



Reaching children around the world by training teachers

Fifty5five, Inc.

Winter 2019

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In June 2018, we had the privilege of being part of a new experiment for Fifty5five, adding high school students to the team that served in the Dominican Republic. It was an experiment that taught us some valuable lessons and bore tremendous fruit.

Seven teenagers from the youth group at Touchstone Christian Fellowship in Sacramento trained for two months beforehand, preparing lessons, rehearsing skits and team building. By June, they were nervous and excited, but prepared to head overseas and put on five Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) alongside a group of newly-trained local teachers.

The teens arrived at Maranatha Church in La Romana after the teacher-training team had already spent three days equipping the local teachers. We didn't know how well the training had gone until we ventured out together into the sugar cane fields to put on our first VBS.

It immediately became clear that the Dominican teachers had truly been listening and learning. They engaged the children in the plantation village with energy and enthusiasm, laughter and love. Heck, some of them even seemed to be doing Becky Jo impersonations.

Many of the local teachers were teenagers themselves, so bonds quickly formed with our youth. The teens from Touchstone performed skits and told stories and then teamed up with the Dominican



teachers to play games with the children. From quiet crafts and patty-cake to raucous relay races, the American and Dominican teens were able to show the love of Jesus to children who seemed to crave that kind of attention.

Throughout the week, at three sugar cane plantations and two urban churches, the partnership grew and evolved. The Dominican teens went from serving as interpreters for our students, to leading the games our students had been leading, to telling many of the stories our students had been telling to, eventually, leading most of the VBS on their own.

By the end of the week, it was clear that the Dominican teachers were more than capable of putting on their own outreach events, not to mention engaging the children in their own churches with the Gospel. Fifty5five had accomplished its goal, and the teens from Touchstone played a significant role in building the connections that made that possible.

In the process, our teens were stretched and molded, developed a much deeper trust in the Lord, grew in their relationships with one another and got a glimpse of God's heart for the entire planet.

In short, this trip showed us that youth teams can definitely play a role in helping Fifty5five achieve its purpose of reaching children around the world by training teachers.

*~ Steve Bunnell, Youth Pastor
Touchstone Christian Fellowship*





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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.



SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

In October 2018 we partnered with Agape International Missions (AIM) for a third time.

AIM's primary mission is to stop human trafficking and one of the methods they employ is to offer a safe place for children to go after school so they aren't home alone and vulnerable. Within the last year, AIM was asked to take over an existing school in Siem Reap and AIM came in with the agreement that they'd share the love of Jesus.

Our Fifty5five team divided its resources, with some members of the team providing teacher training while others taught the children. It was amazing and heart-wrenching all at the same time.

Fifty5five has been asked to return again (September 2019) but this time we plan to centralize the training so that multiple site teachers can attend while school is on break.



FEEDBACK FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Being a newbie, first time missionary, I didn't know what to expect. As soon as we walked through the gate, the children came running over to us, folded their hands, bowed and greeted us with the most welcoming smiles. My heart skipped a beat! ~ Sharon D.

2019 TRIPS

Ethiopia – June

Dominican Republic – July

Cambodia – September

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 and fill out an application or email 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.

TRAVELING BOUTIQUE

Would you like to have a mini-boutique at your next event? We've had the opportunity to set up a scaled-down version of our fabulous



boutique at three Women's Conferences thus far, so if you'd like to host us at your event, please email info@fifty5five.com.



Volunteers are a vital part of Fifty5five. There are many types of volunteers:

- Do you know a high school student who needs to fill their community service hours before graduation? We have several opportunities to serve at our Spring and Christmas Teas.
- Craft preparation – whether cutting out craft foam at home or participating in our bagging parties, you, too, can become a part of our missions team.
- Fundraising – you can participate behind the scenes in setting up for a tea, working the fireworks stand, marketing our products, donating quality goods for resale, or collecting and/or redeeming recycling. Plus we're always open for new ideas!

Upcoming Events

Spring Tea

Saturday, April 27, 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 March 31. Prices increase on April 1; registration closes April 15.

***Tickets** (through March 31): \$27, adults; \$15, children under 10. April 1-15: \$30 (adults), \$17 (children).*

***Table of 8:** \$200 (through March 31) or \$215 (April 1-15).*

Tickets available through our website, 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

December 14, 2019

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.



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.

LEGACY GIFT

Wouldn't you delight in having your legacy to children around the world continue long after you are in the arms of the Father? Consider making a bequest to Fifty5five to fund the continuing work we do to train teachers how to bring the love of Jesus alive in the hearts of the children in developing countries. These children may look around at their circumstances and not see much hope, but we can bring them the hope of Jesus Christ and eternal life.

AMAZON SMILE

The entire shopping experience is the same and most products available on 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.



Fifty5five has served in 9 countries, 29 provinces/cities and offered over 40 Teacher Trainings