



The SonLight Beacon

...the power is on

Spring 2009



Earthquake Shakes Honduras

Honduras was struck by a powerful (7.1) earthquake at 2:24 AM on May 28. The shock wave toppled houses and other structures including one main bridge connecting San Pedro Sula, the country's second largest city, to the rest of the country. At least six were killed and scores more are injured.

The quake hit 80 miles offshore; most of the damage is in the northern portion of the country. Most of SLP's recent operations have been in the southern and western areas, so the quake might not have a large impact on our teams. Meilyn Moncada reported that in Tegucigalpa, about 200 miles away from the epicenter, their cement house was "shaking like a hammock". It appears that all of our SLP friends are fine.

Please pray for the people of Honduras and for our teams as they travel on roads and bridges and spend time in buildings that have been subjected to extreme stress.

"March"ing in the Sun

"Fiesta" by Kathryn McDaniels

The March 09 mission trip to Honduras was our first time on a SonLight Power trip. We were excited but not sure how it all would turn out. We had never met any of our teammates and were heading to a country to which we had never traveled. We had concerns about our safety there, but with the cautions SLP included in the trip manual and the protection of our God, most of our fears were unfounded.

Getting to school #1, Los Castillo, included a two-hour hike up the mountain to a very deserving school and extremely isolated community. When we arrived, precious children were lined up, waiting to shake our hands and welcome us. Many parents from the community gathered along with several helpers who carried our solar equipment and backpacks.

I nearly cried when I walked into a dark classroom with absolutely no school supplies or books. There were rough, hand made tables and chairs along with worn out ABC's on the wall. 35 students of all ages were released to us, allowing us to do a "Fiesta"—similar to a "mini-VBS" program. Where in the US could you take a group of public school students and teach them about the gospel? Our interpreters taught these

beautiful children Bible stories and Christian songs in Spanish.

While we sat under the best shade tree available, mothers come close and listened intently to the stories. When we gave gifts to the children, mothers brought babies and asked for gifts for them, also. This gave us the opportunity to teach parents the songs their children learned that day.

Our theme for the day was God's love. I will never forget those children bowing their heads and asking Jesus to come into their hearts. Later, we heard them walking around the school, still singing. When I sat down on a log to rest, I immediately had 10 little girls around me giggling, touching my skin and hair and wanting hugs. Living in such isolation, I assume they had never seen white people before.



My favorite game was bouncing balls in the air with the parachute while laughing kids ran under it. We left a parachute at each school.

It was very rewarding to know that the school had lights for the first time. The solar power system will impact kids for the next 30 years. When we left, they had school supplies, soccer balls, a DVD player, educational and Christian DVD's, plus teacher and school supplies to last months. I also knew these children and many of their parents were touched in an eternal way.

The scene was similar at each of the three schools. More than 150 children were impacted on this trip. We pray that the seeds we planted will last a lifetime and will be watered by many



A Summer's Evening with Ross & Laura Hauck

Love Songs



rescheduled to

SUN. JUNE 28, 2009

6:00PM GOURMET DINNER

\$15/ person Pre-Paid Reservation - CALL 513-541-5676

7:30PM OPEN CONCERT

NO charge - Donation

VENUE: College Hill Presbyterian Church
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more people along the way. We intend to stay in touch with these schools and find ways to meet more of their needs.

We appreciate the efforts by SLP to make this trip so comfortable and rewarding. This is just the beginning for us—we'll be back!! We were truly ministered to as much as the children we came to help. We've had many adventures—but this topped them all!

"Up the Mountain" By Jason Dale

[When we] started unloading everything, somebody pointed...up towards the top of a mountain. I didn't understand what they meant, so I just smiled. People started grabbing gear and heading down a path. Nobody had taken the TV yet, so I buckled my backpack, and hoisted it up. I felt really good knowing that I had stepped up and taken one of the heaviest items...that was a very temporary feeling. My arms and hands quickly became fatigued, and the big box began to drop lower and lower. I had gone only 100 yards, and I was dead tired...it was obvious to my new Honduran friend, Sady, that I wasn't going to make it with that TV. He pointed to the solar panel he was carrying, and effortlessly took the TV from me. He balanced it on his shoulder, and off he went as if it weighed nothing (did I mention Sady is a weight lifter?).

Okay, so I wasn't going to deliver the TV, but I was now carrying a solar panel—a vital component to the system, and weighs only 15-20 lbs! As I trekked along, we crossed the river balancing on rocks, then the path started going up and up. Much of it was loose gravel, other parts were rocky. It dawned on me that the school was what they were



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Due to the isolation of the region and the rugged terrain (see photos), this team will be encountering some big challenges as they step out in faith to bring light into darkness.

pointing out to me when we arrived; this was going to be a very long hike.

The temperature was rising...The panel, which seemed so light earlier, was now becoming heavier and heavier. I'd been carrying it for about an hour, holding it in all different positions, and I was seriously beginning to doubt if I would make it. I took a break and sat on the ground with the panel in front of me.

I managed to start trudging along again, but it was slow going. Hondurans passed me left and right, carrying whatever they could...up to the school to watch the project. A local gentleman gestured to me to hand the solar panel to him. I didn't really want to, but I was spent, so I passed the panel to him and off he went, quickly out of sight ahead.

I honestly thought after ditching the solar panel, the rest of the hike would be a piece of cake; I should be able to walk forever with only my backpack. Whether it was the heat, the altitude, my lack of conditioning or a combination, after an hour and a half of this hike...I was really beat. I'm sure it was clear that the tall "gringo" was struggling. When I was about at the end of my rope, an elderly Honduran woman tried to take my pack from me. She couldn't have weighed more than 80 lbs. herself. That was the last straw!!! She was persistent, but I told her "no thanks." Trying to salvage what little dignity I had left, I determined to get myself and my sad little pack up to the school...Thankfully, I made it. They tell me it was 2 hours up the mountain. I wish I had photos of it, but it was such a humbling experience that it's probably better that I don't.

The previous morning at Mei and Mau's home, I read Ezekiel 16:49: *"Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy."* That morning, with the comfortableness of my life, I really related to my vulnerability to the sins of Sodom. I told God that I wanted to be uncomfortable on this trip so that I could be more effective for His purposes. Needless to say, God granted my request...in a big way! I didn't even recognize it as it was happening. Just like Sodom, I was arrogant. I didn't want to hand over the solar panel to the Honduran

who saw I needed help—that was an arrogant attitude. I wanted to do it myself. That attitude denies others the blessing of helping and contributing and being a part of the project. So God didn't give me any choice—he humbled me and made sure I had to accept help. I'm extremely grateful that he didn't force me to give up my pack to the elderly Honduran woman!!!

Although it was difficult (and uncomfortable), I thank God for that mountain and the privilege of serving Him.

Big Goals Require "Big Faith"

SonLight Power is gearing up for a very big summer. We feel called by God to install systems in 25 schools this year—about half the total number we have installed in the first six years of our ministry. We will be sending four teams to Honduras this summer.



The **June I team**, departing on June 5 is comprised of Sharon Civitello, Jay Kittenbrink, Marcus Schuelke, Jeff, Caleb and

Hannah Kenney from Minnesota, Phil Ponicsan from Middletown and our founder, Allen Rainey. They will be based in Choluteca and will install systems in three area schools.

The second and third teams depart on June 12. The **June II-A team**, self-dubbed the "Knucklehead Team," will be led by Mark Fay. The team is made up of Mark and Luke Fay, Lance, Mitchell and Parker Brown, and Carl and David Wiers. Their adventure in the Patuca Region will begin with 6 hours on rough roads in a 4WD vehicle followed by a couple hours in a boat on the Patuca River.

They will arrive in Las Milpas where they will begin installing a system at the medical clinic there.

The next day they depart for Los Mables on foot. After hiking and riding several hours, using mules and horses to haul their equipment to the top of the hill, they will install a system at the school there. After a couple days on top of the hill, they will hike back down to finish their installation at the bottom of the hill. The following day, they will boat and hike to the next install site at Los Pansitos.



The **June II-B team**, will be lead by Allen and will include Bart & Rachel Sauer, Teri MacGregor from

Lexington and Michael Skinner from San Francisco. They will be based in San Marcos and will be installing systems in three local schools.

Our plans for the June teams are ambitious, to say the least. This is first the time we have ever fielded two teams simultaneously. We find ourselves a little scared and a lot excited! This is one of the steps we need to take if we are to complete the task set before us of installing systems in 400+ schools in the next several years. Please pray for God's peace and wisdom (and organization!) to accomplish His work.

Our **July team** leaves on July 25 and includes Allen, Kevin St. Cyr and Jason Dale. This team will be installing systems in 3 schools in the Choluteca Region. **There are still five spots open on this team—please join us!**

Growing Pains & Gains

Ever since God led Allen to found SonLight Power in 2002, He has been faithful to provide for our every need. As SLP continues to grow, Allen is no longer able to tend to all that needs to be done on a daily basis.

Andrea Brown has been donating 4-5 hours a week for the past three years to help with clerical and organizational tasks. As the workload grew, these few hours were not adequate, so the board voted to hire her for 15 hours a week for 7 weeks. Many things that had been piling up (literally) have been addressed but there is much left to do.

We realize that we have reached the point at which we need support staff to help Allen at least 15 hours a week on an ongoing basis. Currently, we do not have the funds; we are trusting God to provide for our needs. Please prayerfully consider increasing your support of SLP to enable us to grow through this challenge.

We are excited about what God can do once Allen has been released from the mundane tasks of running the office.

Allen needs YOU to be a Beamer now!

Fifty more Beamers are needed to complete Allen's support team and release him to tell the SonLight Power story country wide. Beamers donate \$25/mo or \$300/year toward Allen's personal support. Call or go to www.SonLightPower.org to donate.

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