



### Solar Light for Africa

When Bishop Alden Hathaway visited the Mustard Seed Babies Home in Hoima, Uganda, in 1997, there was no electricity, no light. He worried about the impact of long, dark hours on orphanage matrons caring for their youngest charges (most of whom had lost parents to AIDS), and

on older children's reading and study time. With his energy-consultant son, the bishop convinced congregations in his diocese to finance Mustard Seed's solar electrification, and soon the Ugandan archdiocese issued an international appeal for funds to help light up other communities and churches. Today, in addition to supplying solar electricity to more than 2,000 rural facilities in East Africa through its Village Electrification programs, SLA is completing its fourth Clean Water Project using solar powered pumping and irradiation systems – and plans to complete 70 more over the next 10 years. SLA also sponsors cross-cultural exchanges and partnerships among African and American churches, businesses, and private individuals who want to bring solar electricity to rural African communities. Simply put, your support turns darkness into light.

#### WISH LIST

*\$250: electrify one Village Power home;*  
*\$500: electrify a school, clinic, or community center (recipients provide matching funds);*  
*\$25,000: electrify 100 homes in a rural village.*

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*(I wrote for the Catalogue last summer on contract. This is one of my pieces.)*