

Light of LIFE

ISSUE 8, JULY 2013



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

God's Little Light Bulb Sustainable Leadership

On July 4th, 2009 I had the unique opportunity of traveling with Solar Under the Sun to embark on their pilot project in Arachaie, Haiti. Four years later, I found myself once again at the Miami airport preparing for another mission adventure. Instead of traveling with familiar faces from my home church, I went with a group of inspiring young adults from across the country and two SUTS leaders, Ashley Broadhurst and Mark Tew. Looking back on the experience and the work we did at multiple sites across the southern part of the country, the one thing that sticks out in my mind is the amazing discipleship that was present in the actions of our SUTS leaders.

Every time we stopped at site, Ashley Broadhurst knew the names of everyone working, their family history, and some random fact about them. More impressively, she knew how to spell the names of all the cities in Creole and managed to distinguish one identical town from the next. As a Solar One instructor, she constantly emphasizes the importance of establishing

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SUTS Young Adult Training Trip



▲ SUTS Young Adults in Cazale, Haiti with Father Gourse Celestin & his brother, Lucson Celestin.

Relationships, Relationships, Relationships. That is a phrase that will be in a Solar 1's head forever. You don't really realize just how important the phrase is and the truth it holds until you are in a situation where you become absolutely dependent upon them. So much goes into a relationship. It is a two-way streak that is important for success in whatever you are doing.

On May 28, 2013, a group of six young adults and two extraordinary leaders embarked on a life-changing journey in Haiti, empowered by an important mission entrusted to them by Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters of the World. Their goal?

To convert two systems in Haiti into dual-disinfection systems. Was it accomplished? Sort of. While the systems were not converted, so much more was learned in the process. This in-country training trip allowed the team to examine existing systems all across southern Haiti, make important measurements for future conversion, and establish relationships to be upheld for a very long time.

The team learned the vital importance of having lasting relationships in countries with systems during this tour. They began to understand what it meant to have ties with the

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in-country operating partners, and to have a bond with the people of the country in which they were serving. They learned that without these relationships, the operating systems would not be in existence.

It was my tremendous honor to be a part of this team that has been unlike any other. We received the first-hand view of everything you only learn about in Solar School. Everything comes

to life, an experience untouched by words alone. Through something as simple as a smile and a wave, the idea that we were making a difference long-term became a reality with this trip. The country of Haiti and it's partnership with Solar Under the Sun and Living Waters of the World brought hope into all of our lives, and we await, anxious to return.

Emily Andrews



▲ SUTS In-Country Young Adult Training Trip Participants await a flat tire change on the road to Jacmel.

Recent SUTS Installations



▲ The newest SUTS system installed in Fond-Parisien, Haiti by Lake Highlands Presbyterian Church.



▲ SUTS Solar Panels power a school and clean water system in Trouin, Haiti.

▲ Herndon UMC sponsored the new SUTS system in Cazale, Haiti.

SUTS Blurbs

Solar School Sessions and Registration

September 12-15, 2013
Held at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center,
Near Little Rock, AR
Register online at
www.solarunderthesun.org

SUTS Grants

The final installment of the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering will be distributed to SUTS this month. Thus, the SUTS Grant Committee will reconvene on August 1, 2013. Please visit our website for complete details on the grant application process.

SUTS Vacation Bible School Curriculum

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

SUTS Stats

8 Solar Schools
175 Graduates
50+% Grads in the Field
43 SUTS Systems by June 2013
42 Systems in Haiti
1 Systems in Kenya
39 Systems Operate LWW
Clean Water Systems
5 Stand-Alone Solar Systems

Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

We will publish newsletters in November and January and July of 2014. 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

Eco-Center Update

Solar School's future home will be the straw bale walled, 5300 square feet, solar powered Eco Center that is under construction at Ferncliff thanks to a Birthday Offering grant from Presbyterian Women. The radiant floor heated slab was poured in March and 1200 straw bales were stacked into the walls in April. The walls are now being plastered with three coats of natural hydraulic lime, outside and in. Ten days curing time is required between coats and it is all being done by Ferncliff staff and volunteers, so it will take several months. In the meantime interior framing is underway for the six bedrooms (26 beds) and plumbing for the seven bathrooms. Volunteers and volunteer groups are welcome. As for electricity, of course it will be solar powered!



▲ Steve Wilson and David Gill applying the first coat of lime plaster to the exterior of Solar School's future home.

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meaningful relationships with communities as means to build sustainable mission. Therefore, being in Haiti and seeing her hug familiar faces as if they were reuniting at a Thanksgiving dinner, I was able to see the Solar One advice in action was moved by the joy it produced.

Moreover, Mark Tew inspired all of us with his ability to communicate and connect with the in-country operators and engineers. At each stop on our journey we were conformed by technical issues that are common in this field of mission. Instead of being overwhelmed or discouraged, Mark worked diligently with his Haitian team and family to find a solution. Each night during devotion Mark would say, "you learn more from your failures than you do your successes"—earnest advice that I will hold dear forever.



▲ SUTS Instructor, Mark Tew, teaches and leads by example.

All in all, I was awed at just how far SUTS has come in these past four years. In a country like Haiti that has been stricken by natural disaster and poverty, SUTS continues to strive for sustainable mission through building relationships and keeping a positive attitude. If the leadership I saw on our trip this summer is any image of where SUTS is heading these next four years, I know that we can all expect wonderful things to come. Thanks again Ashley and Mark!

Claire Sparks

Share God's gift of Solar Power

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised. —Psalm 113:3

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We thank the many Solar Under The Sun donors! Without you, this ministry would not be possible.

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