



# Reaching children around the world by training teachers

**Fifty5five, Inc.**

**Winter 2020**

## TRAVELER'S CORNER

### FROM PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

**Theresa C** ~ I love to walk our team through their low and high points of the day and at the end of the trip, I like to have everyone sum it up, but this time I requested they do it by training site.

We began our training with the Agape International Missions (AIM) group, which brought in teachers from a church, a school, an emergency childcare program, and from Bloom, another organization that shares their same mission. It always warms my heart when I see the body of Christ come together without denominations or organizations getting in the way. Each training group shined – the church teachers put on the most amazing skit; the group from Bloom was super participatory; the young male teachers-in-training made me laugh and were great sports when we made the quiz questions super difficult, and the school teachers honed in with intense note taking.

A highlight shared by others were the house moms who stole our hearts. They were in the training as well and alternated shifts so that all could take part in the training. As moms, we tend to not see our value. These moms have a high calling! They are like foster parents in America, but on a deeper level and they care for many children at a time. They are laying the foundation and our hope is that they heard how valued and they are see the importance of the job they are doing. We got to walk through the center and see them in action; Jeri and I both walked out in tears.

**Becky Jo** ~ Every time we start a new teacher training, my stomach starts flipping and swaying. Some people call it nerves; I call it too much caffeine! Haha! What was God going to do this time?

My favorite memory for this trip was the first time I saw the class filled with people ready with notebooks and pens in hand! And then we had them stand up and sing “Jump, jump, jump into the light, light, light” and “My God is Big!” I loved their smiles and their voices and their laughter. It was pure joy!

It's so much fun to sing praises to God with our big huge family of God! Even if someone is singing off key! I brought a joyful noise to the Lord in Cambodia!



**Don G** ~ With me, it's the relationships we developed one-on-one and in groups. We started out the training with a very stoic group, but it didn't take long before the smiles and laughter began! As the days progressed, I loved the look in everyone's eyes as friendships were built across cultural boundaries that no longer existed.

Theresa and Becky Jo had been to Phnom Penh before and encountered several past trainees. Their reunions were a joy to witness; it was obvious the training had a lasting impact.

For me, it was after the training was over that I realized just how meaningful the relationships had become. On the way back to our hotel one night we stopped at Bloom's bakery and as we pulled into the parking area, I noticed that one of the participants had gotten there before us and was standing outside. As we got out of the van, she looked up and shouted “They came!” It was heartfelt and heartwarming; something I will not soon forget.

### FROM SVAY RIENG, CAMBODIA

**Joseph (site host)** ~ I liked the way you broke the stories down into simple concepts for the kids.

**Becky Jo** ~ Motos, and bikes, and dogs, oh my! Smiling faces under helmets and hats, coming to VBS one, two and three at a time, all to sit under mango trees to hear songs of “Jump, jump, jump into the light, light, light.” Playing with the parachutes. Learning John 3:16 and how God so loves them. Their eyes wide during the Box story, as they see that the Cross is the only bridge to heaven and eternal life. Watching the Wordless Book come alive to them in a necklace. All these things brought joy to my heart.



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## **US PARTNERSHIPS**

Thank you to our partner churches for the use of their facilities and the amazing volunteers: Lakeside Church and Touchstone Christian Fellowship.



## **TRAVELER'S CORNER**

**Jeri L** ~ Seeing their transformation like a butterfly. The teachers come in so shy, but emerge with confidence in Christ as He equips them.

**Theresa C** ~ When we arrived, the young teacher's smiles really warmed my heart. I believe so strongly in raising up the younger generation of leaders and there we were, reaching the next generation in a rural Cambodian community. After 1½ days of training, I asked them to return from lunch and perform a skit for us. One group reenacted a story we taught and it reinforced how the stories stick, using the different teaching methods they had been introduced to. Another

group recounted the story of Mary and Joseph and they had us in stitches, laughing; their use of props and creativity was awesome.

**Don G** ~ Smiles from young and old, and hugs from people I didn't expect.

These were a couple of the things that prove cultural lines can be crossed when Jesus is the focus. I love the excitement seen in a young adult's eyes when the training was finished and it's evident that they understood the message, and now had some tools to help deliver it.



## **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ~ BUILDING LEADERS**

**Don G** ~ This was Fifty5five's third visit to the Dominican Republic and each time we minister to the same groups: young children's program teachers and the kids of the bateyes; not the same people, but the same groups. As I looked at our "best moments" posts, I saw one overriding success coming to the surface: leaders from past visits and new leaders from this trip. It is amazing to see God working in these young people's hearts and lives.

A few of my many noteworthy events include the look on a young man's face as I pulled him aside to wash his feet; the expressions of shock and amazement on children's faces as the "chopper" came down on my arm as a substitutionary sacrifice; the overall feeling of peace from day one, knowing I was supposed to be there; watching the Holy Spirit work on adults who really don't want to be worked on.

Then I realized that my standout "moment" wasn't a moment at all, it was the people and the lasting impact that Fifty5five has on the hearts and the minds of those we met. It was being greeted at the airport with hugs from three past teacher trainees. It was Juandi, Estephan, Flor and Leydi, each a past trainee who has become a leader in their church and community. It was a young lady on the bus as we headed back to our home base following our final day of training who, without direction or encouragement, stood up and share with us the impact we had on her, and thanking us.

**Theresa C** ~ It's always difficult to pick a favorite moment from a trip. We handled this trip a little differently than our normal teaching "schedule," in that we opted to train in the morning and conduct VBS in the afternoon, allowing the teachers to immediately practice what they had learned. Each day a young blind man wandered into the training and VBS. Though he had no cane or guide, his maneuvering skills were outstanding. Our training touches on the five senses as we teach, but is heavy on visual and auditory. The kids were being tested on the seven days of



creation they had learned using their fingers, and they were stumbling through the test, but that blind man raised his hand, maneuvered up front and answered correctly. It was a special moment for me to witness how attentive he had been; though his sight was reduced, his hearing and attentiveness was heightened. It was a blessing!

**Missionary/host Ketley** ~ There were so many experiences that I don't know where to start. The most meaningful to me was seeing the transforming power of Jesus Christ through the teaching of Fifty5five. Yes, you trained teachers to do the work with children, but the Word of God and the way you modeled Jesus Christ to the teachers was a great example for them, living into action the life of Jesus Christ to the children and by doing that, they saw God's transforming power through their lives. The teaching and the practice were great examples to live out what they learned. So, though the mission of Fifty5five is to teach, by giving us the opportunity to do the teaching and VBS together made it great! I encourage you to continue to do so. For example, Jonah, who was a very shy young man, was so shy with the Word just a week before the training, but he needed to act on the truth that God has given us, a spirit of power. Through the teaching, God showed himself and gave Jonah power, love and strength, and he was bold as ever!

**Jerry C** ~ Though I had been on numerous mission trips, I had never experienced the overwhelming gratitude from the teachers whom we had the privilege of ministering God's love. Often, we receive thanks from pastors, and even children, which is extremely gratifying, but to hear the teachers express how their lives were impacted personally crystallized the great commission, giving it a vibrancy not personally experienced.

**Linda M** ~ What a joy it is to serve the Lord in this ministry! One of the problems we have is trying to communicate with people who don't speak English, or better yet, leading a class of wild ones who don't understand what you're trying to say. A young gentleman, Eleazar, came to my rescue when he stepped forward and became my translator when Ketley (our host) was unavailable.

Gentle-spirited but shy, through him I was able to speak to the kids and bring order to the class; in addition, I was able to talk to some of the youth. We became aware that as we taught about how to teach little kids, that we were ministering to the youth at the same time! Some of them shared how their lives were changed as they learned about forgiveness, and the calling that the Lord had put on their lives.

As we taught about the various personalities, the teachers discovered themselves and some of those with whom they were working and they left knowing more about what the Lord had for them. It felt so good to know we had even a tiny part in that.



## Upcoming Events

### Spring Tea

Saturday, May 9, 10:30 a.m.  
Lakeside Church  
"The Block" Building  
755 Oak Avenue Parkway  
Folsom, CA 95630

*Join us for an elegant tea and finger foods. Enjoy shopping in our boutique filled with unique hand-crafted items and gifts from around the world and take care of your Mother's Day shopping while supporting a great cause. The boutique opens 9:30 a.m.*

*This event sells out and your seats will only be reserved once they are purchased to ensure all seating is filled. In an attempt to keep food costs low and our volunteer's sanity, we will be offering Early Bird registration through April 10. Prices increase on April 11; registration closes April 25.*

**Tickets** (through April 10): \$27, adults; \$15, children under 10. April 11-25: \$30 (adults), \$17 (children).

**Table of 8:** \$200 (through April 10) or \$215 (April 11-25).

*Tickets available through our website, [www.fifty5five.com](http://www.fifty5five.com)*

### Fireworks Booth

June 28-July 4

Volunteers needed daily to help set up the booth, manage sales, transport fireworks and tear down the booth.

### Christmas Tea

Date to be determined

**Visit our website for up-to-date events.**



## How can you support the work of Fifty5five?

- Use an eScript card when you shop at your local grocery store and select online vendors.
- Sign up and shop with Amazon Smile.
- Assemble crafts.
- Volunteer at a fundraiser.
- Host a fundraiser.
- Attend a fundraiser.
- Matching gift program through your employer.
- Recurring donation.
- One-time donation.

**Thank you for your continued support, both financially and prayerfully!**

It's easy to join our mailing list!

Just send your email address by text message:

Text  
**FIFTY5FIVE**  
to **22828** to get started.

Message and data rates may apply.



## 2020 TRIPS

**Kenya** – March 20-April 3

**Dominican Republic** – June 15-25

You may be wondering how we determine where we travel. We are always invited into the countries we visit. The mission is spread by word-of-mouth. Most frequently the requests are from ministries we've partnered with or previous attendees.

If you'd like to join us on a trip, please visit us online at [Fifty5five.com](http://Fifty5five.com) and fill out an application or email [Theresa@fifty5five.com](mailto:Theresa@fifty5five.com).

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Fifty5five is to teach Christian adults throughout the world how to present the love of Jesus Christ to children by providing the tools to create and conduct a thriving children's ministry. In many of the world's developing countries children are second class citizens. Providing services to children is a new approach for many of them. Our main objective is to provide children in impoverished nations with an opportunity to clearly hear, understand and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our teams go in and provide workshops on story telling, memory verses, costumes, worship, crafts and discipline. The goal is to train up in-country trainers to continue on the work of training others. We see the training as a foundational piece of our calling – so the work of the Lord can continue long after Fifty5five has left.

**DONATIONS** are an important part of Fifty5five's longevity. Our donors give in many ways:

Most of our donors give by mailing in monthly checks, while others have set up automatic payments to be sent through their checking account. Some even have set up recurring payments through their credit card on PayPal.

Many companies offer matching gift programs to encourage employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Some provide matching funds to support employee volunteer hours. Because Fifty5five is registered with Guidestar, a directory of charities, you can select Fifty5five during your employer's enrollment period.

## AMAZON SMILE

The entire shopping experience is the same and most products available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) are available at Amazon Smile (<http://smile.amazon.com>)

Sign in to Amazon and choose your charity by searching for "Fifty5five" and select it as your charity.

Once selected, you will receive an email confirmation and you can begin shopping.

Once you've selected your charity everything else functions the same. Shop for your favorite products or the perfect gift. Most products are eligible on Amazon Smile – if not, you'll be notified. You can checkout normally as well. No extra cost is passed onto you – Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Fifty5five!

After you've successfully completed a purchase on Amazon Smile you can share the news with your friends on Facebook, Twitter or via email. This option appears on the confirmation page after your order is complete.

