

Lifeline

Keeping the Sunset family connected
SUNSET INTERNATIONAL BIBLE INSTITUTE • SUMMER 2014



SUNSET →
Means the World.



**Solar Event
Update
pg. 4**



Reaching the Neglected Masses

*“Those who were not told about Him will see,
and those who have not heard will understand.”*

Romans 15:21

Paul’s mission and aim in life was to share the word of God with those who would have no other opportunity to hear. So, in Romans 15:21-23 he challenged the church at Rome to support his proposed mission to those in Spain who were not being reached with the Gospel. To give his personal mission Biblical authority, Paul quoted an obviously Messianic passage from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 52:15). The context begins with the familiar reference to “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news,” and then it leads right into Isaiah 53 and the portrait of the “suffering servant” who “bore the sins of many.” The burning desire to reach the neglected and unreached masses bookends Paul’s entire ministry. The mission to Spain was not an aberration or isolated event. It was just one more natural step in an on-going mission strategy.

As you turn the pages of *Lifeline*, you will read about something we have call the **Solar Event**. You will read that faithful financial partners have helped us to reach and surpass our **Phase One** goal to provide solar-powered audio players to church leaders, preachers and missionaries in the remote villages of three African nations.

The 2014 **Solar Event for Zimbabwe, Ghana and Liberia** represents a step in the right direction but not the end-all. There are dozens of other nations in Africa where electricity is scarce or non-existent and where there are populations of adults who cannot read who need to be taught God’s word. Multiply that by thousands of communities in Asia, South and Central America and Mexico who “have not heard.”


The strategy is to provide solar players loaded with Gospel teaching, an audio Bible and Christian hymns to one mission field after another, in English where applicable, and translated into the local languages where needed.

The solar-powered missions strategy can impact millions around the world by providing:

- An innovative way to teach those who live with no electrical power.
- Verbal teaching to proclaim “faith by hearing” for those who cannot read.
- A Bible teaching and preaching tool for remote village congregations that have no local preacher or knowledgeable teachers.
- An effective and economical way to reach unreached areas of the world when preachers and missionaries are simply not available in sufficient numbers to reach all of the communities.
- A preacher training curriculum for those who have no access to good training schools.
- A way to multiply the efforts of existing Gospel workers by providing a way to teach in several locations at the same time.

Providing 400 hours of Bible and Bible teaching in solar-powered devices is not so much an “isolated event” as it is a significant part of an ongoing missions strategy to reach those who otherwise would have no opportunity to be taught “the whole counsel of God.”

As you continue to participate in the next **Solar Event**, you will be helping to take the Gospel to the unreached in the next phase of a mission strategy to reach significant populations of neglected souls. Paul encouraged the Christians at Rome to take the next step in reaching the unreached. Let’s do the same.



**CHRIST
REIGNS
SUPREME**
STUDIES FROM COLOSSIANS

**SUNSET VISION WORKSHOP
JANUARY 21-24, 2015**

**MARK THE DATE
PLAN TO ATTEND
SPREAD THE WORD**

THANK YOU FOR FULLY SUPPORTING PHASE I OF THE SOLAR EVENT





Goal Already Reached for the 2,000 Solar-Powered Audio Players

Earlier this year we asked Churches of Christ and interested individuals across the nation for gifts to provide 2,000 solar-powered audio players to the African nations of Ghana, Liberia and Zimbabwe.

The official target date to receive the gifts for the SOLAR EVENT and the official launch of implementation for Phase I was March 30, 2014. The goal has already been reached and gifts continue to come in. Hundreds of congregations from 35 states and hundreds of individuals participated in this great effort.

Because of the generosity of so many so quickly, we were able to begin delivery and distribution right away. In fact, over 400 players have already been delivered and distributed in Zimbabwe and Liberia and more are on the way. The first shipment to Ghana should arrive soon.

Exciting Early Returns

With these first deliveries there are already encouraging "early returns." Excitement is spreading. The solar players are already being used to evangelize in many areas, including prisons and schools. Leaders in these countries are already describing how many more congregations can now have regular Bible teaching using the solar players. Yes, the solar player is capturing the imagination of brethren here and in Africa. One preacher in Zimbabwe was so enthused that he blurted out "*Who thought of this thing?*" when he got a solar player.

Follow Up Strategy and Commitment

Our commitment was and is to get 2,000 solar players delivered and distributed during 2014 to Ghana, Liberia and Zimbabwe. As we shared above, that effort has already begun. In addition to following through on our commitment, we will also conduct training sessions with church leaders and other trusted brethren who have accepted the responsibility to see that the solar players are distributed in the best places and used in a way that will bring the intended fruit. We will be closely involved in this entire process. Sunset personnel will regularly be taking in more solar players, helping with training, chronicling results, providing reports and learning lessons to help improve future efforts.

More Requests – The Word is Out

Not only have more opportunities already opened up in the three nations of Phase I, Ghana, Liberia and Zimbabwe, but the word is out around the world about the solar player. Requests are arriving from many more nations and most continents. Not only are there requests from more nations in Africa, but also requests are coming from Asia, India and Spanish-speaking countries and many other places asking if they can have solar players. We have already been praying for wisdom and guidance.

Since We Reached the Goal - What Now?

Reaching the goal is such a wonderful blessing for which we continue to give thanks to the Father above. We are grateful for so many generous and committed supporters. But this moment also brings decisions. What will be done with gifts



Top: Preachers from the Mutare Bible School in Zimbabwe line up to receive the solar-powered audio players.

Left: Chris Swinford packs solar-powered audio players to carry to Liberia.

above the goal? What do we need to do to ensure successful follow up? How do we respond to the many requests from around the world asking to receive solar players for their nation? These are some of the questions being contemplated.

Because Phase I is the first nationwide fund raising effort of its kind for Sunset and because we will deliver and distribute solar players to three nations where we will be training many people in multiple locations how to use the solar player this presents several logistical challenges. Because the solar player is actually a "first of its kind" mission strategy, we think we should maintain a singular focus on carrying out a successful execution of this effort. Without specific experience on this type mission strategy, we want to make sure we can faithfully and effectively carry out every aspect of this effort before expanding the effort. Therefore, we think it is prudent to dedicate all available resources, even any over subscription, to the current successful implementation of Phase I.

This does not mean that we have forgotten all of the other opportunities and requests that are begging a response. It just means that we will be good stewards if we execute Phase I in such a way that it is a solid foundation of implementation which can then inform, guide and bless what we anticipate will be a multi-phase effort over time in many nations on several continents.

Things are already moving well. Strategy sessions have already been held about what should be the next steps. We keenly feel the responsibility to reach others. However, our best path forward is to build on a solid rock at the beginning. But we are eager to reach others as well with the Gospel.

Updates Coming

Among the commitments we have made to this project is the one to keep our supporters and the brotherhood well informed. As we make periodic deliveries and distributions, we will be regularly and visibly informing you of the progress that is being made.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. This is not only using an innovative development of solar technology, but it has allowed us to develop a whole new mission initiative that was not available before. We are breaking new ground in taking the Gospel to places it has never been before and probably would not have been able to go otherwise.

(Top right pictures) Preachers in Liberia excited to receive their solar-powered audio players from Sunset.

(Bottom right) Two young preachers in Zimbabwe ready to use the audio players.

(Below) A group of school children that will hear lessons from the audio player.



Report from Zimbabwe July 2014

(As we deliver the solar-powered audio players to Africa, we are compiling individual reports about each visit. More reports can be found at <http://www.sibi.cc/solar>.)

My recent trip to Zimbabwe was mainly for the distribution of the solar players. The primary avenue of distribution was through the faculty and students of the Mutare School of Preaching. The first solar player was given to the Chairman of the Board of the school who works with several congregations to the southwest of the school.

Eighty players were distributed to students of the school who will use them to reinforce and deepen their training and to help them prepare the lessons they will give at various congregations, especially during their ten-week field practice. They will do evangelistic studies and strengthen the church and new converts.

The students and faculty see the solar player as a great tool for their work, which is why they stood in line in the hot sun to receive the solar players.

During the break at the workshop Saturday night, I walked over to visit with some men at the barbecue pit who were cooking for the group. As I got closer I could hear the solar player. They had hooked up the solar player to the car radio and were listening to the book of Genesis, and it was loud enough for all around to hear.

I was also able to give solar players to two church leaders from Mozambique who live just across the border. They serve congregations who are struggling without preachers.

Others took solar players. The preachers in Zimbabwe are very evangelistic and are willing to travel great distances in order to save the lost and strengthen the saved. They view the solar players as a great tool for their work. They are very grateful for the solar players and thankful that we were able to make them available in Zimbabwe.

Tim Burow, Dean of International Studies

Total Solar Units
Delivered to Date: 614



SUNSET
Means the World

SUNSET INTERNATIONAL 83RD GRADUATE BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY



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*Luke Beard
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*Joshua Beck
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*James Blair
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*Michael Cantrell
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*Michael Hyams
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Port Elizabeth, South
Africa*



*William Mitcham, Jr.
Texas City, Texas*



*Mary Mitcham
Texas City, Texas*



*Kari-Ann Mitchell
School Missions*



*Kamohelo Oliphant
School of Missions,
Lesotho*



*Lindsey Peebles
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*Allen Phillips
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*Thomas Pruett
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*Michael Thys
Hempstead, Texas*



*Loran Wagener
Diamond Spring,
California*



*Danny Wilson
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*Ravy Wilson
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School of Missions,
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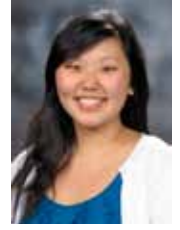
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Elissa Wagener
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MASTER OF BIBLICAL STUDIES



Nick Perez



Kevin Smith

BACHELOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES by EXTERNAL STUDIES



Lorenzo Carl Hanna, Jr.



Gary Kiser

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS NEEDED



35-40 NEW students are hoping to begin their Bible training on August 11.
An additional \$6,000/month in scholarship funds would provide future ministers, missionaries and Gospel preachers with the remainder of their support needs.

Please help provide for these and others.

YES count on me/us to help support the training of preachers, & missionaries of God's Word.

YES, I/we will help. Enclosed is my one-time gift in the amount of \$ _____.

YES, I/we will help on a monthly basis in the amount of \$ _____ per month.

Please use my money for the support of the Solar Event.

You may also give online by clicking the "Donate" button at www.sibi.cc

Name: _____ Email: _____

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Gifts in honor of or in memory of provide an excellent way to follow the biblical principle of "honor to whom honor is due," while supporting fruitful and worthy ministries.

We would like to give a gift to the Sunset International Bible Institute of \$ _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of (*Occasion*) _____

This gift is from (Name): _____

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Send to: **Sunset • Attention: Truitt Adair • 3723 34th Street • Lubbock, TX 79410**

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DEPARTURES

Bruce Thornton, 63, was diagnosed a few months ago with a rare but deadly disease which took his life early Saturday morning, July 26, 2014. Bruce was a beloved elder and long-time member of the Sunset Church of Christ in Lubbock, having grown up at Sunset, attending the earliest meetings of the congregation as a child in his parents' arms. As a young man, he learned the heating, air conditioning and plumbing trade and began his own business with nothing but his skill, a keen business mind and faith. His business grew into one of the largest and most respected in Lubbock, with over 120 employees. For all of his business achievements, Bruce considered his spiritual pursuits even more important. He made 22 mission trips to India and Africa, helping to plant and strengthen congregations and equip leaders. He worked closely with Gary Walker, fellow-elder and founder of India City Evangelism, in developing and growing the ministry. Bruce has served for over a decade as the Vice-Chairman of the SIBI Board of Directors and as a member of the Sunset Council. He and his wife, Janelle, have been generous supporters of the various ministries and people of the Bible Institute. In May of 2010 Bruce completed the funding and construction of the SIBI World Missions Center, which houses our Missions Department, International Division and Spanish language interactive classes. Bruce will be missed by the Sunset Church, by Sunset International Bible Institute, by thousands of Christians in nations around the world, and, of course, by his loving family. Because of the love of God and the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, Bruce is now at home.



Bruce on one of his 22 trips to India.



Bruce and Janelle with Truitt Adair at the ribbon cutting for the World Missions Center in May 2010.



Darrell Boswell, '73, died unexpectedly November 21, 2013, in Searcy, Arkansas. Please pray for his wife Sue.

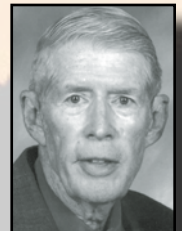
Kenneth Hoover, Sunset Council Member, died June 30, 2014, at the age of 77. Kenneth served with zealous commitment and an effective preaching ministry in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arizona; however his message of Good News transcended these United States and many places around the world.



Bertha Jaramillo, wife of Manuel Jaramillo, '80, died January 15, 2014, at the age of 70. Manny and Bertha served in ministry for many years at the Third and Kilgore Church of Christ in Portales, New Mexico. Two of their children, Bill Jaramillo and Rosa McCurtain, graduated from Sunset in 2000.



Gordon Kemper, Missions '81, died from Parkinson's disease September 30, 2013, in Leander, Texas, at the age of 81. In 1981 he graduated from the Missions program at the Sunset School of Preaching, and for the next three years he and his wife, Mary Nell, lived in Mexico City. There they taught at the International American School, and he preached for an English-speaking church.



Upon returning to the states, Kemper established Casa Sonrisa, a children's home in Torreon, Mexico. For the last two decades, this endeavor has helped hundreds of children, while remaining an all-volunteer work in the United States.

Robert "Bob" Lamp, '72, died June 11, 2014. After graduating from Sunset, Bob preached in Waynesboro, Georgia; Tahoka, Texas; Hialeah, Florida; and Lake Worth, Florida. After many years of poor health, Bob died of respiratory failure and COPD. He is survived by his wife Sandy and two sons.

Joe Owen Sr., WFR '76, died July 20, 2013, at the Northeast Louisiana War Veteran's Home in Monroe, Louisiana, at the age of 85. Joe moved to West Monroe, Louisiana, in 1974 to attend the Whites Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies, later serving as instructor. He later preached at the Bethel Church of Christ in Calvin, Louisiana. He returned to Calhoun, Louisiana, to work as a warehouse and shipping manager at Howard Publishing and caretaker and cook of Camp Ch-Yo-Ca. During this time he preached at Cotton Valley Church of Christ and St. Joseph Church of Christ in Tensas Parish. He helped establish congregations at Lakeview, Tacoma, Washington, and West Ouachita Church of Christ.



Andrew Rieder, Ex-AIM Class 2006, died as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident in Huntsville, Alabama, on November 18, 2013, at the age of 34.



Sheila Shakra-Wierda (wife of Mal Shakra, '77, who passed away in 2001) passed away June 26, 2014. Her late husband was the preacher at Sunset Church of Christ in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Sheila remarried and was living in Montana.

E. R. Watson, friend of several Sunset instructors, has gone on to be with the Lord. He died unexpectedly on April 3, 2014, at the age of 83 in Friona, Texas. He preached in several small churches and hosted campaigns from Sunset many times. He was close to Ted Kell and Richard Rogers and could quote scriptures along with them.



The AIM program begins with a new class every August. The new students are involved in very intensive classroom training, however much of the training happens outside of the classroom. Each year we travel thousands of miles to various camps, churches and workshops, which creates a challenge for the appropriate kind of transportation we need, and borrowing or chartering transportation becomes a very difficult problem. More than 10 years ago the Lone Oak Church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky (the sponsoring congregation for Kris and Barb Smith), began loaning their bus to AIM to make their annual trip to bring the class out to Paducah. They would drive their bus to Lubbock and then fly home while we would use the bus to travel to Kentucky and the World Missions Workshop and then head back to Lubbock. Afterward they would fly back to Lubbock and drive their bus back to Kentucky. I know of very few who would be willing to do that, but they have continued for many years. This year Lone Oak was able to buy a newer bus and the church decided to give their older, well-maintained bus to the AIM program.

I have dreamed for years of so many possibilities we would have in ministry, recruiting and our training if we had the right transportation, but the cost of chartering was so high that we could only dream. If it were physically possible, I believe I would have hundreds and hundreds of past, current and future AIM students standing alongside of the AIM staff to tearfully say, "Thank you!" Our purpose for the bus is to ultimately increase our recruiting efforts, travel safely and open the door to service and training opportunities that have so far been unavailable because of transportation limitations. I am so thankful and proud to be a part of the work of the Lone Oak Church of Christ!

Kris Smith, Director of AIM



Renewed Excitement About Sunset's Deaf Ministry Program

The 53rd National Deaf Christian Workshop was hosted by the Sunset Church of Christ this past June. There were around 135 participants in the workshop from all over the United States. The theme of the workshop was *How Beautiful Are the Feet of Those Who Bring Good News*. The workshop was a great success and helped to highlight the fact that there is a great need in deaf ministry around the world. It has been said that there are more than 70 million people who use sign language to communicate and that only 2% of the deaf population have heard the Gospel message.

Because of this, Sunset International Bible Institute has renewed their effort to train more Gospel preachers for the deaf. Mike and Kim Cantrell ('14 alumni) are planning to be part of the Missions program at Sunset this fall and are currently seeking support to begin working in Mexico City, Mexico, where there is already a small deaf congregation in need of assistance as well as over a million deaf individuals in just this city alone. We have also brought Enrique Gonzalez, one of the leading members of the deaf church in Mexico City, to train for the next three years at Sunset so that he will be better equipped to return to his home country and preach the Gospel.

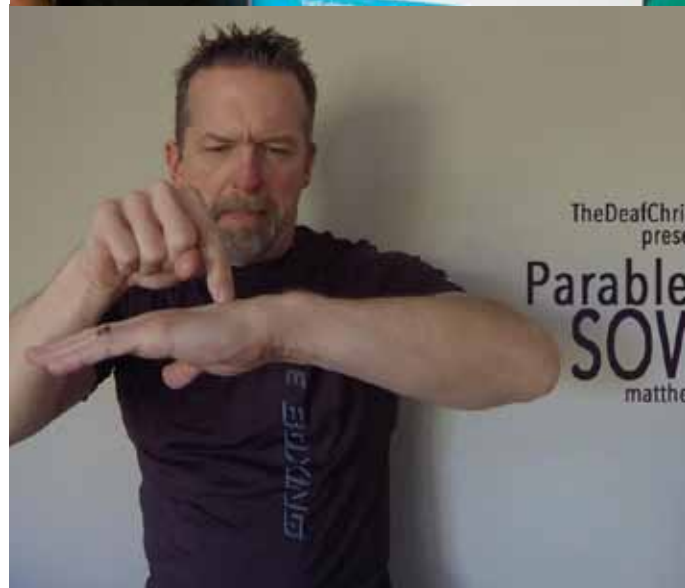
Another part of our vision for the future of deaf ministry is to begin *live streaming* all of the deaf classes online. Deaf individuals around the country will be able to watch the class live online and communicate with the instructors via a chat room discussion as well as direct video communication. Several have shown interest in this new method of learning as they can take classes but still live in their communities assisting with their local congregations. Mark Lowenstein ('99 alumnus) has agreed to serve as an adjunct instructor and will be teaching classes online from where he is a local minister in Phoenix, Arizona. This will allow him to continue ministering to one of our larger deaf congregations in the United States.

There are eight students who will be enrolled this fall in our residential program here in Lubbock, Texas, and we are eager to watch God continue to work in their lives as they prepare to move into full-time ministry. While we are excited about the way God continues to work in our work with the deaf, none of this comes without cost, and we are currently looking for strategic partners who will assist us in training deaf men and women to reach out to the millions of deaf in their own language with the Gospel.

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' - Romans 10:14-15

Dennis Wilson, Deaf Instructor

Pictured right from top to bottom: Logo for the 2014 National Deaf Christian Workshop, Mike and Kim Cantrell assisting with the workshop, Enrique Gonzalez, and Mark Lowenstein telling the Parable of the Sower



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