



Reaching children around the world by training teachers

Fifty5five, Inc.

Winter 2021

TRAVELER'S CORNER

FROM THERESA CANE

In 2020, Fifty5five had two trips planned: Kenya and Dominican Republic. Flights, accommodations and training funding had all been handled and in March we were set to fly to Kenya; however, as the time grew closer, it appeared that, if we left, we might not get back into the US due to impending border closures from UK flights. It was a difficult decision to cancel the trip, but it seemed the right thing to do.

Shifting to Plans B and C, our brothers and sisters in the US and Kenya made efforts to see the Teacher Training through. As the Kenyans continued preparations, the US team met to coordinate a live virtual training. No sooner did all the details get mapped out, a shelter-in-place order was issued in California. Our team then edited and uploaded to YouTube some videos we had filmed on prior trips to Ethiopia so the training could go on; however, there were issues due to the file sizes of the videos. We continued to work, making the videos more accessible, but then Kenya went on lockdown – it was only Day 2 of Teacher Training.

As the world began to shut down due to COVID-19 restrictions, so did our travels. *The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.* ~ Proverbs 16:9

WHAT'S NEXT

As we wait to see if the doors will once again open, allowing us to travel again, we've learned some great lessons in 2020.

- We learned how flexible the ladies are who moved their tea tickets from the Spring Tea to the Christmas Tea, and to a possible 2021 Spring Tea.

- We've learned to think outside the box (or inside, in this case) and are considering offering a drive-through tea to pick up tea goodies.

- We've learned that people really buy a lot of fireworks when they are on lockdown and can't go out of town or to a fireworks show. So much so, that 2020 brought our most profitable fireworks booths ever!

Upcoming Events

Spring Tea

Date to be determined

Fireworks Booth

June 28-July 4

Volunteers needed 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.

- We learned that hosting an online boutique can be a lot of work, but it was worth it! Thank you to everyone who virtually stopped in and shopped with us, and for your patience as we transitioned into a new shopping experience.

- We've learned the importance of producing good quality videos. We are planning to produce new training videos early this year, and although we hope to be able to travel in the summer, we will have the ability to put together live virtual trainings.

WITH GRATITUDE

Among the changes we saw in 2020, we bid farewell to two long-time board members: Ron Wood, who once served as Fifty5five's president, and Ginny Millhone, Fifty5five's secretary.

To fill the secretary vacancy, the board approved the appointment of long-time supporter, Debi Shank. Welcome aboard!

VALENTINE'S DAY

We are offering a trio of boxed Valentine's Day treats to give to a special person to enjoy at home.



Choose from **SWEET TREATS** (3 truffles and 3 chocolate-covered strawberries); **SAVORY SALIVATIONS** (cheese, grapes, pomegranate, salami rose or chocolate covered bacon and crackers), and **TEA TIME** (scones and tea with a tea cup).

Boxes are \$22 each and can be ordered through our website fifty5five-boutique.constantcontactsites.com/store.



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US PARTNERSHIPS

Thank you to our partner churches for the use of their facilities and the amazing volunteers: Lakeside and Bayside churches (Folsom), Touchstone Christian Fellowship and The Crossing Church (Sacramento).



YEAR-ROUND BOUTIQUE

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, we were challenged to come up with an alternative to in-person shopping in our fantastic boutique, and thus was born our new online boutique, now available 24-7.

It was a labor of love to catalog and photograph all of the items in time for holiday shopping, but with the help of many hands, we were able to open the online boutique in time for Black Friday shopping.

If you haven't had a chance to check it out, visit fifty5five-boutique.constantcontactsites.com/store to browse through the many handcrafted items, including scarves, quilts and potholders, plus handbags and jewelry.



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 worlds 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.

GIVING

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

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

We've now added a new option: Venmo (@fifty5five), through which you can give, in addition to paying for your boutique purchases.

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 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, after which 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.

