

Light of LIFE



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

Solar School Graduates Unite for Two SUTS Installations

This trip to Haiti (my 20th) was especially precious to me. For the past three years, we have worked with an organization called Coreluv in Houston, TX. We met them at the very beginning of their journey in Gonaives, Haiti as they were breaking ground for a new orphanage. Three years later, after several water samples and tests, they were ready for their solar-powered clean water system. Our team consisted of solar school graduates from across the US: Bill Mendenhall (MS); Shelby Guilbert, Christa Pazzaglia, and Wilson Kennedy (LA); Selden Spencer (IA); Mark Tew (AR & MS); and Brian McWilliams (GA). Mark served as an in-field mentor, and within three days, the system was built and operating.

Shelby Guilbert and I dropped off the team at the airport, and picked up a new team filled with solar school graduates of three Christian denominations: Jennifer & Rick Millican (AR); Rollin & Samantha Wycoff (AR); and Kay Ferguson (LA). We traveled south to Darivager Orphanage in Les Cayes, Haiti. First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana sponsors the orphanage through Global Orphan Project, and though the property already had a solar-powered clean water system, they remained without electricity.



ABOVE: SUTS Leaders with Darivager Orphanage Leaders; BELOW: SUTS Graduates celebrate with Coreluv leaders

Our mission on this trip was to upgrade the existing system and to run electricity from the water building to the rooms at the orphanage. Both were accomplished within one day. Picture a bunk-room full of squealing girls and boys breaking out into singing and dancing when the lights were turned on! Even the house mamas joined in:

*We need food, we have it!
We need water, we have it!
We need electricity, we have it!
We have everything we need,
thanks to God! Hallelujah!*

Members from across the



United States, transcending denominations, worked together to accomplish two incredible goals. The installations demonstrate the power of partnership and relationship facilitated by Solar Under the Sun.

*Ashley Goad,
Shreveport, LA*

An extra set of panels and another string of batteries provide light to Darivager Orphanage.



General Assembly affirms sustainable development

The Assembly passed an overture that seems well aligned with our mission at SUTS

“The Presbytery of Southern New England overtures the 221st General Assembly (2014) to affirm the vital importance of sustainable development through faithful stewardship of natural resources and the Precautionary Principle.¹ Such methods of preventing irreversible ecological impacts are part of the basis for responsible, moral, and scientifically-informed human flourishing, affirming the sacred in societal and creation care, and protecting the earth for future generations. Additionally, the General Assembly directs the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy to commission a study group of three to five persons to

“[1.] review the precautionary or prevention principle in relation to emerging biotechnical developments and existing Presbyterian social witness policy on environmental ethics, and

“[2.] prepare a study paper and resources for social media, with appropriate recommendations to the 222nd General Assembly (2016), for use by congregations throughout the denomination, enabling congregations to advocate for reform.”

The Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns added this statement of support.

“Those who live in poverty in the U.S.A. and around the globe are the most impacted by climate change effects, burning of fossil fuels, non-sustainable energy plans, air pollution, and shrinking water supplies. As Christians following Jesus’ example, it is our duty to educate our members on responsible stewardship of the earth that God has entrusted to us. Our church is called to advocate for and to protect vulnerable populations.”

SUTS Blurbs

Upcoming Solar School (Session #11)

September 4–7, 2014

Held at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center, Near Little Rock, AR. Register online at www.solarunderthesun.org.

SUTS Grants

SUTS Grants are available from Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering. These grants help local congregations support their mission plans through SUTS. The SUTS Grant Committee convenes monthly to review applications. Please visit our website for complete details on the grant.

SUTS Vacation Bible School Curriculum

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

SUTS Stats

10 Solar Schools
203 Graduates
50+% Grads in the Field
50 SUTS Systems through June 2014
48 Systems in Haiti
1 System in Ukraine
1 System in Kenya
1 System to be installed in Honduras in Sept. ’14
45 Systems Operate LWW Clean Water Systems
5 Stand-Alone Solar Systems

Newsletter Dates & Deadlines

Our next newsletter is scheduled for October 2014. If you have articles or pictures you would like to include, please send them to chris@solarunderthesun.org by the 15th September.

Spread The Word

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

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

Website—www.solarunderthesun.org

God's Little Light Bulb

SUTS found itself without an administrator for the May, 2014, Solar School and my husband, Chris McRae, asked me if I would help out with some of the administrative tasks. I readily agreed remembering my own experiences in solar school which had been moving and meaningful to me. The beauty about the administrator's job is that most of the responsibilities are complete by the time the classes actually start, so I had lots of time to observe the classes and students. I watched them transition from anxious, unsure, often skeptical, to their own "light bulb moment," when they see the possibilities and want to become part of a mission team.

Of all the extraordinary students in the May Solar School two students stand out: Sally Smith and Dan Daniels. Sally attended Solar 1 in Sept/13 and Solar 2 in May/14. She was in Haiti in Jan/14, with us in May/14 and, God willing, will do a solar and water installation in Sept or Oct this year. Sally's light began to shine immediately.

A "light bulb moment" inspires volunteers for mission team

After the Solar training in May, Sally and Dan took the solar training trailer to their home in Tyler, Texas. Sally's First Presbyterian church is a "Beacon of Light" for solar outreach. She incorporated a group in her church to paint the training trailer; they are utilizing the Solar VBS curriculum for their vacation bible school; and the youth are on board and wanting to go on mission trips. To this date we have trained five students from this church. I am always amazed what people can achieve when they have passion for mission.

Dan's story is interesting as well. He is a retired electrical engineer



Dan Daniels with the operators at Bainet

who came to solar school without any certainty we could teach him anything. He was courageous enough to go on a mission trip May 24th just after completing solar school in early May. We checked on an orphanage that we have been affiliated with for several years. Dan went in and immediately assessed the situation, began teaching one of the Haitians about equalizing the batteries and corrected a hazardous wiring situation.

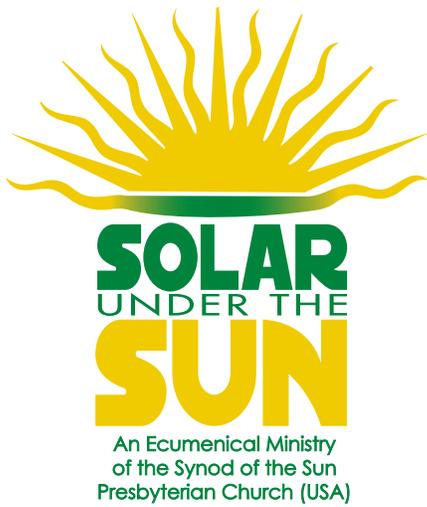
We also did a survey on a remote school and church in St. Etienne who needed water and solar. Central Presbyterian in Fort Smith and First Presbyterian of Tyler Texas have covenanted to do that mission in the next few months. Dan is on board for that project.

These are surely two of **God's Little Light bulbs!**

*Blessings,
Ruthie McRae*



*Dan Daniels,
Sally Smith
and Ruthie
McRae*



Scan this QR code for more information!

We thank the many Solar Under The Sun donors!

SUTS donations
4/10/14 through 6/3/14

Individuals

Ashley Goad
Steven Fairbanks
William Mendenhall
Valerie Young

Churches

Desert Hills Presbyterian Church, La Quinta, CA
Valley Presbyterian Church, Portola Valley, CA
Woodland Presbyterian Church, Pineville, LA

Organizations

Palo Duro Presbytery, TX
Pines Presbytery, LA
Presbyterian Women, First Presbyterian Church,
Texarkana, TX
Presbyterian Women, Ponca City Presbyterian
Church, Ponca City, OK



The new SUTS-LWW System is open at Myan Orphanage in Gonaives, Haiti.

WITHOUT YOU, THIS MINISTRY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.