



The SonLight Beacon

...the power is on

Fall 2009

SLP summer teams spread love & light

It has been a busy summer at SLP. We sent three teams to Honduras, installed eight systems and repaired two more. God has been using SLP to bring Light into Darkness.

The June I Team

The summer's first SLP team arrived in Tegucigalpa on June 5. The three installations went very smoothly. As always, the team blended Americans (Sharon Civitello, Jay Kittenbrink, Marcus Schuelke, Luke Fay, Jeff, Caleb and Hannah Kenney from Minnesota, Phil Ponicsan from Middletown and our founder, Allen Rainey) with Hondurans working together.

The team had an excellent time of spreading the love of Jesus while providing a thirty year supply of electricity. Many thanks to the Kittenbrink Family Foundation, supporters of Sharon Civitello and Jay Kittenbrink who sponsored the systems installed in each of these schools.



Sharon Civitello and the team capture the moment as the children see a TV for the very first time

The June II A Team

The June II A (Jungle) Team was the first mission in the remote Patuca region—accessible only by boat, first team not led by Allen Rainey, first time a team member (Luke Fay) had joined back-to-back teams, first team to spend the night at an install site and the first team to partner with a medical brigade (Mission Salvation). The MS team provided medical care while SLP installed solar equipment.

The large shipment of solar equipment sent ahead of the team had already been mired in customs for more than three weeks; Allen scrounged up spare equipment to satisfy the team's needs.

Upon entering the jungle, the team had no access to outside communication or motorized transport—they reached their sites by boat, foot and mule. These challenges demanded a fit, experienced team; we fielded our most experienced team ever. Led by Mark Fay, this veteran father/son team, included Luke Fay, Carl & David Wiers, and Lance, Parker & Mitchell Brown.

The team installed a new system at the Las Milpas medical clinic, incorporating it into an existing system which they repaired. Our lead Honduran electrician, Sady, saved the day when he resoldered a broken connection in the inverter by heating a rusty nail in the cooking fire. The team presented the clinic with the gift of two nebulizers. They spent the night at the second installation, the school at Los Mables. Mark Fay said, "It really was exciting for us to see what happens to the school and community after an installation!" At Los Plansitos another problem arose: The threads on the pole were damaged. The team wrestled with the heavy pole as desperate prayers flew to heaven. They sighed with relief when it finally threaded into the panel array properly.

Mark Fay and his son, Luke, both had experiences that touched them deeply. When Pastor Silver asked the local pastor and community leaders to pray for the team. For Mark, this was "one of the most emotionally and spiritually powerful moments of our trip...they prayed for the ministry of SLP, our families, our trip, and for God to continue to work His will in us, in Los Plansitos, Honduras and around the globe."

Luke's story is perhaps even more profound. He describes a teenaged



Luke Fay looks on as a little boy proves that small can be mighty.

boy's reaction to the gift of a soccer ball: "I wish I knew the words to describe his expression, but what I saw in him was something exponentially greater than a word like 'joy' could ever describe... the look on his face at receiving that soccer ball, probably the nicest gift he will receive in his whole life, is the look we will all have on our faces the day we see Jesus. The impact it had on me was huge."

The June II B Team

Some bright new faces joined Allen and veterans, Bart and Rachel Sauer on the June IIB team. Electrical engineer, Terri MacGregor, from Lexington KY, learned of SLP through Jim Cathey of the March team. Michael Skinner, an insurance executive from Concord CA, learned of us after God impressed the word "SonLight" upon him in a dream. Upon consulting an internet networking site, he contacted Allen and said God had led him to us.

With the equipment for the mission still tied up in customs, Terri and Michael were instrumental in acquiring and utilizing the necessary items needed to work through the equipment shortage. Despite all their efforts, the team did not have enough equipment to complete one of the installations. At the last school, La Quesera, the team completed a portion of the installation. Allen left his hat with a student, promising to return, retrieve the hat and complete the installation.

Meanwhile, Michael struck up a conversation with a hotel guest who was with Mission Lazarus, an organization with a medical clinic with a non-functional solar power system.



The Jungle Team loads the boats

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Patience, perseverance rewarded Ethiopian team succeeds

...Love & light

(Continued from page 1)

The team repaired the damaged existing system, then discovered that an "extra" charge controller they had was a perfect replacement for the ruined charge controller at the clinic. It was clear God had planned it in advance.



Students hold their breath as Bart Sauer lifts a boy up to turn on the lights for the first time

The July Team

Due to the recent political events in Honduras the July team's trip has been postponed indefinitely.

While we at SLP are relieved to see that the media is no longer referring to the removal of President Zelaya as a "coup", we are concerned that the international community might not recognize the presidential elections in November. We are hoping to send the team in December or in March, after a new president has been sworn in.

Please hold the people of Honduras in your prayers, now more than ever. Pray that the will of our Sovereign God will be done in Honduras and around the world.

We need **YOU** to be a Beamer now!

Beamers donate \$25/mo or \$300/year to support SonLight Power. Fifty more Beamers are needed! Call or go to www.SonLightPower.org to donate.

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SonLight Power, Inc. - 501(c)3

Editor: Andrea Brown
Executive Director: Allen Rainey
allen@sonlightpower.org
7859 Bobolink Dr.

Cincinnati, OH 45224 / 513-521-0708

Despite great challenges, SonLight Power's September mission to Ethiopia was very successful both in solar installation and relationship building. Their purpose - to install solar power systems in two medical clinics, and install a solar powered water pumping system.

The trials and tribulations were too numerous to detail but included issues with health, customs, luggage, a broken solar panel, transportation, food, and communication, especially to stateside. On the positive side, all the health and customs issues resolved themselves. The broken solar panel is still in limbo, but the system with the two functional panels will still run the refrigerator—the most necessary item.

The story of this mission begins six years ago, when ethnic violence resulted in the near destruction of three medical clinics operated by Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekene Yesus in the Gambella region of Ethiopia. The synod staff recently decided to attempt to rejuvenate them, as a significant sign of Hope and way of demonstrating God's love and grace to the local people. Believing that the clinics will be instruments in bringing lasting peace to the area, they began the process of training staff, rebuilding and refurbishing the clinics. Two of the five room clinics were still standing and in need of only minor repairs, which the synod has begun. Neither had the refrigerators needed to store vaccines and medicines nor the power to run them.

On top social conflict and destruction of the clinics, the area is now also struggling with a drought - the "rainy season" this year in the Gambella region has not been rainy. Crops are failing and, because there are no reserves of grain, people have begun to starve.

John Young, of Bountiful Harvest Consulting, and his wife, Jessie, journeyed to St. Simons Island, Georgia several years ago to visit friends. At their friends' church, they met Rachel and Michael Weller, who, following in their parents' footsteps, are the third generation to serve in Ethiopia among the Anyuaa tribe. They were raising support to rebuild the three medical clinics along the Sudan border. John said, "I felt a gentle nudge from God to ask them if they had electricity." The amus-ed Wellers responded that the clinics are miles from any power source.

John felt God calling him to take action. "As a professional fund raiser, I felt that I could find the money if I could convince my friend, Allen Rainey, that this was a good chance to share Christ with many Anyuaa people while furnishing solar power in the SonLight tradition. Allen agreed and God opened the funding doors over the last two years so the trip could become a reality."

After much prayer and planning, a team consisting of Allen, Steve McLemore,



The Ethiopia team, L to R in yellow: Steve McLemore, John & Becky Young, Gilo Gora, Allen Rainey, Kevin Montgomery, with a fridge that now works!

Kevin Montgomery, John Young and his college-aged daughter, Becky, spent September 9 - 23 in Ethiopia.

Gilo Gora, Director of Development at East Gambella Synod, provided regional guidance and housing while driver, Oman, successfully negotiated the two-day trip from Addis to Gambella without collision - a miracle if you ask the team. Reverend Teferi Berkessa, Alemu and the staff of the Bethel Synod office in Addis Ababa took care of logistics and housing in Addis.

The team and equipment arrived in Gambella almost a week after leaving the US and began work immediately. Within a couple days the first SLP water pumping system pumped water to drought stunted crops. Another two-hour cross-country drive brought the team to Gilo village where the first medical clinic install went without incident, that is, until they collided with a large owl...see the next issue of *The Beacon* for the whole story.

Haiti in July = HOT

The 09 trip to Haiti was postponed from February due customs and supply issues. Allen squeezed in a trip in July to accomplish two installs.

With the help of SLP Haiti assistant, Donald Lupin, Allen installed systems for Life Connection's Dale Moyers and Dr. J - who runs frequent medical clinics for Life Connection. The equipment for Dr. Kerry Reeves of Hearts with Haiti remained in customs. Lupin, who has assisted in four installs will complete the installations when all the equipment finally arrives.

Although Allen is in his element taking Light into darkness, July is the hottest time of the year in Haiti. Temperatures topped out above 100° which makes the roof a VERY hot place to work. At 10PM the temperature dipped to a "cool" 90°; he was happy to return home!



Water pours from the pump

**Mark your calendar:
The 8th Annual SLP
Celebration Dinner is
February 28, 2010**