

## SIFAT Graduates Overcome Obstacles

Sarah Corson  
SIFAT Co-founder

In Nigeria, our SIFAT graduates Pastor Blossom and Aina are building a fence around their mission school, an action required by the government for all schools because of the terrorists who are kidnapping schoolchildren. Through our approved graduates' projects program, SIFAT sent a grant to help with the fence to enable this Christian school to continue operating. But an anti-Christian group did not want a Christian school in their village. They invented a false story that the land the fence was on was not the school's property. They sued Pastor Blossom, which stopped the fence building for several weeks until the court ruled it was a falsehood. The attackers got what they wanted—construction was delayed and materials ruined. Without extra funds, Pastor Blossom and Aina could not continue



*Pastor Blossom and Aina are SIFAT graduates in Nigeria who have overcome obstacles in their graduate projects.*

We believe in self-sufficiency, in working and making a living by doing so. But, there are so many different problems our graduates face before they can succeed. We are constantly amazed that these graduates, who have many obstacles to overcome, have so much determination and perseverance. They often say, "With man it is not possible, but with God all things are possible!" Though it may take longer than originally planned, still it happens! Our graduates keep trying, and with God's help, they overcome!

Pastor Blossom wrote us:

*By stopping our project, our materials, especially the cement, were caking, prices were going up and we were worried sick. The water supply from the Water Project had also been disrupted because the pipes were broken by the children of these same men. Our worries were multiplied as we watched helplessly innocent people suffer because of lack of water and lack of schooling for their children until we could make the school safe for them to come.*

*The repairs now depended on the continuation of the fence. For three months, these people kept us from working on the fence with their false accusations. Meanwhile, my birthday was approaching. The day before my birthday, the legal authority brought the conflict to a close by ruling that the accusations were false. I woke up on my birthday feeling very, very happy because we were free to continue our work. God had answered our prayers. To be able to start our project up again was the greatest birthday gift!*

Unfair legal opposition to Christian work is just one of the many obstacles SIFAT graduates over the world have to face.

In Pakistan, our graduate has narrowly escaped death on a number of occasions when anti-Christian terrorists have attacked him or his children to try to stop their work. Once, he was purposely run over by a motorcycle while walking on the sidewalk. Another time, his son was beaten in the face and was being kidnapped when police suddenly appeared and rescued him.

In some countries, lack of efficient infrastructure slows projects. Pastor Anice serves in an isolated rural village in Haiti. His people were hungry, drinking polluted water and

*(continued on page 2)*

## Overcoming Obstacles

(Continued from Page 1)

sick—consequences of an earthquake. SIFAT sent him funds for a relief project during this emergency. He happily traveled eight hours on a bus over rutted, muddy roads to get to his bank to receive it. But the bank said he did not have the right papers to receive the money transferred to his bank account. “Tell this SIFAT to write us a letter declaring it is for you,” they told him, even though we had followed the correct protocol for wiring international money. So he traveled eight hours back to his village to tell the hungry people that they would have to wait for another letter to get food.

We sent the letter, and Pastor Anice traveled back with it. The bank accepted it, but told him to return in eight days after they processed the funds. It was another long trip home empty handed to face everyone. After he bought yet another bus ticket, the bank told him they had decided he might not be the person his identification cards said he was, and our letter might be invalid. The bank returned the money to SIFAT, after taking out \$85 for their services. Finally, Pastor Anice received the money. Pastor Anice persevered. He had to wait more than two months after the funds initially arrived in his account, watching children in his village grow listless and weak from lack of nutrition. His hands were tied because of a lack of operating efficiency.

Other graduates have different obstacles. In Bolivia and in Nigeria, two chicken projects are languishing because of extreme inflation. Chicken feed prices have gone up significantly, so they barely broke even after tending the chickens for weeks. When our graduates sold their chickens, they barely paid for the feed, making their labor in vain. Our Bolivian graduates began to look for ways to overcome the problem. They decided to buy the components of the balanced ration and borrow funds to buy a machine to grind and mix their own feed. If they did that labor themselves, the cost of feed would be cheaper. They stopped production of more chickens while they investigate the grinding machine to buy. Will it lower the price enough to make the project successful?

Our Nigerian graduates had no way to obtain a loan, so they



*Pastor Blossom and Aina previously led a community project to provide safe drinking water for their community.*

were forced to plead for donations to cover the food for their pullets, which are on the verge of laying eggs. They could sell the eggs and put the profits back into the feed. But, they would lose their investment if they quit feeding the chickens! SIFAT sent them money to help feed the chickens for another month. In late April, we received an e-mail bursting with joy! “Our chickens laid the first egg today,” they wrote us. “Please thank all the SIFAT supporters who help you to help us! Now we will have eggs to sell and can buy our feed ourselves.” A big thank you from us at SIFAT who regularly hear these stories from our graduates around the world. Many children will have an egg to add protein to their starchy diet because of those who supported this self-help project.

When I read our graduates’ e-mails, I sometimes feel paralyzed and am tempted to give up. But those with whom we work are strong, and their faith is mature. If there is just a glimmer of hope, they will hang on to it. Our graduates are dedicated to God and to helping people in need. Their patience amazes me. We have much to learn from them. We could not continue without prayers and support from our SIFAT family. Thank you for bringing hope for our graduates and for graciously giving to our ministry!

## Support SIFAT While You Shop Online!

Thousands of retailers donate percentages of purchases to charity. Use Goodshop or iGive, search your favorite store and follow the provided website link to shop for SIFAT. Coupons are linked to help you save.

[www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/servants-in-faith-and-technology-sifat](http://www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/servants-in-faith-and-technology-sifat) or [www.igive.com/sifat](http://www.igive.com/sifat)

AmazonSmile donates .5% of each purchase to SIFAT.

[www.smile.amazon.com/ch/63-0776048](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/63-0776048)

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



# Spring Training for Garifuna Leaders

Kathy Bryson  
International Training Director

SIFAT hosted a special training session April 25-30 in community development with an emphasis on agro-ecology for the president and three leaders of the National University of Honduras, Technologic Institute in Tela (UNA ITS-Tela), where they have started a new major in community development. One of our SIFAT graduates had worked with them and recommended that they incorporate SIFAT training approaches when they work with local marginalized communities. We were happy to partner with this branch of the university in development and can enhance our community outreach mutually.

The university provided transportation to bring Garifuna community leaders through Honduras and Nicaragua to the SIFAT training in Costa Rica. The Garifunas are descendants of the slave trade who ended up escaping St. Vincent Island in the Caribbean and settling on the coastal areas of Central America. They have maintained their independent communities and traditions of living from fishing and light agriculture. Environmental pressures on natural resources, as well as unscrupulous tourist resort developers, have impacted their options for food security. Many males immigrate to big cities or the United States, seeking work to support home for their poverty-stricken families.

Previously, SIFAT has worked in Garifuna communities on the northern coast of Honduras in a community health promoter training program. We were delighted to expand into adjacent areas and have the support of this major Honduran university to facilitate bringing new community leaders to SIFAT in Costa Rica for training. Through a partnership in training, we can stretch limited resources to have a greater impact on working with communities to promote food security and options to develop microenterprises. Learning sustainable agriculture with homemade organic fertilizers and growing techniques offers options. When families have local ways to maintain themselves, it is a powerful motivation to keep their families together.

It was a privilege to receive these Garifuna community leaders; to learn about their culture, current struggles and realities; and to work together with the UNA ITS-Tela's new program to promote healthy sustainable communities. Having a space for the traditionally disenfranchised to be heard, and their opinions and ideas taken into consideration by leaders in their country, was a very powerful thing.



*Garifuna community leaders came with UNA ITS-Tela for a one-week intensive training in community development.*

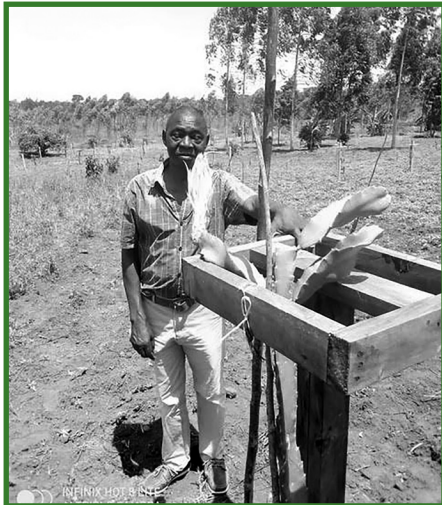
*Bottom left: Participants learn how to make compost, enriched by beneficial mountain microbes from decomposing leaves.*



The university's president mentioned how much he learned personally from the Garifuna leaders in their unusually long three-day bus trip here and in their time together in participatory training. Besides their SIFAT training, we also had the chance to facilitate this encounter, an exchange that seldom happens automatically. I have hope for future collaborations that can have an ongoing impact in these critical forgotten areas of Honduras.

Topics in this training included organic agricultural techniques, protecting community water sources, child malnutrition, community health, restoring nature and considering family eco-tourism. We took several field trips to small family farms, where flora and fauna has been restored. These farms now invite tourists to their homes for a cultural immersion experience in nature. It was wonderful for the Hondurans to see the context of Costa Rica small eco-tourism that is sustaining many families near us. It gave them ideas to implement at home, especially creation care—investing in environmental education as an investment in family economics and survival.

## Trellises Support Dragon Fruit



*To learn more about SIFAT Graduates' Projects and see those needing support, visit [www.sifat.org/international-missions/international-projects](http://www.sifat.org/international-missions/international-projects)*

SIFAT graduate Michael from Uganda has been partnering with SIFAT for many years through our Graduates' Projects. Prior to the pandemic, he reached people for Christ in one of the poorest people groups in his country. They lived by rustling cattle from farmers, but when they became Christians, they stopped stealing others' cows, thus having no way to make a living. SIFAT helped Michael to carry out fish and garden projects, which now provides protein and food for these families.

During COVID, Ugandans were under a strict lockdown, which produced widespread hunger. Michael sent us pictures of his neighbors in trees picking leaves—the only thing they had left to eat. Again, SIFAT partnered with him to provide seed money to plant corn and crops to help them.

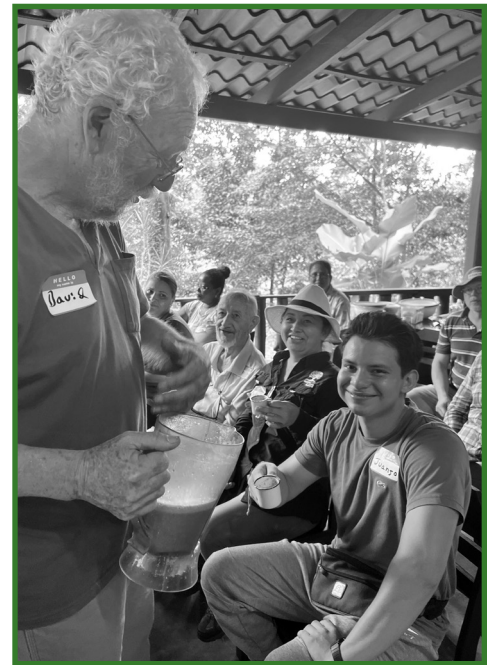
Michael helped his church plant an orchard of dragon fruit, a very nutritious tropical fruit. SIFAT supported them with a grant to provide strong trellises for the vining fruit. Recently, we received this message from Michael:

*Thank you for supporting us to buy and put up the trellises. Yesterday, rain came with a strong storm and put our bananas on the ground. Most people's crops were destroyed, and some houses broken. Praise God because of SIFAT's support, NO dragon fruit was affected because they are held firm on the trellis. Thank you again for your timely support. God bless you indeed.*

## Promoting Leaf for Life in Costa Rica



*Dave and Therese Kennedy of Leaf for Life led workshops at our Central American Training Center this spring. Leaf for Life, a longtime partner with SIFAT, teaches how to process nutrient rich leaf powder to fortify local foods, such as tortillas and tamales. This is a sustainable way to combat micronutrient deficiencies, which affect 1 in 3 children. Learn more at [www.leafforallife.org](http://www.leafforallife.org)*



*Community members sample smoothies fortified with leaf powder to combat malnutrition.*



# Bubbles and Beans

Kathy Bryson  
International Training Director

We have started the community children's enrichment program! Our rural community here in Costa Rica is small and tranquil, but with many kids full of energy. These children usually play together literally in the middle of the dirt road. Now, they have a green space in which to play at our Central American Training Center.

One day, the kids were hot and cranky. Then, we brought out the bubbles, and they were transformed—laughing, running, tumbling and enjoying life. What made me the happiest was to see these precious children have a space where they could be safe and enjoy childhood, if only for a little while. They really need that big hug and a place to feel special, where we know them by name, care about each one of them and tell them how precious they are to God.

Three of the kids came early yesterday to find me—ages 4, 8 and 9. They looked at me with big, troubled eyes that

reached my soul. They asked shyly if we had any rice and beans that their Mom could borrow because they were hungry, and she did not have anything to cook for them. Two of them were obviously underweight; I had been worried about them for awhile. I asked them to take me to their mom.

She was very overwhelmed trying to take care of seven children. They are relatively new in our community. The dad had gone to tourist areas to find work two months ago. Although he was supposed to send money to them, he instead sent word that he had no luck finding work. There would be no rice, beans, eggs, laundry soap or pencils for school. This young mother, who is about 30 years old, seemed quite depressed. She had dropped out of primary school, because she started having children after leaving a bad home situation. Now, she was making an effort to try to improve her family's condition by going to night school to get her 6th grade diploma, a requirement for most jobs. "It makes me sad not to be able to help my kids with their schoolwork. I decided to go back to school to learn more to help them. Also, maybe then I could get work."

To go to school, she had to take a bus and be away from her children from 5 to 9 p.m. She left her 16-year-old son in charge of the younger kids, which is against the law here. Someone saw the kids alone, and a government agent came and told her that she could lose her kids if she left again. She was devastated, as she had studied hard and was about to take her final exams.

I tried to encourage her and said we could go together to see if they would allow her to make up the exams during the day when most of the kids were in school. What was needed was hope—and solutions!



I shared the rice and beans we had left from our recent training session for this family's immediate need of food. We looked at small spaces around her small house to see where she could start a family garden with nutrient rich vegetables. She had grown up in the city and had never gardened. We will soon have a kitchen garden workshop that she can attend to learn simple ways to provide food for her family, as well as take home seeds and small plants to grow. The kids are excited about learning to plant, too.

Meanwhile, as I watched those three children playing with the other neighborhood kids, running, laughing and blowing bubbles during the children's program, I was filled with a sense of gratitude that SIFAT can be a presence here, providing playtime and a space for them to not only blow bubbles, but to dream and have a better future where they do not have to worry about not having enough rice and beans.

Poverty is tough, especially on children. They deserve food and a space to play, grow and be. We are working step by step to facilitate conditions where each person can reach his or her God-given potential. It takes time, but is so very worth it! Your support of SIFAT's Central American Training Center makes it possible. Thank you!



*Budding young scientists learn how their river gets contaminated from SIFAT global trainer Omar Romagnoli of Argentina.*

# My Community

Pastor Anice  
SIFAT Graduate in Haiti

*Note from Sarah Corson, SIFAT co-founder:*

*SIFAT graduate Anice is pastor of the Evangelical Church of Haiti with 360 members in Acul du Nord. SIFAT and Pastor Anice are working together in this extremely hard time in Haiti to show God's love in practical ways to suffering people. He has now received a grant through our Graduates' Projects, which is enabling him to train more people in the teachings of Christ, gardening techniques and health issues. Working through our graduate network, SIFAT has been able to continue reaching the poor of the world with the integrated Gospel during COVID.*

Isolated on top of a mountain, our community lacks many basic services, such as a road, hospital or even a market. In 2012, I learned from SIFAT the practical way to share the Gospel through love. Kathy, SIFAT's training director, taught me to be the voice of the voiceless. Through our microfinance development programs, which began in 2015, I was able to show love to our community, paying no difference to sex, religion or color to those we helped. But the impact of the political and social situation prevented us from

being satisfied with the results, despite changes in the lives of many of our students. Our resources are too limited to help many of the families in our community who are hungry.

Usually women, even among Christians, have to leave their families to look for food in the city on Monday and come back on Saturday. They have to leave husbands and children from two years old and up. Sometimes, these women return with no food and find their girls pregnant. The training we offer is not sufficient to change the situation because of the hunger. Parents are



concerned about three things for their children: food, education and health.

In our area, microenterprise is the activity to encourage. There are 150 children from 3 to 5 years old, 160 from 6 to 15 and 90 youth from 16 to 25. We are praying to be able to offer more training in growing our own food and in microenterprise, both of which I learned at SIFAT and have been teaching when we had resources for workshops. Many more are asking for training, so that they can develop activities that permit them to take care of their families' food and education fees. They want to work; they just need the training to develop the needed skills. Usually, our families who can provide for their children are motivated to give offerings and tithes to support other needy people who have not had the opportunity for training.

The situation we are facing gives us no time to react. There is urgency. We want development, which takes time. We are focusing on trying to get relief food for the hungry, but we want to give a workshop to teach 100 more families how to rebuild our eroded mountainside and grow their own food. We are thankful for SIFAT's partnership with us to bring food for the body and the soul to the needy in our community.

## Learn More About SIFAT Graduates' Projects

New graduates' projects needing funding will soon be approved and added to our website. You can also review previous projects that have been completed because of the support of SIFAT donors.

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

For more information about becoming a project champion to raise funds for one of our graduates' projects, contact GPC chairman Art Stephenson, [stephensona@sifat.org](mailto:stephensona@sifat.org).



## 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](http://www.sifat.org/donate) or contact Marie Lanier, [lanierm@sifat.org](mailto: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, [corsonnt@sifat.org](mailto:corsonnt@sifat.org), for more information.

## Buy a Commemorative Brick

If you have friends or family that you want to honor in a special way, buy a brick in their honor or memory! Order online at [www.bricksrus.com/order/sifat](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/sifat).

## Volunteer Spotlight



Ed Sloman and Christina Huffman are local volunteers who have stepped in this spring to help at SIFAT! They have planted peppers in our garden, and Christina has helped with several of our Learn & Serve retreats. Thank you for being part of our SIFAT family!

## Staff Enrichment

Marie Lanier Narváez  
Promotions and Marketing Coordinator



*Our staff and summer interns with Rev. Carey Akin (second from left)*

We introduced our Reset 2022 initiative in our last Journal, and we are continuing to reset with staff meetings with Rev. Carey Akin of Global Servant Leaders. Carey's quarterly sessions are helping our staff explore how to be better servants to one another and those with whom we work around the world, while also making sure we are taking care of ourselves and our spiritual lives, too! Carey is a friend of SIFAT, having led mission teams to Quesimpuco, Bolivia.

## What is an In-Kind Gift?

Marie Lanier Narváez  
Promotions and Marketing Coordinator

Did you know SIFAT accepts in-kind (non-cash) donations? Supporters have given us vehicles, an RV, new computers and, most recently, a much-needed sod installation! In-kind donations are generally tax deductible, as long as you receive a written acknowledgement from SIFAT to substantiate your gift. Consult your financial adviser to find out how in-kind donations can benefit you or your business.

For a list of needed items or to schedule a time to bring an in-kind donation, contact [info@sifat.org](mailto:info@sifat.org). At this time, we cannot accept clothing donations.



*An in-kind donation provided sod to be laid on our campus at the Welcome Center and Village Store.*

## Stay Connected with SIFAT

Visit our blog ([sifat.org/blog](http://sifat.org/blog)) and find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/sifatbook](https://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](http://www.sifat.org).

**Are you moving?** E-mail your new mailing address, phone number or e-mail address to [info@sifat.org](mailto:info@sifat.org).

**Would your church like copies of *The SIFAT Journal*?** To have additional copies sent to your church or for SIFAT brochures, e-mail Marie at [lanierm@sifat.org](mailto:lanierm@sifat.org).

## More Than a Hammer

Marie Lanier Narváez  
Promotions and Marketing  
Coordinator

During the last week of April and first week of May, two work teams came to SIFAT to help our campus staff with projects around campus. Centerpointe Church from Palm Bay, Fla., and Clear Lake UMC from Clear Lake, Texas, both take international mission teams to Ecuador and bring work teams to our SIFAT campus. We always enjoy getting to know the members of our partner churches to build relationships and get to share different parts of SIFAT with the team members as we work alongside one another.

Both teams worked hard and accomplished projects that would have taken our small staff weeks to finish. We appreciate you making long drives to come to Alabama and give back to SIFAT. Here are just a few of the things that these men and women helped us

finish: repaired the pergola and worked inside the Welcome Center; pressure washed campus buildings; Village Store organization, inventory, merchandizing and pricing; sewed throw pillows for the Village Store porch; completed the railings on the wheelchair ramp at the Village Store; reroofed the Strawbale House; rescreened an outdoor breakout pavilion; finished flooring in the Wells House; fixed the deck and plumbing projects at the High Rise; and painted the white fencing at our campus entrance.

Your service is an encouragement to our staff. We hope to see you next year!

### Bring a Work Team to SIFAT in Alabama!

Work teams are always needed on our campus. To learn more about potential work team projects or to schedule your group, contact Caroline Corson, [corsonc@sifat.org](mailto:corsonc@sifat.org).

## Angel Arrives in Alabama



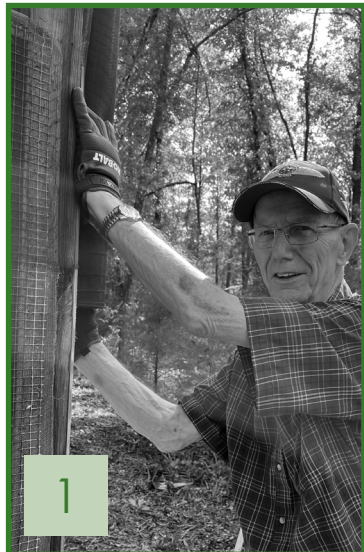
We are excited about the return of Angel Roman to our campus in Alabama. Many of our international teams will recognize Angel, who works with SIFAT in Bolivia and helps host teams while they are in Quesimpuco.

Angel, a SIFAT graduate, has taken his training back to several communities to implement greenhouse projects and even build furniture with tires. He is passionate about serving his people by teaching the next generation, and we know he will always help us when we ask him.

Our campus needs Angel! When Tom called to see if he could serve SIFAT in Alabama this summer, Angel was ready to renew his visa to come as soon as possible. He will be volunteering to help revive our gardens, since we have not found someone to fill our garden manager position. He will also be sharing with our Learn & Serve participants about his firsthand experiences as a graduate of SIFAT's training who is implementing appropriate technologies in his own community. Thank you, Angel, for living up to your name!



# Work Teams Bless Our Campus



1



2

*Pictures 1-4*

*Our work teams spent lots of time on ladders as they repaired the Welcome Center arbor and rescreened a breakout session pavilion. They also finished the railing on the wheelchair ramp at the Village Store.*



3



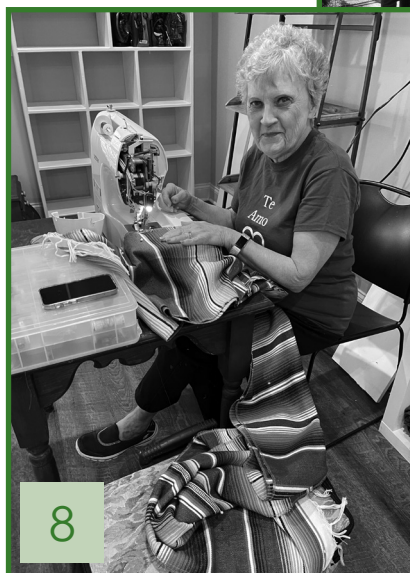
4

*Picture 8*

*The women of Clear Lake worked tirelessly to price and prepare merchandise, as well as make pillows for our porch.*



5



8



9

*Picture 9*

*SIFAT board of directors' member Art Stephenson (left) leads the annual Clear Lake UMC team.*



6

**Thank you  
Centerpointe Church  
and Clear Lake UMC  
for your hard work and  
commitment to SIFAT!**



7

*Picture 5-7*

*While at SIFAT, our teams took time for tours and to learn about SIFAT's ministry, including the appropriate technologies we teach.*

*Clear Lake enjoyed nightly devotions, including one in Sarah's Garden. They also held a memorial service for their beloved team member Lynn Riffle.*



## 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](mailto: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.

## Learn & Serve Summer Staff in Training



Our summer staff arrived the last week of May, ready to lead our Learn & Serve programming this summer. During their training at SIFAT, they are learning more about SIFAT and our ministry, as well as the curriculum for *Thy Kingdom Come!* After two summers without any guests on campus, our staff is enjoying hearing their excitement and extra noise around our office as they come and go.

*Back row (l to r): Johnny Kupersmith, Morgan Phillips, Learn & Serve program director Josiah Corson Front row (l to r): Jacob Francis, Tori Dahlgren, Anna Grace Philpot, Sarah Crawford*

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Matthew 28:17-20

## Join or Lead an Ecuador Mission Team

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

Visit our website to download a brochure for our 2022 Ecuador mission teams to Machachi (near Quito):  
[www.sifat.org/international-missions/ecuador](http://www.sifat.org/international-missions/ecuador)

For more information about joining an existing team or leading a team from your church or community, e-mail [internationalteams@sifat.org](mailto:internationalteams@sifat.org).



# Summer at SIFAT

Caroline Corson  
Campus Administrative Assistant

Every summer at SIFAT, we host a summer camp-like experience called Learn & Serve. The premise is for youth to have a different experience during their summer break that is fun, educational and an opportunity to look outside of themselves. Each year, we develop a theme to coincide with SIFAT's mission and the programming they do while here.

## Thy Kingdom Come

We all recognize this well-known part from the Lord's prayer. It means to be open and prepared for God's will in our lives and in the world around us. *Thy Kingdom Come* is our theme for Learn & Serve Summer 2022. We will look into what it means to live in God's Kingdom and why it is important to posture ourselves to His kingdom.

Our study will be broken into three main points. First, we look at the beginning of God's kingdom on earth in Genesis to see how we worked along with God in the garden, and the responsibility God gave us to steward the Earth.

Second, we explore the "upside down kingdom"—the idea that the kingdoms on Earth are different from what the heavenly Kingdom will look like. We explore ideas including "love thy enemy" and "the last shall be first, and the first shall be last". Third, we break down the Great Commission and why it is important to go out into the Earth and tell people about Jesus. SIFAT's motto is *sharing God's love in a practical ways*, and we talk about how to minister to people no matter your location or vocation.



## 2022 Summer Experience Dates

Week One: June 12 – 15

Week Two: June 19 – 22

Week Three: June 26 – 29

Week Four: July 10 – 13

We are excited to share this idea with junior high and high school students this summer. We hope that if this excites you, too, that you will join us for Learn & Serve—either this summer or for a retreat this fall! We feel like this year's theme goes well with where our heart is here at SIFAT, and we are excited to help create a Kingdom mindset in people of all ages!

If you are interested in participating in Learn & Serve, we have spots available this summer. Mention reading this article during the booking process for a special discount! Contact [learnandserve@sifat.org](mailto:learnandserve@sifat.org) for more information or call the SIFAT office.





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Tom Corson, Executive Director  
Marie Lanier Narváez, Editor

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

In early May, we had a work team at SIFAT from Texas. One of our visitors questioned the effectiveness of short-term missions versus just sending money. She felt that taking teams cost so much, while sending money is more cost effective.

Recently, we were talking with our graduates Anita and Pastor Rafael in Ecuador about the upcoming teams that will be serving with them to build an afterschool facility, allowing more than 100 children to come learn about Jesus and receive tutoring in their schoolwork. Pastor Rafael and Anita shared how impacted they were to understand the sacrifices some of the team members made to come help every year. They mentioned the fundraisers that were done to provide the needed resources and the prayers that were lifted up for their projects and people. They said it is not as easy as we thought everything was for you in the USA. You are just like us—working hard to make sure our ministry is successful, giving so much to come for only one week to serve in our ministry. Your being here means so much to us!

Yesterday, I picked up Angel Roman, one of our Bolivia graduates. He is 34 and serving with us in Alabama this summer. We were talking about his childhood and

how he had survived as an orphan thanks to SIFAT. One of the things that impacted him the most as a child was a team from Columbus, Ga. At 11 years old, he had been abandoned, felt unloved and was contemplating suicide. As is customary there, we had a welcome ceremony. He remembers being dirty with holes in his shirt, wearing his only shoes, flip flops that he found in the garbage that were pinned together with a plastic bag. He felt unworthy of attention. A team member went out of her way to hug Angel and used broken Spanish to tell him that she loved him—and God loved him! Angel ran behind the hog pen and cried, because no one had ever told him they loved him. At that moment, he felt God's presence and knew He was real. Today, Angel is one of our leaders in Bolivia, helping us make a difference for the Kingdom.

We see the impact short-term missions has in the lives of the people we are going to serve, but sometimes we do not see the difference it makes on our people serving. The common saying I always hear from team members is we have gone to serve, but we are the one receiving the blessings! As our teams begin to travel again this summer, our attention is on Jesus' marching orders in Matthew 28:18, *"Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations."*