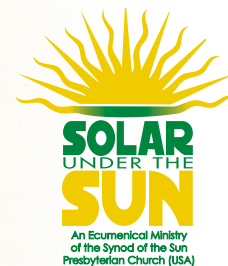


# Light of LIFE



SOLAR UNDER THE SUN MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE WATT AT A TIME

## God's Little Light Bulb: Duke Monroe in Honduras

Hello, my name is Duke Monroe from Sherwood, Arkansas. I went with a group of members of Northwest Arkansas Presbyterian Churches to Honduras for the purpose of installing a solar power system to power a Clean Water System and to provide power for lighting and a PA system at the Presbyterian Church in El Horno. We also installed a solar power system to run lighting and a PA



system for the Presbyterian Church in El Sute. The team was made up of members of the Rogers (Charles and Gini Hudson, Jim Pedersen) and Bentonville (Roy Horan, Healey Ikerd, John Bruner) Presbyterian churches that had attended a Solar Under the Sun training class. I was allowed to join the team since they needed an additional Solar 2 technical person for the trip. Chris McRae, director of Solar Under the Sun, and Emily Fausett, newly hired development director of Solar Under the Sun, also worked with part of the team in surveying new sites for future projects. Emily served as one of our interpreters. Solar 2 Technical instructor, David Howell was from Nashville, Tn. Liz Wagner, a minister from the Bella Vista Presbyterian church was our spiritual leader.

What excitement—the very first Solar Under the Sun project in Honduras!

The travel plan called for the team to meet in Atlanta and join up with a team from Living Waters of the World. That team was responsible for installing the Clean Water system. Rev. Mark Wright was the Honduran Missionary that met us at the airport and escorted the team on the trip. He had a Honduran team of 2 interpreters and 4 workers to help drive. They did all the heavy work for us. They were truly outstanding Christian people.

One of the most rewarding things was interacting with the Honduran children as they observed our work. Curious faces invite the opportunity to talk to them. The language barrier didn't seem to matter, as we used gestures (when one of our interpreters was not around) to communicate. A big smile and laugh is the same in any language!

Our Solar 1 team worked with Rev. Tim Wheeler and his wife Gloria, also Honduran missionaries, to survey several projects in Honduras that need to be fulfilled.

I encourage you to attend the school to get the basic skills/knowledge and find a Solar Project(s) to use those skills. One Honduras Solar Under the Sun mission trip will spoil you. You'll want another one! Sharing the "Light of the World."

## Update on Haiti

If you have yet to notice, Solar under the Sun (SUTS) is in 5 countries now! Our largest outreach is in Haiti where SUTS has over 50 solar supported locations. Some of them are for water filtration working with our sister in mission Living Waters for the World. Some light up schools, churches, a volunteer center and orphanages. The challenges remain great. There is much work left to do. **Contact us and we will get you plugged in!**



Pictured is the Rev. Stewart Baskin of First Presbyterian Church in Tyler, TX. He is delivering the morning sermon at St. Etienne, Haiti with a microphone powered by.....you guessed it: Solar under the Sun!

# New Solar System for Homes

There are 1.3 billion people in the world without access to electricity and 2.8 billion who rely on kerosene, crop waste, dung, and other biomass for lighting, cooking, and heating within their homes. Respiratory illness caused by indoor air pollution is one of the biggest killers in the world, killing an estimated 3.5 million each year (more than the deaths from HIV/AIDS and malaria combined). For this reason, Solar Under the Sun is beginning to work with communities and churches to install solar energy in groups of single-family homes.

The people of Honduras are especially excited for this type of work, and many communities have come to us saying that they will do whatever they can to collaborate. A few communities



*Children playing outside a home in Las Glorias, one of the communities waiting for solar power.*

have even offered to pay varying percentages of the work done in their areas, expressing that they do not have much, but that they want to do everything that they can. **We are looking for groups here who are willing to partner with these communities in need.** To find out how you can help, email Emily Fausett at [emily@solarunderthesun.org](mailto:emily@solarunderthesun.org).

## Solar School #12 Registration is Open

Solar School # 12 will be held April 30–May 3, and you are invited! If you would like to help a community in need of solar energy, come learn how. Perhaps your church already has a mission outreach in a remote area of the world, we will train your mission team to provide this necessity for them.

Solar School is held at the beautiful Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center just outside of Little Rock, AR. Two courses are taught simultaneously: Solar 1 and Solar 2. This is done so that each team can send members to both courses during the same session (each installation trip requires at least one person from each course). Solar School runs from Thursday at 10:00 am. through Sunday at 10:30 am.

The cost for Solar School is \$485 per registrant, which includes room, board, instruction, and training manuals. The cost for commuting registrants is \$375 per person.

Please register online at [www.solarunderthesun.org/solar-school](http://www.solarunderthesun.org/solar-school). For any questions concerning registration, please call Ferncliff Camp at (501) 821-3063.

### **Solar 1: Leadership, Partnership, Development, and Surveying**

This course includes:  
Exploring the theology of doing mission in partnership  
Developing partnerships and organizational skills  
Trip management and leadership  
Evaluating sites for solar projects  
Increasing cultural awareness  
Negotiating covenants

### **Solar 2: Installation and Equipping Partners**

This course includes:  
Assembling off-grid solar energy systems  
Emphasizing systems to power clean water systems and more  
Assessing electrical loads  
Learning system designs  
Practicing safety and maintenance  
Plenary sessions include:  
Mission strategy session  
Fund raising  
Cultural differences between countries  
Small group reflections  
Devotions

## SUTS Blurbs

### Upcoming Solar School

Session #12

April 30–May 3, 2015

Held at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center near Little Rock, AR. Register online at

[www.solarunderthesun.org](http://www.solarunderthesun.org)

### SUTS Vacation Bible School Curriculum

SUTS VBS curriculum is available for \$50. Please visit our website to order your copy today!

### SUTS Stats

11 Solar Schools

233 graduates

over 50% of grads in the field

54 SUTS solar systems installed through March 2015

50 systems in Haiti

1 system in Ukraine

1 system in Kenya

2 systems in Honduras

46 SUTS systems operate LWW clean water systems

8 stand-alone SUTS systems

### Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

Our next newsletter is scheduled for June 2015. If you have articles, testimonies, or photos that you would like to include, please send them to [emily@solarunderthesun.org](mailto:emily@solarunderthesun.org) by the 15th of May.

### Spread the Word

Twitter: [@solarundersun](https://twitter.com/solarundersun)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/solarunderthesun](https://www.facebook.com/solarunderthesun)

Website: [www.solarunderthesun.org](http://www.solarunderthesun.org)

### Go Green with Us!

In keeping with our desire to be kind to the world that God has made, Solar Under the Sun would like to offer you the option of going paperless. If you would like to begin receiving this newsletter via email rather than in printed form, please email Emily Fausett at [emily@solarunderthesun.org](mailto:emily@solarunderthesun.org). Simply type "Newsletter" in the subject line and type a short message in the body that you would like to go paperless. Thank you for helping us to protect our environment.

# A Message from Honduras and Some Words About the Team

I began working for Solar Under the Sun at the beginning of December. Barely a week after starting, I was blessed to be able to travel to Honduras with Chris McRae and a group of people representing several churches in Arkansas. **There are not enough good things that I can say about this trip.**



I traveled with the Solar 1 team, and think that better group could not have been chosen. As we traveled with Tim and Gloria Wheeler to survey potential sites for solar systems, I made some observations about the team. They were eager, excited to form relationships with the communities in Honduras. They were kind, to people of Honduras as well as each other. They were friendly, never meeting a stranger. I watched them as they reached out and befriended people, many with whom they could not even speak without an interpreter because of the language barrier. This friendliness also extended to me. Living in Louisiana and being new to SUTS, Chris McRae was the only person on the trip whom I had even met before our layover in Atlanta. However, by the second day, I was no longer a stranger. They were fun, making even the long car rides enjoyable. If anything was said that could lead to a song, to a song it would lead (and I was regularly accused of knowing music that is too old for me whenever I would join in). I remember thinking that there was no way the Solar 2 team could be as awesome.

Well, they were. When we joined back up with the Solar 2 team, I could not help but be impressed. Working together with the communities of El Horno and El Sute, so much had been accomplished in just a few short days. I watched them finish wiring the churches, thinking they all had to be seasoned veterans only to find out that for many of them, this had been their first SUTS trip. I smiled at the way they interacted with the kids in the communities who only spoke Spanish while they only spoke English. A caring heart, working to share God's love can be clearly heard across all language barriers.

I have **a message for you from Honduras:** to Charles, Gini, Roy, Liz, Healey, John, Duke, David, and Jim, but not only to this December team. This message is for any of you who have ever given your time, money, and support to Solar Under the Sun. One of the things I did when we were down there was wherever we

would go (and the Solar 1 team did a lot of traveling to various communities), I would pull somebody aside and ask them a few questions. I would explain to them that I work with Solar Under the Sun, and that among various responsibilities, one of my functions with the ministry is to represent people who need help to people who can help.

Then I would ask them if there was any message that they would like me to relay to the people in the United States. Their answers were not what I was expecting. I expected some sob stories. I expected people to ask that I make sure all of you know how great the need is (for it is great). Not even once is that what they told me to tell you. There were two things that I heard over and over.

**The first thing:** "Help us get started." Most of the people that I spoke with expressed that their community was full of hard-working people who would do this themselves if they had the training and resources. Many said that if we would train them, that they would train others. **The second thing** (but the thing said by all): "Tell them we said thank you." Several people told me that for everyone they know who has received help, that help came from the U.S.A. They want you to know how much they appreciate it, and that your generosity has not gone unnoticed. When meeting with the community of Las Glorias, one of the missionaries that we were working with, Gloria Wheeler (a native of Honduras), noted that although there is a lot of wealth in the United States, her experience shows that those who are giving and coming to help, are not the ones with so much money that they did not know what else to do with it. She said that the ones who are helping are the ones who gave something up in order to help. The people of Honduras know that when you give, you are doing so out of love and a heart that breaks for people in need, and that not all of you are doing so out of surplus.

So, on behalf of Honduras, Solar Under the Sun, and as a person who lives in this world, thank you for being the people who are trying to make it a better one. Thank you for giving. Whether you have supported the ministry of Solar Under the Sun by giving your time, funds, or both, thank you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
Emily Fausett



# SOLAR UNDER THE SUN

An Ecumenical Ministry  
of the Synod of the Sun  
Presbyterian Church (USA)



Scan this QR code for more information!

## Thank You, Solar Under the Sun Donors!

SUTS donations 10/15/14 through 3/24/15

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*The church in El Horno, Honduras  
showing off their new Solar Under the  
Sun energy system.*

**WITHOUT YOU, THIS MINISTRY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.**