



Spring 2012

UK Charity 1094193



# Our 10th Birthday!



This year marks an important milestone for SIFT, as we are celebrating our 10th birthday as a registered charity in the UK. We are grateful to God for his amazing provision over the last decade. We are also grateful for all of our wonderful supporters who have been such a blessing to the poor of Nicaragua.

We would like as many people as possible to join us in celebrating this event by fundraising for SIFT's medical work. The medical work on the island of Ometepe has been transforming lives for much of the last 10 years. Thousands of people have been treated by Doctor Sandra and her team of nurses, countless prescriptions given away and many lives changed. We need your help to ensure that this can continue for another 10 years.

**Please consider how you can fundraise for SIFT this year. See the insert for some ideas or come up with something yourself. Whatever you decide to do, you will be helping to make a tremendous difference in the lives of the poor in Nicaragua.**



**Inside**

**10 ways to celebrate with us**

# Two Directors for SIFT

*Since SIFT's founder, Dick Bell, stepped down as Executive Director in September 2010, we have been looking for a replacement. Well, we now have two for the price of one! SIFT's Board of Trustees has agreed to SIFT being run by two Directors: the Operations Director overseeing the work in Nicaragua, and the UK Director looking after the work at home.*

## **Dave Staley (Operations Director)**

Dave is already well known to many SIFT supporters, particularly those who have gone on the March building trip which Dave has led for the past four years.

Dave and his wife Heather live near Thornbury, Bristol, where in partnership with his brother and parents they run a farm and self-storage business. They are members of Thornbury Baptist Church.

Dave and Heather have travelled to Nicaragua many times and have a heart to see Nicaraguans being lifted out of physical and spiritual poverty and being given a hope for the future. In this new role, Dave will be responsible for all of SIFT's work in Nicaragua, with the exceptions of the Horticultural Project (managed by Dick Bell) and the Finca El Rayo project (managed by Tony Langmead).



Dave and Heather Staley

## **Colin Weaver (UK Director)**

Colin and his wife Jane have been Trustees of SIFT since the charity was started in 2002. Colin has been Chair of Trustees since 2007. When Dick stepped down Colin assumed more responsibility outside of the Trustee role in supporting the office and, in particular, in fundraising. So the creation of the Director post puts this work on a more formal footing.



Colin and Jane Weaver

Colin and Jane live in Wistow near Huntingdon; Colin is a retired RAF Engineering Officer and, as well as his work with SIFT, is very active with his local free church as an Elder.

# 10 great ways to celebrate with SIFT

1

**10 mile sponsored walk:** Sponsored walks are a great way to raise money for charity. Make it 10 miles to fit in with the 10th birthday theme or, if that isn't possible, what about 10 laps of the school playing field instead?



**10K run:** Everyone's doing 10 kilometre runs for charity these days. This could be the opportunity that you've been looking for to get out there, get fit and raise money for SIFT at the same time. That way everyone's a winner!

2



**Collect 10p coins:** Fed up with that loose change jangling around in your pocket? Why not start collecting those 10p coins and see how much you can raise for SIFT? A mile of 10p coins would amount to a whopping £6,568.70!



**Pledge £10 per month:** Not everyone can afford to give £100 all at once. But maybe you could give £10 per month for 10 months. Or even 10 years! After all, that's just 33p a day.

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**Tell 10 friends:** SIFT has grown over the last 10 years simply by people telling others. If you are unable to help in any other way you can still spread the word and help to make a difference.



6

**Organise a SIFT 10th birthday party:**

Invite your friends to a SIFT 10th birthday party. Bake a birthday cake, put the kettle on for some tea and raise money for SIFT.



**10 on a plate sale:** A great way to raise money by selling 10 items on a plate. It could be gorgeous cupcakes, fabulous fudge or something completely different, but the main thing is that it is raising funds for the poorest people in Nicaragua.

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**Sell 10 items on eBay:** Sell your own items through eBay ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)) and send us the money or get eBay to pass the money on to us. If you have older or more valuable items then you could sell them through Wallington Missionary Mart and Auctions. Please contact the SIFT office for more information.



**Wash 10 cars:** Why not help out your community by offering to wash some cars? A particular favourite with youth groups!

9

10

**10 friends a-texting:** Can you get 10 of your friends to each give to SIFT by texting **SIFT10** and either **£2**, **£5** or **£10** to **70070**? The text is free to send on all networks!



**All of the money that you raise will go to support SIFT's medical work in Nicaragua**



# Cooking up a storm!



*Fresh vegetables ready for the pot*



*Collecting coconut milk*

SIFT's Horticultural Project teaches families on the island of Ometepe how to grow a greater variety of crops for a better diet.

But how do you get the families to eat these new vegetables? This is where Jo Adkins comes in.



*Jo demonstrating a nutritious recipe*



*All of the family having a go*

Jo has been working in Nicaragua for many years and now lives on Ometepe. She works for Exodo, a Christian project, in partnership with SIFT. Jo is introducing our families to new vegetables and teaching them both new recipes and variations on traditional dishes.



*Rice and beans with a twist*



*Does it taste as good as it looks?*

# The earth is moving!

We would like to thank everyone who gave towards the appeal to prepare the Finca El Rayo land for development. We now have some very exciting news. Having got revised quotes and negotiated some good deals with the Nicaraguan team, we are now in a position to proceed with the earth-moving.

The next stage of the project, roads and services, will require significant new funds, as the earth-moving will have used up all our existing resources. So please keep on praying!



## SIFT Sunday

On **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August** we are holding **SIFT Sunday**. This is a wonderful opportunity for churches across the country to celebrate SIFT's 10th birthday. You may wish to celebrate with a few prayers of thanksgiving during the service or perhaps devote the whole service to the theme. And why not have some birthday cake afterwards?

Whatever you decide to do, we would love you to join with our celebrations and raise more funds for our fantastic medical work. Resources for whatever you decide to do will be available from the SIFT office soon.

## And it's goodbye from me

There are also some changes to the personnel at the SIFT office in Seaton. Jon Sibley, who started working for SIFT in 2003, will be leaving in May to take up the role of Pastor at Crossroad Christian Fellowship in Seaton.

Jon writes, *"It has been great to be a part of this adventure of faith for the last nine years. I am excited to think what the future holds for SIFT especially with the new appointments and the development of the Finca El Rayo site."*

SIFT is grateful to Jon for his contribution to the growth and success of the charity since 2003.



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