

Asante Sana

An unprecedented partnership of faith, love
AND holistic community transformation.

UBORA

Called!

An infant born with a severe birth defect defies odds to survive. Read Kaanankira's story of hope, faith, family and transformation.

p. 4

IMPACT
UPDATE
2021

UboratZ.org



Message from the president

By: Dave Burgess



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God's "Strategy" for Glory in Tanzania

Our family used to play a lot of Boggle, the game where you see who can make the most words out of 16 lettered dice in a tray. After staring intently at the tray for several minutes, each player usually becomes SURE there are no more words to be found – until everyone's lists are compared. There are always many more words in there than each player thought possible. Wow! How in the world did I miss that 7-letter word that snaked its way around the tray?

Isn't it great when this happens with scripture – when new layers of truth leap out of verses you've seen over and over. This happened to me recently through a handful of Proverbs that surrounded the topic of wisdom, with a little help from a Tim Keller podcast. The truth known going in was that God loves to use the meek to advance and glorify his Kingdom. The new layer that emerged gave deeper meaning to the "why" this is the case. I learned that even within the Trinity there is an "other" orientation – since the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are designed to glorify one another. Apparently, using the humble and meek is not only God's "strategy" to glorify, but it is also the basis of His whole structure of the universe!

In thinking about our work in Tanzania, it is apparent that God is working through this seemingly insignificant village, and lifting it up for His glory. We've been blessed to be a part of His plan for nearly 20 years. We should count ourselves as privileged to be a part of a Bible story that is unfolding before us, as we move forward in continued humility ourselves within the story, and learn about the power of meekness from our brothers and sisters.

What does this type of humility look like up close?

It looks like the hug from Millard's mother during the recent Business & Agriculture trip. This goodbye embrace was not your typical "it was nice to meet you" type of hug. This widow and mother of three collapsed into George Peake's arms, laid her head on his chest, and wept tears of joy...and relief. George had just met his new sponsored child, 3-year-old Millard, for the first time--and his mother knew things had changed. The immediate burden of worry about how to provide food had been lifted, and she knew that going forward Millard's life would be changed through the education and love he'll receive at our school. It was deeply moving to witness this mother's act of pure humility, and to see the love of Christ flow to bring tremendous hope and joy. We can learn a lot from mom's pure surrender here.

It looks like the story of Kaanankira. You will be moved by this amazing story of God using the meek to advance his kingdom, through many faithful servants who have emptied themselves along the way. One small part of the story that makes me so proud are his recent Standard 7 scores which far exceeded expectations given Kaanankira's challenges. What matters is how God used His people to take this very humble child to glorify His kingdom. We can learn a lot from Kaanankira's perseverance in humility as well as from those who helped him along the way.

It looks like the partnership with Georgetown Univ. School of Nursing & Health Studies. Have you ever heard the phrase "catching a whale while sitting in a row boat?" This feels like the case with the very exciting partnership we've entered into with Georgetown's nursing school. God has clearly orchestrated this connection between a global leader in healthcare education and the tiny Siha District.

It looks like Mission Trips. Trips have restarted after 18 months! Lee Williams led a tremendous Business & Agriculture (and more) trip, that doubled as a wonderful "homecoming" in November. We are excited to announce that many more trips are in the planning stages for 2022. I encourage and invite you to consider taking part in something that is deeply woven into God's story for Karansi and your own personal walk with Him.

Thank you, Ubora family, for all you are doing to support this ministry. Whether you are volunteering here at home, supporting with funding, or going on mission trips, you are playing a role that fits with how God works, how He ordered the universe, and with how he intends for you to grow close to him in humility.

In His Precious and Holy Name,

Dave

daveburgess@uboratz.org



George, meeting his sponsored child for the first time.



The chance to love and serve the widows.



The pure joy of being together again.

Love and Transformation

A boy born in Tanzania with a severe cleft palate defies odds and becomes a symbol of hope for two communities... and the world

Kaanankira's story spans two continents and over 16 years as people in his local community of Karansi, Tanzania and Atlanta, Georgia have rallied around

the unlikely young hero to provide love, shelter, financial support and medical care.

Kaanankira was born in rural Tanzania with a severe cleft palate. The birth defect made it difficult for him to eat or even breathe. His mother, after seeing her newborn son, knew she couldn't

care for him as she had no access to medical care. His aunt took the child in and provided safety and shelter in her one room home. Eliamulika gave him the name Kaanankira, in Swahili which means, "Stay with the Lord".

Dave Burgess, president of UborA, explained, "Children born with any type of disability are at risk of infanticide in some countries in east Africa due to ancient tribal customs. Thankfully, Kaanankira's life was spared."



Seeking help for the child, Eliamulika turned to Pastor Wariaeli Maphie of Karansi. Pastor Wariaeli had been instrumental in establishing a partnership between his village and Perimeter Church in Atlanta in 2001 for provision of humanitarian aid, which would eventually organize as the non-profit UborATZ. UborA which means "excellence" in Swahili, continues to serve the people and village of Karansi through five impact programs, including child sponsorship, education, business, health and community.

One week in 2005 a group of high school students and group leaders were visiting from Atlanta.

"On the last day of the trip, a woman brought up a baby to the school where we were," said Dave Boy, who was leading the mission trip along with Wendy Williams. "The child had a severe cleft palate. We all felt compassion and an overwhelming need to do something. From the available funds we had on us, we collected enough money for the child to see a doctor, I believe it was \$250."

At that first doctor's appointment, they learned Kaanankira was malnourished because he couldn't get proper suction to breastfeed. He was also very sick with malaria.

"I just stood in the field with my hands on his head and quietly wept over God's amazing work in the life of this precious child."

- Wendy Williams, after seeing Kaanankira for the first time following his surgery

On both sides of the Atlantic, teams mobilized to get Kaanankira the restorative surgery he needed. The team in Tanzania connected with the nonprofit Smile Train; Smile Train in turn located a European doctor who would be in the area and willing to do the surgery. The team in Atlanta raised the \$1500 necessary to cover expenses related to the surgery for Kaanankira.

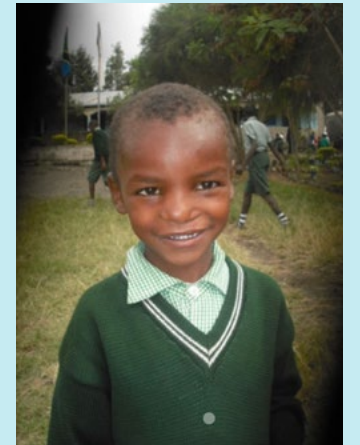
Kaanankira had successful palatoplasty to repair his cleft palate, with outstanding results. The child's birth mother eventually took him back in.



Wendy Williams, a teacher and long-term volunteer and supporter of UborA, returned to the village of Karansi in 2015 for a teacher-mentor mission trip. "On the way to worship, I often ask the children their names - just to repeat it and tell them how beautiful they are," recalled Wendy. "As I looked in this little face, I saw the faint cleft-palate scar. I asked him, 'Jina la ku ni nani?' Very quietly he said something I thought could mean Kaanankira, but I wasn't sure, so I asked his teacher and she confirmed that it was him. He didn't know me and I didn't want to frighten him, so I just stood in the field with my hands on his head and quietly wept over God's amazing work in the life of this precious child."

The Boys became Kaanankira's sponsor. "It was such a tug on my heart when I saw him," said Dave, "I knew he was meant to be our sponsored child."

The monthly sponsorship fee covers all school-related expenses at Siha Leadership School, including two nutritious meals a day. Over the years, the Boys have communicated regularly with Kaanankira through written letters and Zoom calls, and have visited him multiple times. They continue to marvel at his development over the years.



When Kaanankira's father died in 2014, home life once again would prove difficult for the boy. Rather than sending him to school, his mother often kept him home to tend to the cattle in the field.

Another David (Daudi in Swahili) would reach into Kaanankira's life to lend a hand in his ongoing transformation. This time, it was Daudi Mbise, an SLS teacher at the time, who offered to take Kaanankira in and raise him as his own. Daudi soon married Martha, also a teacher at SLS, and the three became a family in 2017. Kaanankira began to do better in school with new found stability in his home life and the loving care of two parents.

(cont. p. 8)



UBORA IMPACT

PROJECT CHILD

449



KIDS SPONSORED IN 2021

223

GRADUATES OF PROJECT CHILD

8



CHILDREN AWAITING SPONSORS

400



FAMILIES TRANSFORMED THROUGH CHILD SPONSORSHIP

100+



ZOOM CALLS IN 2021 WITH SPONSORS AND KIDS

Ubora family,
look what you made possible through your prayers, service and financial support...

2021

UBORA IMPACT

BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURE

1



NEW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM CREATED TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND WORK OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADS

20



BUSINESS CONSULTATIONS WITH KARANSI SHOPKEEPERS IN NOV.

22



LOCAL FARMERS RECEIVED TRAINING FROM NOV. TEAM

38



STUDENTS ATTENDED THE BUSINESS SEMINAR CONDUCTED BY THE NOV. BUSINESS TEAM

UBORA IMPACT

EDUCATION

1



NEW WEBSITE ESTABLISHED FOR SLS

SIHALEADERSHIP.SC.TZ

2



STUDENT HOMES BUILT FOR FUTURE BOARDING STUDENTS AT SLS

3



ALL-STAR UBORA VOLUNTEER PARTNERS WERE ABLE TO RETURN TO TANZANIA... DAVE, MARY ANN AND WENDY D!

175+



TEACHER-MENTOR ZOOM CALLS IN 2021

UBORA IMPACT

COMMUNITY

1



NEW LIBRARY BUILT IN MAGADINI

25,000 BOOKS PROCURED AND ON THE WAY

12



FOOD SILOS INSTALLED AT GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1,414



CHILDREN HEARD THE GOSPEL AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

87



WIDOWS ENJOYED SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP & ENCOURAGEMENT WITH THE NOVEMBER TEAM

UBORA IMPACT

HEALTH

1



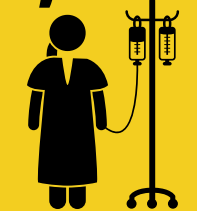
PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED-- GEORGETOWN UNIV. SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH STUDIES

4



LIVES SAVED BY OPERATING ROOM CARDIAC MONITOR AT SIHA HOSPITAL

1,650



PATIENTS SERVED PER MONTH (OUTPATIENT) IN 2021 AT SIHA HOSPITAL-- UP 225% FROM 2020

At the beginning of 2021, two containers arrived in Siha with more than \$2.5 million in donated medical equipment and supplies. These life-saving shipments were made possible through the prayers and support of the Ubora family.

hope

love

impact

Kaanankira's family now includes a little brother, Delvis, and sister, Delvina. "In his letters, he is so thrilled that he has a little brother and sister," said Karla Boy. "That has congealed him closer in the family. It just thrills my heart."

The Standard 7 National Exams were held in September for all students in Tanzania. Martha and Daudi encouraged, prayed and coached Kaanankira in preparation for the test. "We worked on helping build his self confidence that he was capable, prepared and would do well on the exam," said Martha.

"Not only did the entire class do very well on the exams, but we were especially proud of Kaanankira who scored a B on the exam," reported Headmaster Daniel Lepapa.

"We thank God and are so glad for his performance," said Martha. "Before that, we believed he could do it. We were praying for him every day."

"Martha invested and believed in his ability to pass the 7th grade test," said Dave Boy. "This is such a victory and something to be celebrated. The fact that he got a B is a big deal in Tanzania."

Kaanankira is quite well known in his home of Karansi and also by many people in and around Atlanta associated with Ubora. "He's always had so many people praying for him," said Dave Burgess.

So, what's next for Kaanankira? In January, he will enter secondary school in Tanzania.

He believes there is a call on his life, said Martha, "to be a great man, a pastor."

"To watch his transformation has been such a blessing," said Karla. "The biggest thing we noticed, in his early pictures up to age 4 or 7, there were not too many smiles. That has all changed. Now in every picture he has a big smile. He's doing so much better than he was early in life."

"Kaanankira believes that God has truly delivered him into wonderful opportunities," said David Boy. "He sees that. It has been an amazing story."



At SLS Graduation, with his mother, Martha, brother Delvis and sister, Delvina.



On a Zoom call with friends in America. Kaanankira hopes to one day be a pastor.

CHANGE A LIFE, SPONSOR A CHILD:
UBORATZ.ORG/SPONSOR

IMPACT in Action



Improving Health in Tanzania

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership with Georgetown University School of Nursing & Health Studies (GNHS) to provide healthcare screenings and trainings for people in the Siha District.

Problem: Tanzania has among the worst doctor to patient ratios in the world estimated at .31 doctors per 10,000 population. Many Tanzanians have never seen a doctor before. Residents in rural areas (like Siha District) are more likely to be impacted by this lack of access to physicians and modern medical care.

Impact: In 2022, we will have undergraduate nurses from GNHS going to the region to address this problem. Longer term, GNHS will train Tanzanian doctors and nurses to provide a local solution.

So how did this happen? Like so many other providential encounters in our history, we believe it was orchestrated by God!

The partnership first started when Kris Walker, one of our health impact leaders, initiated a casual conversation about Ubora and Tanzania in her kitchen with an acquaintance from GNHS. The wheels were then set in motion to what would materialize as a study abroad program for nursing students at GNHS to serve the people of the Siha District in Tanzania.

"By providing a steady stream of nursing students as part of an official study abroad program for the university, we have the potential to drastically impact the health of over 140,000 people in the Karansi area," said Ubora President Dave Burgess.

"These students and their university faculty, along with volunteer support personnel, will provide much needed medical screenings to the thousands of children in the district. GNHS is also interested in helping train doctors and nurses as part of a long-term, sustainable solution that addresses the lack of medical personnel in the nation," said Dave.

In addition to improving the health of the people of Siha, we are very excited about the opportunity to impact the education of the Georgetown nursing students. The chance to put classroom knowledge to work in unfamiliar field conditions, alongside advisors and Tanzanian doctors and nurses, will provide robust lessons in adaptability and cross-cultural teamwork. Also, one of the critical roles of a nurse is to explain complex health issues to the patient in ways they can understand and apply once at home. Georgetown saw the opportunity for their students to do this in an entirely different culture as an excellent training ground for this skill. Finally, as part of the program, Ubora is coordinating a capstone round-table between the students and the District medical leaders. Here, students will learn how unique cultural and political issues impact health in the region, lessons they can apply wherever their careers take them. We can't wait to see these students experience the true impact of their chosen professions, and expect that their experience in Siha will be a rewarding memory for the rest of their lives.

Next up, a team from Ubora and GNHS will be traveling to Karansi in early 2022 for planning purposes. Student trips are expected to start in Fall 2022.



SCOUTING IN TANZANIA



"On my honor I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country, to help other people at all times, and to obey the Scout Law."

Sound familiar? The above is actually the Scout Promise of the Tanzania Scouts Association which is part of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Scouting entered Tanzania in the early 1900s and is now playing a positive role "in preparing the young persons from the age of 5 years as Cub Scouts to the age of 35 years as Rover Scouts and well-groomed for service to the community and the world and carrying the banner of Messenger of Peace to create a better world."



The scouting system in Tanzania seeks to educate young people in the values based on the Scout Promise and Law and also on the values of the Tanzanian people.

Currently, at Siha Leadership School we have Cub Scouts and Junior Scouts. These groups are led by teachers Prisca Kimaro and Nickson Mutta who give tirelessly of their time to impart scouting values to the students through games, crafts, outdoor activities, service, and more.

In October 2021, Siha Leadership School scouts had the honor and privilege of attending the dedication of a new road in the district at which the president of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, spoke. It was a very festive and important occasion and our scouts looked so sharp in their uniforms!

Pray for Prisca, Nickson, and the scouts as they enter a new year of new possibilities and seek to serve in their area of Tanzania!



Off to see the President!



Mission Trips

2022 - Picture yourself in Tanzania

What better way to shake off "pandemic malaise" than to lend your heart and hands to the people of the Siha District of Tanzania? A mission trip to Tanzania will impact your life in unimaginable ways. But isn't that how God works...

We are currently finalizing the full mission trips calendar for 2022 but wanted to go ahead and share some important dates and pictures from our most recent Nov. mission trip. Stayed tuned to your email and our website for announcements of 2022 mission trips for each of our impact groups.

- January 6-18** **Georgetown University Planning Trip (private)**
- June 24-July 4** **20th Anniversary Celebration (safari at beginning)**
- July 1-11** **REAL Climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro (fundraiser for Ubora; opportunity to go early to visit village; opportunity to stay longer and do safari)**
- July 7-17** **Vacation Bible School Team trip**

► To register or more information, email: lesliesams@uboratz.org



Brotherhood around the fire.



Caring for the widows.



Sharing about fatherhood with the Babas group.



Encouraging business owners.



Source, pray, pack and ship 25,000 books!

Sometimes mission trips take place close to home. Our most wonderful Wendy Williams led the Magadini Library books project from Atlanta. The quest to locate 25,000 books was no easy feat, due to supply chain issues caused by Covid. Using equal amounts of creativity and perseverance, Wendy did in fact source the books needed for the new library, with an assist from our nonprofit partner, Books for Africa; she also led the packing of the container. The container is now on the water, set to arrive by year-end. Bwana asifiwe--Praise the Lord, for you, Wendy, and our donor family who gave their support to the Books for TZ campaign. We love you all!

Thank you to our donors and sponsors, for without your support, these stories of hope and community transformation would not be possible. Your donations go far in helping our brothers and sisters in Tanzania in so many ways and are deeply appreciated!

Please donate today should your means allow.

Online: uboratz.org/donate

-or-

Mail check to:

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Asante Sana!

Join us for Two Kili Events



A VIRTUAL CLIMB/WALK/RUN
EVENT FOR TANZANIA

The Virtual Climb of Mt. Kilimanjaro is in February!
Registration is open and sponsorships available!

climbkili.org

Use camera to scan code



Zara Tours is leading us on a REAL climb of Kilimanjaro in July! Email: info@uboratz.org for more info or visit the events psage of our website.

uboratz.org/events