

Waddy Stryker  
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Lilly Summary

This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to work at “Servants in Faith and Technology.” SIFAT provided many experiences that I will be able to look back on for years to come. SIFAT is a nonprofit international mission organization that brings community members from developing countries around the world and trains them in multiple types of appropriate technology. This appropriate technology includes fuel efficient stoves, water purification, brick making, and a nutrition program called “leaf for life.” This is in hope that these leaders will take what they learn and teach those back home in their own community what they have learned.

Each summer SIFAT also offers the “Learn and Serve” program. This is where I had most of my involvement. Learn and Serve is a week long experience that ran for 7 weeks. “It is designed to give North American students a holistic view of the world and many of the challenges that are faced.” (SIFAT) As one of the facilitators it was my Job to guide 7th-12th graders and their adult leaders through experiences that are based on the experiences that are described by the community leaders who participate in SIFAT’s practicums throughout the year. These experiences include life in their community, farming, checkpoints, and refugee camps. It is also the facilitators job to teach the students many of the same appropriate technology that is being taught around the world in order for them to use them in the experience and thus see just how important and how much this technology makes a difference. Lastly, it is the facilitators job to lead small group discussions about each segment of the experience, the feeling they experienced, how does what we feel in the experience relate to people around the world, and what can we do about it. Then we can explore and understand how God is calling us to share his love in practical ways. Sarah Corson, one of SIFAT’s cofounder stated “When we walk in their shoes and feel what they feel, the reasons for poverty become much clearer.” (SIFAT)