

Light of LIFE

February 2016



God's Little Light Bulb: Meet Our Friend Olvin from Honduras

A friendly greeting to everyone involved in this wonderful ministry that is Solar Under the Sun: instructors, students, donors, volunteers, and everyone else. It is an honor to have the opportunity to greet you and thank the good Lord for your lives, disposition, and kindness to help communities in need of electricity.

My name is Olvin Benjamin Duron Fernandez. I am one of the technicians in the country of Honduras for Living Waters for the World. Because of an installation that the two ministries (LWW and SUS) did together in a community in our country called El Horno in the area of Comayagua, I had the great blessing of meeting the ministry of Solar Under the Sun. This experience was Amazing! For my first time, I saw how a system could produce electricity, using sunlight, sufficiently enough to energize a water purification system. Now, there is no obstacle. Even if a community has no electricity, its people, especially the children, can drink CLEAN WATER; and this is thanks to the ingenious solar system!



During this project, two churches were simultaneously electrified: one next to the water system and the other in a community called El Zubte. Another very pleasant experience was that there was a party at the end. How nice

it was to watch the villagers of all ages enjoying seeing the bright light and hearing the sound of the new speaker in the worship service at night! The following day at the opening, to close with a flourish we delighted in drinking the purified water. It was a unique experience, and I believe that it will be unforgettable .

Solar Under the Sun is a dream come true. More than a dream...it is the solution for many families and communities that do not have the possibility of electric power. Solar energy can provide healthy living by preventing the breathing of the gases produced by burning fuels for lighting during the night and by providing the opportunity to be able to use a nebulizer (especially children and elderly) when facing respiratory diseases. Solar energy also gives the possibility of having a safe water system, reducing the number of people suffering from stomach problems and other sicknesses.

Solar is the tool that many can use to be able to improve education, (in this area we can think about the opportunities that it opens to both teachers and students, to teach and to be taught, using tools such as computers.) Solar can also provide something as fundamental as communication. Although this may seem simple for those who have never lacked the basic service of electricity, solar energy allows people to have better contact with other

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SUS Blurbs

Upcoming Solar School

Session #14: May 19-22, 2016

Session #15: September 22-25, 2016

Register online at
www.solarunderthesun.org

SUS VBS Curriculum

Available for order for \$50. Please visit our website to order your copy today!

Some Quick SUS Stats

13 Solar Schools and 268 graduates

66 SUTS solar systems installed through August 2015

52 systems in Haiti 11 systems in Honduras

1 system in Ukraine 1 system in Kenya

1 system in Uganda

50 SUS systems also operate LWW clean water systems



Solar students and instructors from Solar School #13

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communities and families elsewhere because they can have a way to charge cell phones.

Solar Under the Sun is already a great blessing to four communities in our country of Honduras: El Horno and El Zubte in Comayagua, Las Glorias in Trinidad de Copan, and most recently in El Chaparro in Juticalpa Olancho. Concerning these four communities, the first system powers a water purification system and gives electricity to a church, the second system gives electrification to another church, the third project has eight systems that electrify eight houses inhabited by very poor families, and the fourth powers a new safe water system. Let us continue praying that these blessings multiply more and more, because there are many communities with this need. I do not think that I can say that one of these is my favorite project, because in every place I enjoyed watching the joy and gratitude that they all felt and expressed at the time; but I thank the Lord for that December of 2014 when I had my first contact with Solar Under the Sun in Comayagua, Honduras.

Something else that I want to mention is that in September of last year I had another great blessing of attending Solar School at Ferncliff Camp near Little Rock Arkansas. Something amazing at the moment I arrived was to see that the training rooms and bedrooms have all the necessary equipment and all electricity was supplied by solar panels in the front yard. The learning moments and love that I received of brothers and sisters in Christ is something very

special that I wish to experience again.

Finally, I want to again thank all those who readily offer time and love to this ministry that is already of great help to our country and certainly to other countries where it is present. I want to take this opportunity to motivate those who have not yet become involved: please, do not miss the chance to show God's love through this work.

Matthew 5.14-16 You are the light of the world; A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do you light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Que El Señor Continué Iluminando y Bendiciendo sus vidas.
(May the Lord continue to enlighten and bless your lives.)

—Olvin Benjamin Duron Fernandez

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. 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.

Opportunities to Partner

El Horno, Honduras—A team from Northwest Arkansas went to El Horno in December '14 and installed electricity for the Presbyterian church there and to power a water system (it was a joint SUS/LWW project). That Presbyterian church would like to work together with a team to install electricity in a neighboring Catholic church.

Haiti Micah Project—In 2012, HMP began to raise funds directed toward building a new orphanage and vocational training facility. Among the vocations HMP will support is a computer initiative, which will develop computer literacy skills as part of a varied jobs training program. Construction to build this facility began in November 2014 and was completed in late 2015. HMP is currently working with the nonprofit, Computers for Education, located in Northern Virginia to help provide laptop computers. In order for this vocational training facility to be functional, there must be a reliable source of electrical power (which does not currently exist in their location).

El Subte, Honduras—El Subte is a small mountain community of about 40 homes. A few people there and in a neighboring community already have some experience

with the installation and maintenance of a Solar Under the Sun system (although of a larger scale than what would be installed in homes). This community has said that they will pay 25% of the cost if a team will partner with them to electrify their homes.

For more information about these opportunities to partner, contact Emily Fausett at emily@solarunderthesun.org.



One of the homes in El Subte

Why I Talk About Energy Poverty: Health

What first comes to mind when you hear of people without electricity? Light? Probably, you think about some time when the electricity went out in your area, and you had to use candles and flashlights and couldn't watch television. Assuming that you had an electric stove and not gas, you probably ate out that night. The electricity would be back on eventually, and you would cook at home then. Certainly, all of this was inconvenient and not what you were used to...but it wasn't THAT bad. And that experience is probably what your mental image of energy poverty looks like. However, living without electricity and being without it for a little while are two very different things.

Let me share another image with you...one that is reality for a large portion of the world's population. 2.8 billion people in the world are dependant on the daily use of kerosene, firewood, coal, crop waste, and dung for lighting, cooking, and heating within their homes; and 1.3 billion have no access to electricity at all. I am sure that you see the inconvenience of this. However, I wonder if you see the health problems associated with energy poverty.

Studies show that in homes dependent on firewood, children under the age of five are 130% more likely to develop lower respiratory infections, and that women under thirty in these homes are 220% more likely to develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 90% more likely to develop lung cancer. In fact, every year an estimated 3.5 million die from respiratory illness caused by indoor air pollution from burning things like coal, wood, and kerosene inside homes. Allow me to put that into perspective. AIDS and malaria are two of the biggest killers in our world. Every year, malaria claims the lives of 1.3 million and AIDS kills around 1.5 million. However, the number of people killed by indoor air pollution as a result of energy poverty is larger than the number of those killed by AIDS and malaria combined! These communities face another problem that you may not have considered. When we hear "energy poverty," many of us think about what it would be like to live at home without electricity. However, I have found that



Before solar, this family was able to afford enough kerosene to put in a home made lantern for one hour of light per day. Lanterns such as this give off little light and it is not uncommon to see children's eyes red and swollen from using them when doing homework.

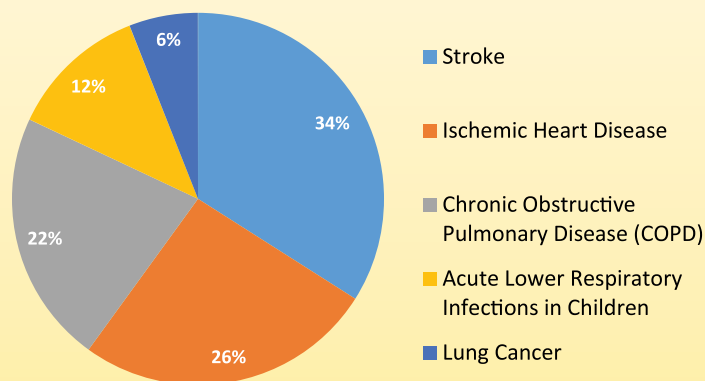
very few people I talk to tend to think about the institutions and what energy poverty means for... say...hospitals. Yet, 60% of health clinics in the developing world are without electricity. That means insufficient light for nighttime emergency procedures or for women who go into labor at night. And because no electricity means no refrigeration, these health clinics have no way to store vaccines, many medications, or even blood for transfusions. No electricity means no x-ray or MRI machines, nebulizers, or incubators. In Kenya, the infant mortality rate was 40%. However, the health clinics that gained electricity were able to decrease that rate to 28%, simply by adding incubators for the newborns.

So why do I talk so much about energy poverty? I want people to understand that energy poverty is not a simply lack of convenience. Energy poverty affects health, both from within the home and through health care. I want people to know that a real need

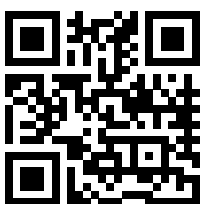
exists. I want people to know that as solar energy becomes cheaper and more efficient by the year, we are positioned to do something about it. I want people to see, then care enough to act.

—Emily Fausett

Indoor Air Pollution



This graph is a depiction of the deaths caused by indoor air pollution, organized by the resulting disease/condition. It is from a study done by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.



Scan this QR code
for more information!

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Thank you to all of our supporters who donated from August 2015–January 2016!

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