



Synod of the Sun
6100 Colwell Blvd. Suite 200
Irving, TX 75039

Light of LIFE

ISSUE 3, DECEMBER 2011



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

God's little light bulb

Solar Under the Sun is more than a ministry of this Synod; Solar Under the Sun is light and life. Solar Under the Sun unveils a dawn of hope for all humanity, removing what was once a veil of darkness, and revealing a horizon of new possibilities.

As the Scriptures tell us, from the rising of the sun to its setting, the Lord's name is to be praised (Psalm 113:3), and truly when the sun rises in Haiti where installations have been accomplished, the sun sets in the Ukraine and in Kenya, where solar installations are being planned.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells His disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14) . . . and through our Solar Schools, individuals from California to Carolina, from Texas to Tennessee, from Kansas to Kentucky, from Pittsburgh to Port-au-Prince, have been taking the light of Christ to our sisters and brothers on the planet without access to electricity.

In John's gospel, Jesus says, "Believe in the light, and you shall become children of light" (John 12:36) . . . and as you share your support, you too become children of light, for you participate in a project where our fellow human

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▲ Solar School #5 Participants

Living in the Light

Can you imagine your day ending when the sun goes down? Almost a third (1.6 billion) of the people on this earth have no electric power and probably never will. It costs more to deliver power through transmission lines than it does to build a power plant; therefore, the poor will never be able to afford fossil fuel or hydroelectric power, especially in remote areas. Is there a solution to this problem? Forty-billion dollars is spent by the poorest people in the world each year on kerosene to light a simple lantern. Almost four thousand people die in the world each day in kerosene related fires. Is there a solution to this problem? Inhalation of kerosene fumes can be the equivalent of smoking two packs of cigarettes a day in an enclosed room. This increases the medical cost of those who can least afford it. Is there a solution to this problem? Thirty thousand people die in this world everyday due to preventable causes, mostly

due to bad drinking water. In remote areas, high dollar fuel and expensive generators are not a good option for powering water filtration plants. Again, is there a solution to this problem?

It has been calculated that enough sun energy hits the world everyday to power the entire world's energy needs for over a year! If this is anywhere close to being right, then the answer to our problem is "Solar Power." Solar Under the Sun (SUTS) has completed its second year of training with 117 graduates. Over fifty of these graduates and teachers have already been in the mission field and installed 18 solar powered plants in various areas of Haiti. We have others who are planning similar missions in the Ukraine and Kenya. To some, this may be a modest beginning to a monumental undertaking but tell that to the woman who came home in Meyer, Haiti one evening

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Churches

Central Presbyterian Church,
Fort Smith, AR
First Presbyterian Church,
Palestine, TX
Graham Memorial
Presbyterian Church, Forrest
City, AR
Westminster Presbyterian
Church, Fort Worth, TX

Organization

Synod of the Sun
The Presbytery of the Pines

Individuals

Ruth Anne Camp
Sally Carthel
David & Judy Fletcher
Andrew Lawrence
Helen Luckett
Jerry Perry

Gifts in Honor of Judy Fletcher

Synod of the Sun
Presbyterian Women

Donor/In Honor Of

Tom Ulrich/Jane Huffstetler
Edith Slaton/Laura St. Clair
Ann Coit & Sporer Smith/
Chris McRae

Thank you to all our donors!

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beings in every corner of God's kingdom may experience the light of Christ, the light of hope, the light of love.

So, we ask that you continue to share your prayers and support for this ministry, for through your prayers and support, the One who is the Sun of Righteousness illumines the earth with new possibilities that bless all humankind.

Through your prayers and support, you help our synod's ministry magnify the light of God's grace to overcome poverty, illiteracy, disease and despair.

Through your prayers and support, we are blessed with the privilege

of learning with, and learning from, people from different countries and different cultures, with different voices and different beliefs, so that we can join hands in building bridges that unite rather than walls that divide.

Indeed, through Solar Under the Sun, our eyes are opened to envision a world in harmony, and we are given an opportunity to fulfill God's mission for the benefit of all humanity.

Even now, God is using us, all of us, to create a new reality so that every place shall become a holy mountain, where the God's light shall guide all people with radiant rays of hope, and God's vision will

dispel the darkness from all the earth.

Yes, my friends, let us keep our eyes open . . .

and let us keep looking to a new horizon . . .

because together we can catch a glimpse of the new world that God is creating among us.

And isn't that the kind of world that we all want to live in?

*Tom Ulrich
Co-Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church, Ft. Smith, Arkansas
Moderator,
Solar Under The Sun Board*

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to find her home lit up with four light blubs for the first time in her 60 years of living. She fell to her knees and thanked God for all those who let their light shine for all the world to see. Just think....only a little less than 1.6 billion left to reach. It's time to get on board before all this opportunity runs out!

At Solar Under the Sun we have no false delusions we are the end all for all the world's problems. We are only a vehicle to help enable others to go out into the world with their time and talent to bring light where there is much darkness. Maybe this will be in the form of a solar powered Living Waters for the World (livingwatersfortheworld.

org) water filtration plant, a medical clinic, a school media lab or a single family home. In Cherident, Haiti this past August a SUTS team installed solar power to a volunteer quarters, which will house mission teams working in the local medical clinic, as well as teams that will work with Haiti Education Foundation (www.haitifoundation.org) students in the area. This remote village is now the brightest spot within a two-hour drive! Jesus Christ said we should let our light shine for all of the world to see (Matthew 5:14). At Solar Under the Sun we think your solar light should shine as well. Remember, this mission belongs to YOU. SUTS is only a conduit to help increase your skills to

become more effective missioners in the world. In the Kingdom of God we are doing no great task, but only what is expected.

*Chris McRae
Executive Director,
Solar Under The Sun*

▼ *The Volunteer Guest House in Cheridant, Haiti lights up the community.*



Chris McRae installs ► the first of four light bulbs for Ancy Fils-Aime's Mother in Meyer, Haiti



Solar Under The Sun Receives Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering

Each year the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women, PCUSA, selects a small number of creative projects to receive their annual birthday offering grant. This year, out of 32 proposals, Presbyterian Women chose to fund up to \$200,000 for Solar Under The Sun (SUTS) future projects.



▲ *The Birthday Offering will help fund even more solar-powered clean water systems like this one near Les Cayes, Haiti.*

The money is earmarked specifically for two things:

First, SUTS will upgrade its Solar School training facility at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center to provide students with hands on training in the different situations and configurations they find in the field. One of the systems will be a solar powered, eco-youth center where youth groups can experience low-carbon retreats and learn about "green" mission projects. These installations will train solar school mission teams and also teach thousands of campers, youth, and guests about the value of solar energy for creation care and outreach.

Second, the grant will be used to assist mission teams with the costs of solar panels and related hardware

for mission projects specifically in Haiti. These projects mostly use solar energy to power Living Waters For The World clean water systems. SUTS is now branching into stand-alone systems to light schools, computer labs, medical facilities, and other life-giving services to desperately poor communities.

The Birthday Offering will be distributed in mid-2012, and SUTS is eagerly anticipating the excitement and opportunities the new funding will bring. A grant process will be determined and publicized for all teams wishing to participate in Haiti installations.

Sharing The Gift of Light

Alternative Gift Giving is a form of gift giving in which the giver makes a donation to a charitable organization in the recipient's name rather than giving an item. We, at Solar Under The Sun, hope you will participate in Alternative Gift Giving by giving the gift of light to your friends and family!



FROM SOLAR UNDER THE SUN

Instead of buying your dad a tie, why not buy a "watt" in his honor? Instead of giving mom another book she may never read, buy her a "battery!" Your gift to Solar Under The Sun will help provide solar power to a community in need, and it can also be a gift to a friend or relative.

The process is easy and quick. Simply visit our website, and click on the "Get Involved" tab, which will direct you to the Alternative Gift Giving page. From there you can make a donation via credit card, download and print the beautiful two-sided card, and put it under the Christmas tree for your family. If you already have your Christmas shopping

wrapped up, we also have a "Happy Birthday" card and will have other special cards available soon.

Below is a list of suggested giving amounts to personalize your gift; however, even a donation for as little as \$1.00 will help light up the world:

- Watt - \$5.00
- LED Lamp - \$5.75
- 10 Amp DC Breaker - \$13.00
- Wire - \$78.00
- Combiner Box - \$105.00
- 300 Watt Inverter - \$200.00
- Solar Frame - \$175.00
- Control Box (Circuit Breaker) - \$315.00
- 6 Volt Battery - \$385.00
- 20' Pole - \$425.00
- Charge Controller - \$650.00
- Solar Panel (185 watt) - \$725.00

A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SOLAR UNDER THE SUN IN YOUR HONOR.

Solar Under the Sun is making a difference one watt at a time! Financial contributions to Solar Under The Sun assist in providing solar power to communities in need and alleviate hardship while also becoming better stewards of God's green earth. Thank you for your generosity & kindness!



SUTS Blurbs



▲ *Solar School #5 participants build their disconnect box*

Year-End Church & Individual Giving

Has your church designated its year-end gifts? If not, consider giving to Solar Under The Sun to support the ongoing education, resources and solar projects in Haiti and beyond. Simply use the enclosed envelope to mail your tax-free donation to SUTS.

Solar School Sessions and Registration

May 17-20, 2012 & September 13-16, 2012
Held at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, Near Little Rock, AR
Register online at www.solarunderthesun.org

2012 Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

We will publish newsletters in March, July & November. If you have articles or pictures you would like to include, please send them to ashley@solarunderthesun.org by the 15th of the previous month.

Spread The Word

Twitter - @solarundersun
Facebook - facebook.com/solarunderthesun
Website - www.solarunderthesun.org