

# The SonLight Beacon

Fall-Winter 2003

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## ***SLP beams light into deepest Africa***

SLP began 2003 with it's farest flung project yet. Kinangop Kenya is the home of Hope Children's Center and more than 300 orphans. Lucy Gacheru, the orphanage's director, visited Cincinnati numerous times and met Ann Rainey at a Genie Craig Bible study during one of her visits. Ann mentioned husband Allen's solar power ministry.



Following a meeting between Lucy and Allen,

numerous discussions and much prayer, Allen decided the project worth of SLP undertaking. Raising the money proved difficult as equipment costs

*-----Light arises in the darkness for the upright – Psalm 112:4-----*  
considerably more in Kenya than the US due to import taxes. However travel costs exceeded the cost of equipment.

When the Cross Cultural Mission Committee of College Hill Presbyterian Church gifted \$2,500 for the project, it became feasible. Allen priced the transportation and equipment bought here but comparing it with the cost of equipment purchased in Africa, it made better sense to purchase the equipment and contract with an African solar dealer to install the system.

Communication with Africa firms was difficult but after numerous attempts Allen came across a firm called Kenital. The folks at Kenital

*----- Light from on high will dawn upon us – Luke 1:78 -----*



**Photos:** Top right: Kenital worker with HCC children. Above left: HCC hallway light up for 1<sup>st</sup> time. Below right: Mother and baby await food.

posted work for missionaries on their web site and also interacted with Lucy well. After much negotiation Kenital and SLP agreed to a price of just under \$4,000. Within a few days (after the trials of money transfer to Africa) solar powered light brightened HCC and Lucy sent e-mail to Allen with many thanks and appreciation. Lucy used much scripture in her

thank you letter, some of which is reproduced here. Part of her letter reads:

***You have given hope and future through bringing light of Jesus to these children. I thank SonLight sponsors and friends because you said let there be light in Hope Community Centre – The Light is there, as same God said in Genesis 1:3. SonLight sponsors and friends separated light from darkness in Hope Community Centre – Genesis 1:4-7, Job 10:22. As Jesus Christ removed darkness from my life, as the same SonLight has removed darkness from Hope Community Centre Orphanage. – Psalm 119:105.***

In addition to the normal benefits of light Lucy said that the cost of fuel (lamp oil) is now finished so more food can be purchased. She also said the children can extend study at night AND attend devotion.

The next SLP project/trip is scheduled to leave January 17<sup>th</sup> to Ethiopia and Kenya. Allen is taking a portable solar lighting system for use by Project Mercy in the feeding the starving in the wilds of Ethiopia. Project Mercy needs the portable kit so it can light the feeding centers at night. Feeding at risk children must continue every hour through the night. Burning brush is the current lighting method. After a few days in Yetabon Ethiopia to inspect their main facilities for solar possibilities, Allen will then visit HCC in Kenya.



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Our motto is: **“Taking Light into darkness.”** We solicit your prayers and encourage you to seek God's desire for you to become a: **Beamer of light into darkness.**

Donations are tax deductible and can be mailed to:

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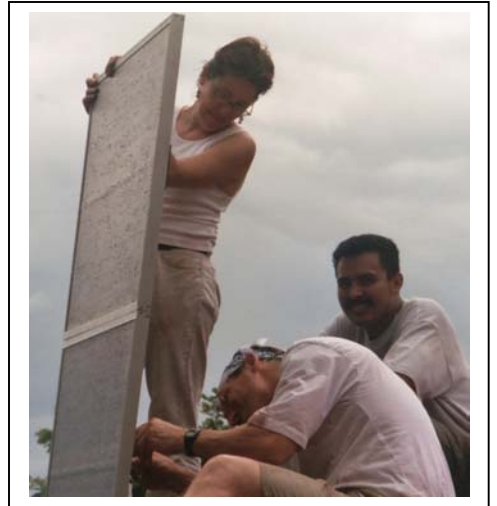


## ***SonLight Power kicks off ambitious project for 25 rural Honduran schools***

Despite trial and tribulation the first of 25 schools received solar power during late July 2003 as the pilot project of the Conception school solar power project, benefiting the 25 rural schools around Conception without grid electricity.

The Hendrickson family (Bob, Sharon, Rob {12} and Cassie {14}) from Monroe Presbyterian Church, sponsor of the equipment, accompanied Allen on the trip after receiving two weekends of intensive training at SLP's training facility – Camp Amakanata, a campground near Brookville Lake IN powered by solar.

The system installation



at the school in La Guaruma was not without problems, but mostly minor in nature. After a "normal" truck breakdown on the road to Conception caused delay, it started raining at 1 PM (another normal occurrence this time of year) just after we started to install the panels on the roof. Bob & Sharon were real troopers and worked through three hours of rain to accomplish the attachment of the four panels to the roof. Two drill bits were lost in the roof and a shortage of # 10 wire caused minor rearrangements. But by 4 PM everything was connected and Nahum turned the power on, to cheers by all.

For those new to SonLight Power missions, Nahum Del Cid is the president of the local teachers association, which includes 25 schools without electricity. Nahum assisted in all four SonLight church installations. His experience in electricity allowed him to pick up the solar part

**Photos:** Top right: Bob & Sharon Hendrickson connect modules in rain, Nahum supervises. Top left: Sharon drills with an audience. Above left: You dropped what? Above right: Rob presents at El Dorado. Below left: Cassie presents at Las Cuevitas.

quickly. During the installation of two church systems in San Jose, Yuro, July 2002 he made a formal request on behalf of the Teachers Association, asking for help in providing solar power for the 25 schools.

Visiting the five schools next in line for solar systems provided highlights of the trip. While light is important to the student's ability to learn, more important to teachers at these rural

schools is the ability to use audio-visual equipment to broaden the education of the students. A teacher in one school said, "Right now, we're just talking heads up here. Showing kids what is going on in the world of science and history will keep them animated and interested."

The schools, chosen mostly on the teachers' attitude and interest in working with solar power to help students, proved challenging to reach. Each required an hour of very bumpy drive down the mountain and resulted in surprise to the teachers there. Although told of our plans, most didn't believe we were coming until we showed up. "No one ever visits us. No one knows we're even here," was a common theme. We reminded them that God knew where and who they were, and sent us to show to show **His** love. We presented a soccer ball to each student body as a symbol of our

promise to return and took pictures of the students and buildings. Riding toward the next school, we felt blessed to know that **His** purpose for our visit was bigger than a few pictures, especially as we bounced down the mountain during a rainstorm, without windshield wipers.



### **Prayer and support teams need for 2004 trips**

Allen & the SonLight Power team need help from intercessors and donors for the 2004 season. Allen leaves for Africa (Ethiopia and Kenya) Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and needs prayer warriors to cover the trip –First into Africa for Allen. SLP can accept stock donations if the Lord is leading you to support our ministry. All donations are tax deductible. There are Public Relation benefits for corporate sponsors who cover the equipment cost for a school or orphanage. Churches are invited to visit Camp Amakanata, and consider **beaming** light into a dark church.

### **SPONSORS NEEDED**

**Currently only one of the five schools slated for installation in June is sponsored. Businesses, Schools, churches, and individuals can sponsor a solar system for one of the five schools with a donation of only \$2,000. Call Allen for sponsorship info. at:**

**513-521-0708.**

**Become a Beamer!**