

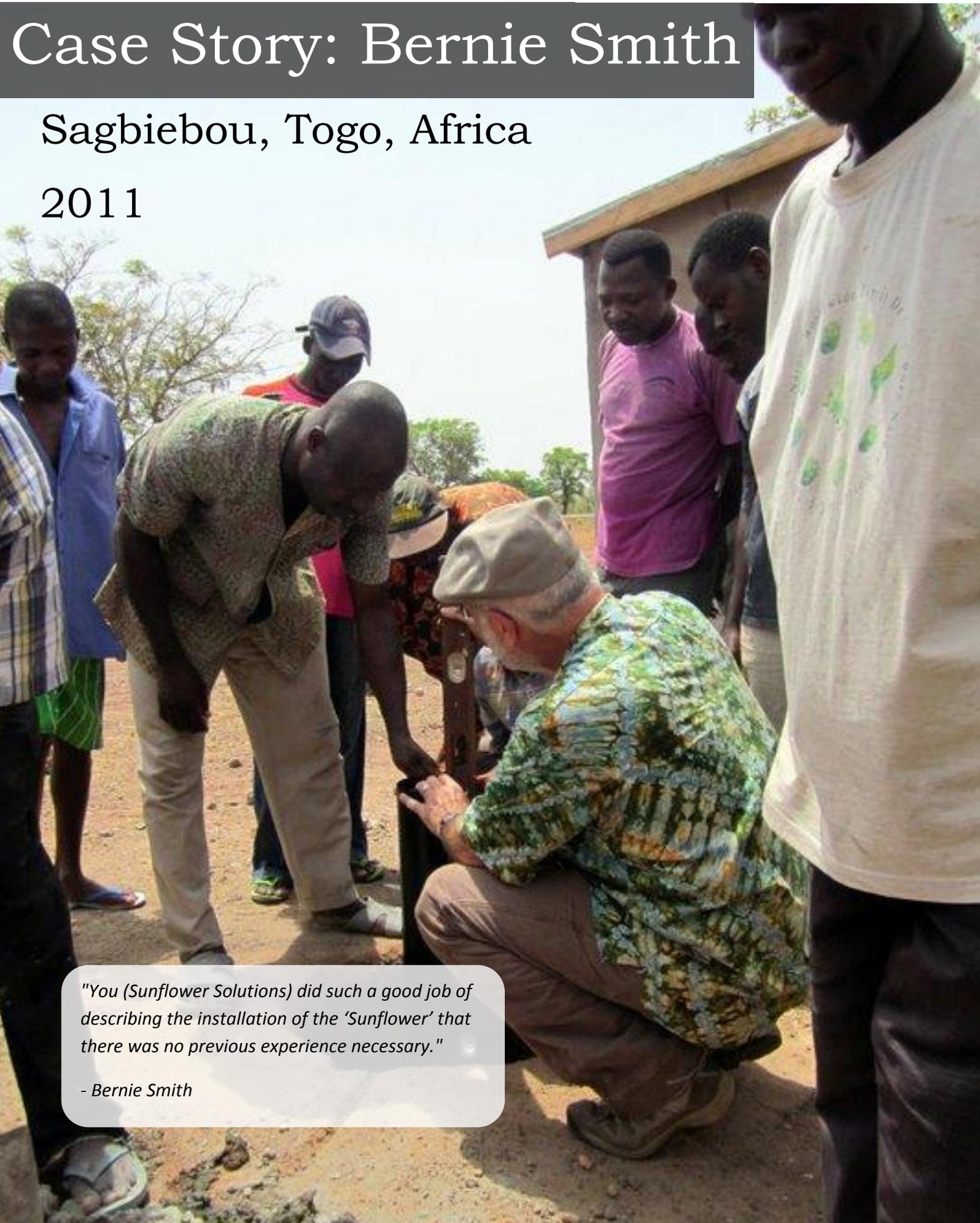


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# Case Story: Bernie Smith

Sagbiebou, Togo, Africa

2011



*"You (Sunflower Solutions) did such a good job of describing the installation of the 'Sunflower' that there was no previous experience necessary."*

*- Bernie Smith*

## Installation in Togo, Africa

Bernie Smith has been a missionary in Africa for well over 15 years. As part of the Togo Assemblies of God he helped start the Bible Institute in Sagbiebou, Togo, in 2008 to train pastors in the northern area of the country. The campus is very remote and there is no electricity, even gasoline must be shipped over 20 miles just to run a generator.

Bernie knew that bringing electricity to this school was an essential part of its growth and for the community at large. With their lack of access to electricity, the school lacked basic amenities and Bernie struggled to realize his full vision for what the school could be.

Bernie was “interested in seeing how [Sunflower’s] system may help us reach our goals for less than a one-size-fits-all complete system.” As a simple, low cost, understandable and easy to install solar power system, Sunflower Solutions was the perfect fit for Bernie.

Bernie first discovered Sunflower Solutions through a family friend who told him that Sunflower Solutions could help him emPower his school, even in such a remote region of the world. Bernie called Sunflower Solutions and talked through what his solar goals for the school were and how Sunflower Solutions could help provide the electricity he needed.

Bernie then spent several months raising money for his dream of providing a better life and a better school for the people of Togo.

When he was ready, Sunflower Solutions provided Bernie a complete turnkey solar power system to meet Bernie’s needs for 30% less than the next lowest price Bernie was able to find anywhere else.

Sunflower Solutions helped coordinate shipping and sent his supplies to the port where Bernie had a container that would also be shipping over other much needed equipment to Togo and to this school.



**Bernie Smith, missionary to Togo, where electricity is scarce and the sun is plentiful.**



**Bernie leading the installation of his new emPower Plant™.**

Location: [Sagbiebou, Togo, Africa](#)

Organization: [Assemblies of God World Missions](#)

Scope of Project: [Powering the Bible Institute at Sagbiebou, Togo](#)

Products Used: [Sunflower Solutions' emPower Plant™ Solar Power System](#)

Website: [www.thesunflowersolutions.com](http://www.thesunflowersolutions.com)

Contact: [Christopher Clark](#)

Upon arrival in Togo, Bernie began constructing his new emPower Plant™. Construction of the emPower Plant™ is as simple as solar can get, “If a theologian can put it together, anyone can!” recalls Bernie, who was able to construct his emPower Plant™ with no prior training, utilizing instructions on Sunflower Solutions’ website, as well as installation photos and videos provided from Sunflower Solution’s Facebook page where he was able to see step-by-step pictures of each step in the process.

Bernie coordinated the installation of his new solar equipment while utilizing the local community help throughout the process, a key step to building stronger community involvement.

To finish his project Bernie worked with a local electrician to finish the wiring of his emPower Plant™ into the Bible School and completed the process in May of 2011.

Bernie’s emPower Plant™ now powers the entire school which also doubles as a community centre and runs 70 lights both inside and outside for the school as well as powering laptops, cell phones and projectors when needed.

When asked how his experience was Bernie said, “Sunflower Solutions has been very helpful and encouraging throughout the project... The director of the school couldn’t be happier!”



The emPower Plant™ in Togo.



The school’s lights are turned on for the first time.

For more information or for purchasing, please contact us at 216.255.3072 or [info@thesunflowersolutions.com](mailto:info@thesunflowersolutions.com).