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# Engineering Majors Serve Tech Needs of Missions Organizations

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Engineering Majors Serve Tech Needs of Missions Organizations**

**CEDARVILLE, OHIO** -- For many students, spring break is a time of rest and relaxation from their studies, but for a group of Cedarville engineering students, the week off was spent using their engineering skills to serve Sonset Solutions, a technological missions organization in Elkhart, Indiana.

Sonset Solutions' mission is to provide technology-based solutions to advance the gospel worldwide. They believe that technology is an avenue to engage people in gospel conversations. Every year, Sonset Solutions equips more than 100 different ministries worldwide with tools, devices, information and support services that will help make their work more effective.

Cedarville University has worked with Sonset Solutions since 1986, when the mission organization first began.

Students on Cedarville's team served in different areas of the plant and assisted in a variety of projects. **Jonathan Stanhope, a mechanical engineering major from Westerville, Ohio**, worked in the machine shop, making and assembling parts for a water pump so people in rural places in other countries can get clean water.

Stanhope learned to use some of the equipment in the shop, such as the lathe and the milling machine. "I learned about how I should keep the manufacturing methods in mind when designing things as a mechanical engineer," he explained.

**Joshua Blackburn (Mount Gilead, Ohio)**, a junior electrical engineering student, worked on projects related to Sonset's power protection systems. Ministry partners in third-world countries often do not receive adequate electrical power, which impacts their radio and computer equipment. Blackburn worked on assembling and testing a power monitoring system that would allow Sonset to remotely monitor and log the voltage levels of multiple power grids.

"This trip showed me a great deal of the sort of technical work that goes on behind the scenes of missions outreaches and the importance of technical people in the missions field," reflected Blackburn. "It was one of the most fun and educational weeks I have ever had."

Ian Bolin, a junior electrical engineering student from Edmeston, New York, helped develop a new version for Sonset's radio, a small solar-powered radio receiver. Sonset has distributed the radio to several ministry partners who have requested that it be able to play an audio Bible. Bolin added this feature to the radio's software.

Sonset is grateful for the help they received from Cedarville's team of engineering students. "They were a great team and helped the important projects that are often pushed to the back burner until we have extra help," said Charlie Jacobson, manager of engineering and development at Sonset Solutions.

"They could work well and move ahead independently," he added "We were under a time crunch with a few of the projects. These students did not need supervision but could adapt well and use their skills to accomplish their goals."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,193 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including its [Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering program](#), strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and leading student satisfaction ratings. For more information about the University, visit [www.cedarville.edu](http://www.cedarville.edu).