



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF SUNNIGHT SOLAR



Mark Bent



uses AA batteries that charge in a day, provide more than seven hours of light and last nearly three years. "The technology was there, but no one

had looked at it the right way yet," says Bent. "I said, 'You tell me how, and I'll make it and get it out to the people who need it.'"

He came up with the idea after spending time with villagers in Africa's Eritrea, on the Red Sea. Like them, an estimated 2 billion people worldwide have no affordable access to light.

When Bent decided to light the world one flashlight at a time, he relied on his Marine Corps training to accomplish the mission. Following successful careers in the military, as a diplomat and as a consultant to the oil industry, he founded and now heads SunNight Solar. Under the company's Buy-One-Give-One program, for every flashlight (\$25) purchased, Bent donates a second light to nonprofits that distribute each where it is needed.

Illumination accomplished.

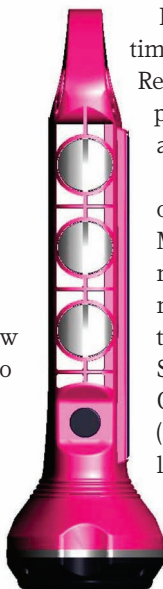
"The new light we are developing will light up an entire room."

Lighting the world

This USAA member had an idea that illuminates — and inspires

Because of a solar-powered flashlight envisioned by Houston USAA member Mark Bent, refugee children in Africa now learn to read at night without exposure to kerosene fumes. In other Third World areas, medical teams see better to care for the sick, and farmers can buy an extra chicken instead of fuel.

Bent worked with experts at American universities, the Department of Energy and even NASA to produce SunNights. The flashlight



BUSINESSWEEK NAMES USAA NO. 1 AGAIN!

For the second year in a row, *BusinessWeek* magazine ranked USAA No. 1 on its "Customer Service Champs" list, announced in the March 3, 2008, issue.

USAA was recognized in part for using technology to improve service. USAA launched a simplified Web site so members using handheld devices to handle finances can access pages faster, *BusinessWeek* wrote. USAA members also can scan checks on their home computers for electronic deposit.

