



## *Solar power has been successfully installed at Kabala Christian School!*

May 2012

### **QUIET POWER HAS ARRIVED:**

For those familiar with the clanking, hum and fuel cost of generator power, we have exciting news! Solar power has been installed at the school. Solar power will provide the obvious benefit of improved lighting, increasing the building's capacity to serve community needs both day and night. It will also support the use of computers, printers and fans in the school office and library.



### **ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT:**

The newly installed solar power system will feature a charging station for cell phones and electronics, potentially generating sufficient funds for future maintenance and upgrades to the system. Managing this 'small business' may be a good opportunity for a team of students each year!

### **MAINTENANCE & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Kabala Christian School provided four people to be part of a training session which covered basic solar power installation and, more critically, the administration of the charging station. This was done in conjunction with the solar installation, providing practical experience to go along with the theory. 'Energy for Opportunity' will continue to support this new installation with a dedicated staff person for a few weeks to ensure the basic processes put in place are understood and followed. It has been great to see pictures of Junior Secondary School students poring over solar manuals!



## A FUTURE WITH COMPUTERS:

'Energy for Opportunity' has installed a computer lab in the nearby town of Kamakwie, and so far, all is going well! Basic community classes are being taught on: general computer orientation, Microsoft Word, and Excel. Viruses are combatted by a daily cleaning of the hard drive.

We are observing this venture closely to see what can be learned. We envision that computer-equipped education will be made available to Kabala Junior Secondary School students in the future.



## A NOTE FROM JO KUYVENHOVEN:

"One might think that I should be the most cynical of all of us, but I have every confidence that this project provides huge value! It offers authentic learning and applications; the staff is committed to participating and learning about solar power, business and other extensions; the project offers means to generate needed income for its own sustained maintenance. It is a model for energy in a place where generators (petrol, pollution of air and sound waves ...) are the norm."

"The school staff, having recently each received a home-solar package are keen to understand the technology. As they keep tasting its benefits at home, they will bring this model of clean energy into their teaching. I'm really positive on this one."



*We are 'positive' on this one too, and we thank each of you who support 'Schools for Sierra Leone'. For those of us at a distance, it's striking to note that students are maturing in each new batch of pictures. We continue to move towards a higher quality of education that is sustainable in the region, and that will serve students for years to come.*

*Remember to pray for the sixth graders as they take the National Standardized Test in June.*

Grace and peace to you,

### **John Loeks**

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