of *The SIFAT Journal*? If you would like to have additional copies sent to your church or need SIFAT brochures, e-mail Marie at lanierm@sifat.org.

Invest in Interns in Costa Rica



Our 2021 interns learn to make a life-saving rehydration drink for children with diarrhea due to unclean water. Diarrheal dehydration is still the second cause of death of children in the developing world.

Kathy Bryson
International Training Director

We are preparing for the arrival of our next interns from Honduras this June! Our interns work at our Central American Training Center on projects during the day and take SIFAT training classes at night. We believe in long-term sustainable solutions for hunger and poverty by investing in training these future community leaders.

Will you invest in our interns? Join us to support the 15-week Costa Rica intern program. Contact brysonk@sifat.org for details on how you can help.

Intern Ana Adds Animals to Model Farm

Sarah Corson
SIFAT Co-founder

For years, we have dreamed of developing a one-acre model farm, where a family could produce their own basic needs. Many people live on small farms from one to three acres in Latin America in great poverty because of lack of knowledge or funds to get started sustainably. A small farm can supply a family's basic needs, but few people know all the elements needed to protect the soils and grow a balanced diet for both humans and animals, especially with the increasing times of drought and flooding experienced today.

Today, SIFAT's farm is working, thanks to eight wonderful interns, SIFAT's staff in Costa Rica, volunteers and supporters like you. By using the science they learned at the national agricultural university in Honduras (UNA), the advice of their professors, their own experiences, research and hard work, each of the interns developed one aspect. The overall model they left us will be excellent for training to help bring food security to the small land holder. If a picture is worth a thousand words, just imagine what a model like this, on which people live and work daily, will mean to our students and visitors.

The regional director of Costa Rica's Ministry of Agriculture visited the model and is eager to work with SIFAT. Professors from the University of Costa Rica's research center are excited and have been helpful with their time and advice. One intern, Ana Pinto, designed shelters for the animals—three goats, young chickens, laying hens, two pigs, two sheep and a cow. Though we do not have the cow, sheep and pigs yet, the goats are producing milk, and the hens are laying eggs for our cafeteria. A model of vermiculture (raising worms)



makes organic fertilizer. Because of Ana's knowledge of grasses, weeds and animal nutrition, she was able to develop recipes using the resources on the farm to make a balanced food for the animals. It is amazing how small a space is needed, if it is managed well.

To produce this balanced feed for the animals, Ana first dries the grasses, then grinds them and presses them into blocks of feed that are easy to use, which the animals like. She designed a small greenhouse to dry the grasses, even in the rainy season. This farm is designed to operate with little input from outside the farm. This model will be used for students from many countries to help them with food security, one of our basic needs.

Ana grew up in rural Honduras on a farm with her mother, grandmother and sister, who taught her to love God and their neighbors. From her earliest years, she wanted to study, so that she could help her community and the needy of the world. She was thrilled to get a scholarship to UNA. Ana says that one of the best things that has happened during her studies was to go to our Central American Training Center to

do her supervised professional project.

"I am very grateful for this time at SIFAT," she wrote us recently. "Our work as a team developing this model small farm to help others, our morning prayer times together asking God to guide us in the activities of the day, the rich fellowship around the table at lunch, and all those moments working hard in the farm together for a purpose beyond ourselves, touched me on a deep level emotionally. I am very thankful to SIFAT for the love and help they gave us interns. Without a doubt, I know that all who support SIFAT have very big hearts full of love. I am sure SIFAT will continue walking the paths of life side by side with the most needy people in our world."

Thank you, Ana, and our other interns who were all such an inspiration! We are all blessed by your lives and work. We are happy to have you in our SIFAT family.

Editor's Note: After this article was written, we learned Ana received a prestigious award for students in Central American universities. Her project at our training center demonstrated her knowledge and ability. Congratulations, Ana!

Take a SHARE in SIFAT!

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

Leave a Legacy

Did you know that you can donate stocks or leave provisions for SIFAT in your will? Contact Tom Corson, corsont@sifat.org, for more information.



Drill Delivery

Trey Camp, son of board of directors' president Ben Camp, checks on the delivery of our new well-drilling equipment. Trey coordinated the shipping after a nonprofit in California that was closing its appropriate technology ministry donated this equipment to SIFAT.

Benjo, Mr. Appropriate Technology

Sarah Corson
SIFAT Co-founder

SIFAT welcomed Benjo from Bolivia again this year. And again, we were inspired by this 80-year-old man, who refuses to quit working or to quit telling everyone about the values of appropriate technologies. He says the Bible has a lot of appropriate technologies in it. He tells the story of Jesus putting mud on the eyes of the blind man, and when the man washed it off, he could see. Even Jesus used mud as appropriate technology, Benjo said.

Of course, Benjo grew up in a culture that used mud for many needs. His people made clay pots for cooking, plates or cups. They also made adobe bricks to build their houses. They build stoves and ovens from these mud bricks, too. We have a stove at SIFAT that he built for us.

"Appropriate technology means using the resources at hand to supply your basic needs," he kept telling all the visitors, and he got more people interested in learning how to use natural resources.

In past years, Benjo has built models for SIFAT of ancient technologies used by his people in the Andes for hundreds of years. When he came to teach one year, he diverted a small stream from the Mad Indian Creek to set up a grist mill to grind grain with the energy of the flowing water, which turned the mill

stones. Another year, a mouse had gotten inside the room where Benjo was sleeping. Instead of asking us to buy a mouse trap, he got two flat stones and little sticks to hold one up at an angle. He put food to attract the mouse at the base of one stick, and the mouse knocked the stick down. The big flat rock fell on the mouse, instantly killing it. After that, everyone in our training sessions wanted to learn to make Benjo's rat trap. Indeed, to rid homes and food storage areas of rats is a big need around the world.



Benjo helped to properly identify and explain the use of gifts from people in Quesimpuco, such as this rustic wooden drill.

While Benjo was here, he told us that aloe vera was a good natural root stimulator. Instead of buying a chemical to put on cuttings to help them root, he suggested aloe vera, the plant we keep indoors to use if we get a burn. He took cuttings from a basil plant we had growing inside, dipped them in aloe vera gel and potted them up. Sure enough, in just a few days, the little cuttings were growing. However, basil is easy to root. So, he tried the aloe vera on a blueberry limb and a peach limb. He scrapped the peeling off an inch or two, rubbed the gel of aloe vera on it, put soil around it and enclosed it in a plastic pot with the branch still attached to the original tree. We hope to have a new blueberry bush and peach seedling come spring.

We enjoy these visits with Benjo and are thrilled to see how he is still interested in appropriate technology.

Working Together in a Pandemic

Sarah Corson
SIFAT Co-founder

More than two years have passed since COVID-19 turned our daily lives and our work into a different world. Each day that passes makes us more thankful for the network of SIFAT graduates. For more than 40 years, we have been training community leaders in integrated development—spiritually and physically. One of our basic principles is help people to help themselves. Often, handouts take away people's dignity and make them feel like beggars. Now that COVID-19 keeps us from traveling to countries where many of our projects are, we are more thankful than ever that we taught the principle of self-help. Graduates have returned home to teach their neighbors all that they learned. They have already been developing their own communities. So, it was easy for them to work together to help their neighbors during this pandemic. COVID-19 also produced another pandemic—a pandemic of hunger throughout the world. Food security is a great need everywhere. Our graduates are prepared and have stepped up to direct projects in their home areas. By helping our graduates get seed money, SIFAT has empowered them to direct their own development.

Samuel graduated from SIFAT in 2009. He returned to his home in Haiti and began to teach his needy community the things he learned. Today, he is the director of a nonprofit called AKA, which focuses on training in agriculture and spiritual development. Their goal is to bring about a sustainable change to overcome some of the problems the communities are facing. They work with widows and abandoned women with children. The agricultural classes teach them new techniques to make terraces to prevent erosion in the mountainous soils. Producing their natural fertilizer with compost helps them to bring degraded soils back into production. They also learn how to operate a plant nursery to start their own plants from seed. Included in their agricultural project is an orchard to grow citrus fruit.

Samuel started out with 50 women who did not have enough income to buy school supplies for their children to attend school or even to provide their children enough food. Today, their lives have totally changed physically because they learned to grow crops with a surplus to sell. Their children

are now in school and well-fed. The women have changed spiritually, too, and are living out the values Jesus taught. They now have a spirit of love and compassion to help each other, and they share their products with those in need. The women work together in a cooperative, and they take 10 percent out of the proceeds of their products to help others and to make the cooperative self-sustaining for the benefit of all. The community appreciates the SIFAT graduates, because they teach development for body, mind and soul. Their community has become a more peaceful, happy place! Samuel leads AKA to teach them irrigation to save their crops, sanitation to save their health and loving Christ and their neighbors to save their souls.



When the latest earthquake hit Haiti, it damaged Samuel's house, so that his family could not live in it. They slept out in the yard on the ground for some time until they could repair the damage. But none of them complained. They were just praising God that they were all alive. Samuel's positive attitude and his leadership skills have changed not only the community where they did this pilot project, but also nearby communities, where he has started additional projects. Samuel continues to mentor his first projects that are still on-going, too. We look forward to

receiving Samuel's frequent inspiring letters with pictures of his work. SIFAT supporters have given seed money to help each project get started through our approved international graduates' projects, and our staff have given him spiritual encouragement and technical advice. E-mail allows us to go into places where we can no longer travel and mentor communities through our graduates, such as Samuel.

Thank you for donating to SIFAT! Your gifts allow us to continue Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways. Please remember to pray for our graduates like Samuel in communities throughout the world who are facing the effects of the pandemic, as well as difficult economies, natural disasters and other obstacles.

To learn more about our graduates' projects needing funding or to find previous projects completed because of SIFAT donors, please visit

[www.sifat.org/international-missions/
international-projects.](http://www.sifat.org/international-missions/international-projects)

February 2022



Work continues to finish the building in Aida Leon. Exterior windows and doors have been installed recently.

Progress in Aida Leon

Your support allowed us to finish the project in Aida Leon. Look at our Facebook album of pictures to see the progress. Soon, children will fill these rooms!

Join a SIFAT Mission Team!

This year, you are needed more than ever! There is a place for you to serve, no matter your skills!

www.sifat.org/international-missions/ecuador



With support from our SIFAT family, local workers are completing the construction work. Above, Miguel shows the tile floors.

An Opportunity for a Blessing

Linda Hodges
Chapelwood UMC, Athens, Ga.
Mission Team Member

We were a motley crew: a combined team of 15 people from Athens, Ga., a nurse from the state of Washington and an extra friend from Alabama via Spain with an age range from 15 to mid-70s. But, one thing united us – our will and determination to do the Lord's work.

That goal began on Monday morning as soon as we got to the church in Aida Leon, our project site for the week. Several team members immediately departed for a home visitation, where they would have the opportunity to meet a family connected to the church through its project or membership, hear their story and pray with them. This was an irreplaceable experience. Most of us have never been to see real poverty. That is what this is. Poverty in the USA has no resemblance to what we saw.

None of us really knew what to expect that week. We on the medical team had absolutely no idea if we would have the supplies, medications and equipment we needed. As nurses, we managed to get the triage procedures done, along with assisting the pharmacy (also short-handed) with "pill

counting." But the main thing was the establishment of love and trust that was developed between our team and the community we were serving. Our Ecuadorian counterparts worked so hard to feed us well and make our mission a huge success. They made it their job to ensure we were as comfortable as we could be.



Those of us who came into personal contact with the families were especially blessed. I have never seen such well-behaved children and such loving fathers and mothers. We would certainly learn a lot from them. Their faith is steadfast. God is first, and family is second. We are all so proud of the work we have done in Ecuador, but mostly, we were blessed by the people. Thank you to SIFAT for this opportunity.

A note from Peggy Walker, international team coordinator: Just as Linda shares, going on a mission trip is more than simply seeing a patient or laying a block. It is a life-changing experience for both those we serve and ourselves. Please pray about joining or leading a 2022 team. We have openings, whatever your skills may be. Learn more about the available dates, our new project in Machachi and pricing at www.sifat.org/international-missions/ecuador. Interested or have questions? E-mail internationalteams@sifat.org.

Thanks for Taking Care of Me

Mónica and Roberto Contreras
SIFAT Ecuador Directors

Mathias is nine years old and attends the Aida Leon after-school program. Mathias wrote a letter for you. He wants to give you many thanks for your donations that make it possible for him to be fed twice a week. Having these lunches allows Mathias to fight against his malnutrition.

Ecuadorian families in extreme poverty face very strong challenges on a daily basis to feed themselves. Many days, children, young people, mothers and fathers do not have bread to eat. According to recent statistics, 1 in 3 people in extreme poverty are suffering progressively of malnutrition in Ecuador. Because of the effects of the pandemic, poverty has reached the same levels as it was in 2010: 32.2 percent of Ecuadorians live in extreme poverty.

If, before the pandemic the incomes were scarce in households of extreme poverty, now they are even less. This leads to malnutrition, lack of access to face-to-face education (much less to virtual education), greater risk of being infected, a rise in domestic violence and drug addiction. These people have almost no hope of a resurgence.

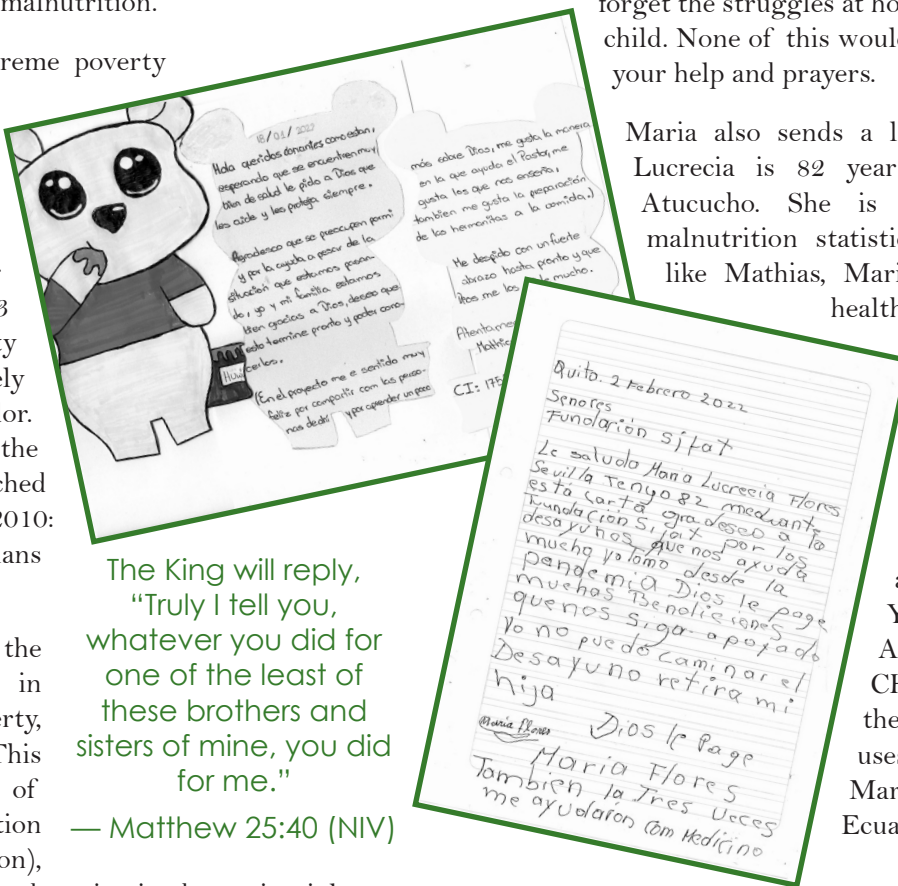
It is the social and economic effects of the pandemic that aggravated the conditions of poverty and extreme poverty

in Ecuador.

But Mathias has hope! Mathias eats twice a week thanks to your donations. Someone might think that two lunches are nothing, but they are actually a lot. Mathias is happy because during his lunchtime at the church, he learns the Word of God and also plays with the other children. He is able to forget the struggles at home and enjoy being a child. None of this would be possible without your help and prayers.

Maria also sends a letter to you. Maria Lucrecia is 82 years old and lives in Atucucho. She is also part of the malnutrition statistics in Ecuador. But, like Mathias, Maria is improving her health, since she can have breakfast every day, thanks to your donations.

As Maria says in her letter, "God will repay you." We also say THANK YOU BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST! You are the channel that God uses to reach Mathias, Mary and hundreds of Ecuadorians in need.



The King will reply,
"Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for
one of the least of
these brothers and
sisters of mine, you did
for me."

— Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Our friends in Ecuador still need help to overcome the effects of the pandemic. To continue SIFAT Doctor in your House and The Golden Bread, we need your support! Please designate your gift Ecuador Programs.

Shop for a Cause!

Whenever you shop online, you can support SIFAT!

Thousands of retailers donate a percentage of your purchases to SIFAT. Use Goodshop or iGive, search for your favorite store and follow the link to its website to shop with purpose. Coupons are linked to help you save.

www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/servants-in-faith-and-technology-sifat or www.igive.com/sifat

AmazonSmile donates .5% of each purchase to SIFAT.

www.smile.amazon.com/ch/63-0776048

Android and iPhone users can turn on AmazonSmile in the updated app's settings.

Thriving in Learning

Bryson Frost
Learn & Serve Intern

Since coming to live at SIFAT in February 2021, I have been a part of some amazing opportunities. Not only have I explored a new area and made some close friends, but I have also met so many amazing people who have come through campus and participated in the



Bryson Frost recently finished his campus programs internship with our campus programs and has joined our staff for the next few months to continue helping facilitate Learn & Serve Retreats. During his internship, Bryson studied different aspects of SIFAT while volunteering. Thank you for your help, Bryson!

programming here. I have also learned more deeply about the realities of the world and how we can help others through education.

With my previous experience as a Learn & Serve summer counselor in 2019, I went into this internship thinking that I was prepared for what I would be doing for the year of 2021. While I would say my experience definitely did prepare me for what I would be a part of, I was instantly surprised at how much more I still had to learn. Right off the bat, I found myself reading books and learning important information surrounding appropriate technology, conservation practices and several different countries — all within the first week or two.

I might have found this overwhelming under different circumstances; however, in the following months, I

found that I was able to thrive in my learning and explore the topics that I found interesting on a deep, in-depth level. Then, I was able to apply what I was learning in action. Between tasks such as caring for the garden, leading tours and teaching others and helping sort through and learn from the vast collection of SIFAT's knowledge, I felt like I was truly able to apply all that the internship was teaching me.

I believe that if you are someone who has a heart for service or for educating America's youth—or even for simply spending time in the great gift of nature—interning at SIFAT would be a perfect opportunity for beginning your life going out into the world. If you are willing to be challenged and are willing to learn, then the skills you will learn and the memories you will take with you will be extremely helpful once you move into the world beyond.

Help SIFAT Find L&S Interns for Summer and Fall!

SIFAT needs college-aged interns to help lead our campus programs. Our internships incorporate our areas of expertise: Community Development Training, International Missions and Learn & Serve. Interns live on our 176-acre campus, learning and participating in all that goes on here and experiencing training in global hunger, contaminated water and more. Internships are available for three-month or nine-month terms.

Contact learnandserve@sifat.org for more information or an application.

IRA Contributions

If you are required to take a disbursement from your IRA, you can donate a percentage or all of it directly to SIFAT. By donating to a nonprofit without receiving the disbursement, you do not pay taxes on the disbursement.

Matching Funds

Does your employer match your donation to SIFAT? Many companies do, and some even match donations of retirees or spouses of employees.

Questions or Need Help?

Contact Diana, accounting@sifat.org, if documentation is needed for your company's matching funds or if you have questions about getting your IRA donation sent directly to SIFAT.



Garden Manager Needed!

Since losing our gardener John Carr last year, we have not found someone to fill his position. Although we can never replace John, it is time to find the person to continue his work on our campus. We need someone that can not only take care of our gardens, greenhouse and landscaping, but can also implement appropriate technologies for agriculture and lead training sessions. The garden manager must have an eye for detail and an attitude of servant leadership. This person will work with our program director and kitchen manager with our farm-to-table inters and will coordinate landscaping and grounds maintenance.

Do you want to apply for this position or have someone to recommend? Contact Tom at corsont@sifat.org for more information and a full job description.

The Teachers Became the Students

Caroline Corson
Campus Administrative Assistant

It has only been five years since I learned about SIFAT and its unique mission. My husband, Josiah, and I are very passionate about SIFAT's mission to "share God's love through service, education and personal involvement with a needy world." When I found out there were other organizations doing similar things, I knew I had to go see what they were doing. This led to us visiting HEART (Hunger Education and Resource Training) in Lake Wales, Fla., in December. After seeing their model, we wanted to participate in their three-week training program, so that we could learn more about community development, agriculture and small animal husbandry.

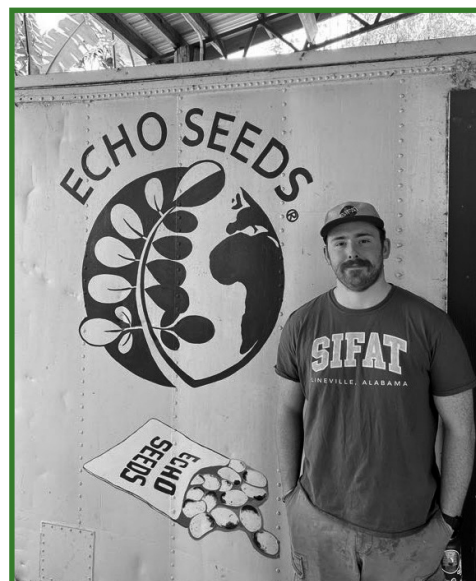
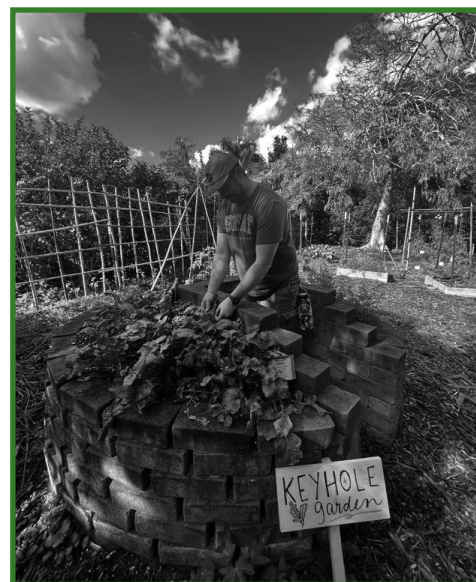
While at HEART this January, our class was divided into three chore groups. You were assigned to the animals, the garden or the kitchen and would switch tasks each week. This model was fun, and I feel like it gives you a good amount of time to learn the tasks at hand. Josiah and I both feel that we would like to be more involved with the garden and animals in the future at SIFAT. While at HEART, we also visited with our friends at ECHO and took a tour of their facilities. This was

our first time at ECHO, even though we were familiar with the organization because of our coworkers and from Martin Price, founder of ECHO and trainer in our May Field Studies.

Going through HEART's program and seeing ECHO's facilities gave us the opportunity to sit back and learn more about what we can be doing in God's kingdom through service, education and personal involvement. Being a student for a few weeks instead of the facilitator, like we are while leading Learn & Serve programming at SIFAT, was an experience that we did not realize we needed. It is helping us grow in knowledge and passion toward the calling God has for us at SIFAT. We were very lucky to be able to experience this, and it is something that we will be taking with us for the rest of our lives!

Top right: During their three weeks in Florida, Caroline and Josiah were immersed in community development, agriculture and small animal husbandry training. Working together in the gardens reminded them of how they met as Farm to Table interns at SIFAT!

Right: As part of their training at HEART, Josiah and Caroline got to visit ECHO, which has been a partner in many SIFAT trainings through the years. Being at both HEART and ECHO inspired Josiah and Caroline with ideas to implement on our SIFAT campus.





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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

It is as if the whole world is still struggling to make it through this seemingly never-ending pandemic. But nothing surprises God, and I believe that He is using this time to help us reset our priorities.

Much can happen in two years. Interacting with teams, people, churches and universities with whom we engage is different. Doing business has changed, not just for us, but for the world. We need to evaluate "How We Do SIFAT Business" — our departments, job responsibilities and how we interact with the public. The results affect the quality of life of many people and whether some people live or die. We need to celebrate that SIFAT is doing well! Thank you for being flexible and for being part of this growth in SIFAT's ministry.

Our current world requires a new paradigm in our outlook. We are calling it Reset 2022. Change is not always comfortable, but God has blessed SIFAT, getting us ready to undertake the mission He has called SIFAT to do for Him. For many who are in desperate circumstances, SIFAT is viewed as their lifeline sent from God.

Although some of our methods must change to meet today's needs, our goals and our values remain

constant. They are the GATES of SIFAT. Join me in focusing on the values on which SIFAT is built. They do not change, even as some of our methods must. They are:

G: Following God—the God who made and loves people of all cultures.

A: Aggressive Love—Loving our neighbor as ourselves. James 2:8

T: Technology for basic human needs and for the needs of the planet.

E: Recognizing when enough is enough, so that we do not overconsume and leave the needs of the environment and the needs of "the least of these" unfulfilled. As Gandhi said, "Live simply, so that others may simply live."

S: Servanthood—We are servants following in the steps of Jesus. Our motto also starts with an S: Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways.

We celebrate the many positive things that have happened, even during this pandemic, and the strategic position God has put SIFAT in today. We have a chance to reshape our methods of working to lead more to the Abundant Life that Jesus came to bring us! **Reset 2022!**