

# Asante Sana

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

UBORA

2020  
PROGRESS  
through  
pandemic

## Glorious Grain

Silos welcomed  
with dancing  
and cheers

## Little Steps, Big Change

Discover the many ways  
you can serve our friends  
in Tanzania

## 2021 Getting back to Tanzania

## Climb Kili

Scale the heights of  
Mt. Kilimanjaro...virtually

2020 Recap  
2021 Here We Go!

UboratZ.org





# Message from the president

By: Dave Burgess



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Life this year has been unreal in many ways--as in actually "not real"... virtual family gatherings, virtual church, seemingly endless virtual meetings, and the list goes on. However, something that IS most definitely REAL is the impact you are making in Tanzania.

As I write this letter, I am on day 10 of 15 of a trip to Karansi, where I have been privileged to bear witness to the impacts that are detailed in the following pages of this newsletter--impacts only made possible through the prayers and financial support of you, our Uborá sponsors and donors.

This week, I have seen the glint in the eyes of those who have been impacted by Jesus, something that is very real, not the pale virtual substitute. I wish you could all experience it for yourselves first-hand, but until mission trips resume, allow me to share a few observations from this trip.

The reaction was very real when the first of seven food silos delivered to an overcrowded secondary school. The joy was palpable as I watched over three hundred children--and their teachers--bolt from their classrooms to watch, then cheer, and then dance at the arrival of the grain silo. They knew that the silo would REALLY help them get a good meal before school each day and improve their ability to learn and grow toward a better future. When we later toured the school, the headmaster realized that he had also received books from our 2018 library effort, and went on at length to share how those books had made real improvements in the education of the children at that particular school.

You probably have heard about the Siha District Hospital and our efforts to deliver medicine and equipment to this hospital. The idea that the government of Tanzania had built a sprawling campus of completely empty pediatric, neonatal, surgical and other buildings may not have seemed real to many of you, as it was to me. That reality hit home as I walked the paths between the buildings. Though empty now, hope and healing will soon have a home at Siha District Hospital once the medicine and equipment arrives. This campus will be transformed in a very short time because of these shipments that will soon be arriving--made real and possible because of you.

For those who have faithfully served our ministry over the past 18 years, thank you! The foundations established here in Karansi, thanks to you, are most definitely real. And these foundations are paving the way for the next phase of transformation in the Siha District.

I can't thank you enough for all you do in support of our brothers and sisters in Karansi. It's getting "real good" over here.

In His Name,



# 2020

## Rx for Tanzania

Millions of dollars of life saving medicine and medical equipment departed the U.S. for Tanzania in 2020, thanks to our UboraTZ donors and partners at MAP International and Medshare. See page 6.



## VBS Goes On

Vacation Bible School has become a beloved summer tradition in Karansi. The pandemic threatened this year's VBS, but a dedicated team of volunteers and staff and church leaders made it happen. See page 8.



## Towers of hope

Pastor Wariaeli, teachers and students in Karansi government public schools celebrate the arrival of the grain silos. See page 8.

## All children sponsored

Praise for 2020 and Ubora Project Child, as it marked the first time all of the children in our program became fully sponsored! Tim Neet shares more about the impact of your sponsorships. See page 9.



# 2021

## Mission Trips Return

A trip to Tanzania changes your heart forever! We are anxious to resume Ubora Mission Trips. We are carefully monitoring the pandemic, and will open up mission trips to Tanzania as soon as it is safe. Visit our website for the latest updates or send an email of inquiry to: [info@uboratz.org](mailto:info@uboratz.org)

## Karansi Guests to visit ATL

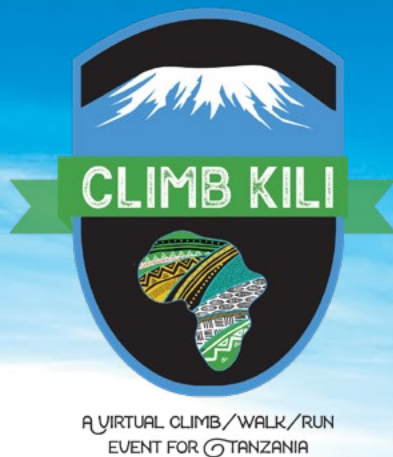
A visit is in the works for our friends from Tanzania, including Baraka Lutherson and Pastor Wariaeli, to travel to metro Atlanta sometime in 2021. Stay tuned to our social media outlets and newsletter for more details of their visit!

## School Expansion

Education is at the heart of our ministry. Our goal is to continue to deliver excellence in education to the poorest of the poor in Tanzania. The need is urgent to be able to accommodate more children at Siha Leadership Pre and Primary School and an aggressive expansion of the school is underway.

## New Library

In November 2020, land was acquired and the foundation was laid for a second community library for the nearby village of Magadini, scheduled to open in 2021! Stay tuned for more details as this exciting projects unfolds.



We are stepping up with a fun event in 2021 where you can put your steps to work in support of UboraTZ.

Scale the magnificent heights of Mt. Kilimanjaro from your own neighborhood at your own pace, while supporting children and families in Tanzania!

We're excited to announce our first annual Climb Kili event, to take place in February. You have the entire month to virtually climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Register and choose from one of three routes—with varying levels of challenge—to ascend to the summit of Kili.

Easy to use technology charts your progress as you make your way up to 19,341-foot, Uhuru Peak.

**Register or to learn more:  
[ClimbKili.org](https://ClimbKili.org)**



# Education

## Students continue to thrive and excel

By: Wendy Williams  
Education Pillar Lead

"I have walked their paths and seen many 'things' such as terraces, tomatoes and toilets. But of equal or greater importance has been the glint in the eye and timbre in the voice of those who have been helped to discover the winning combination of Jesus, hope and self-development."  
- Roy Shaffer, MAP International

This quote summarizes what is, and has been, happening in the Education Pillar. In Tanzania, the school year begins in January and runs through December; this has been an exciting year!

In February we welcomed Lepapa Mayaseki as the new Headmaster at Siha Leadership Pre and Primary School. Lepapa comes to us from a very successful private, boarding school in suburban Arusha. He has implemented several new ideas:

- **English-only policy** - All students must speak English from arrival on campus until leaving – in the classroom, on the playground, and even at lunch!
- **Morning Speeches** - Every morning, four to five students share with the whole student body something they've been learning.
- **Friday Debates** - On Fridays, debates are held between classes (a recent debate topic: "Computers should replace teachers.")

COVID shut down classes in Tanzania from mid-March to the end of June. In Tanzania, there is no such thing as "remote learning" as many families have limited or no electricity, much less access to the internet or computers. Our teachers created



The 2020 graduating class of Siha Leadership Pre and Primary School, with Headmaster Lepapa Mayaseki.

home learning packets with lessons, worksheets and activities to keep the children's minds active and engaged during the weeks at home. The schools opened back up on June 29th with masks and hand-washing stations/sanitizing stations.

Teacher Mentoring has continued to thrive, thanks to Zoom and has even GROWN through these pandemic months... we are now a team of four!

- Wendy Williams – S 1-3
- Leslie Sams – S 4-7 Science
- Wendy D'Auria – S 4-7 Math
- Miriam Johnson - S 4-7 English

The teachers continue to love the new content in their subject areas as well as new methods of teaching; their students are excelling! Mid-term exams reveal that although COVID interrupted the school year calendar, it has not inhibited the joy of learning! It's the glint in each eye and the smile on each face... it's Jesus and hope and self-development!

[More education news on page 11](#)



# Medical

## Improving Health in the Siha District

By: Stephanie Bergquist, Courtney Hester & Kris Walker - Medical Pillar Leads

Even though Ubora-led medical mission trips were halted due to COVID-19, the medical pillar team has been hard at work orchestrating two major projects:

### 1. The shipping of over \$2.3 million worth of medicine, equipment and supplies to the Siha District Hospital in Tanzania.

It took a major collaborative effort--involving two of our strategic partners, MAP International and Medshare--along with donors, officials in Tanzania and the Ubora team, to provide for two containers of medicine and medical equipment to be sent to Tanzania and the Siha District. Ubora donors covered the cost of shipping the containers, fees and safe transfer to the Siha District Hospital. The containers are on the way and scheduled to arrive in late 2020/early 2021.

The precious cargo inside these containers will provide:

- The Siha District Hospital with medicine and medical equipment
- Medicine to the nine dispensaries (similar to a pharmacy) in each ward and one clinic

Medicine will also be set aside for Ubora's upcoming medical missions trips.

Special thanks to Medshare and MAP International and everyone who donated to the medical container campaign!

### 2. The collaboration with Atlanta's Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) to provide ongoing medical support and training to community healthcare workers in Tanzania.

The goal is to train 120 Community Health Workers (CHW), or two CHWs per village, for the 60 villages in the Siha District. This training will be developed using the Community Health Worker model developed by the World Health Organization. The training will be carried out in partnership with MSM, the Tanzania Health Department and Dr. Andrew Method, (District Medical Officer, Siha District, Kilimanjaro),

Community Health Workers in Siha will receive 210 hours of training. The CHWs will serve as first responders to their respective villages and as liaisons with doctors and hospitals.

The Community Health Worker training program began in 2019 in Karansi when Ubora helped facilitate 40 hours of training for 24 CHWs from Karansi Ward. These CHWs were mobilized when COVID hit, educating villagers on the importance of handwashing and social distancing. The CHWs also provided additional training and answered questions from villagers.

We are thankful for our ongoing partnership with MSM!

"I think we all share the belief that the key to universal health coverage is to involve and grow the health care team. Community health workers should stand side-by-side with nurses and doctors to extend primary health care to every last child and family on earth."

- Jim Campbell

World Health Organization Health Workforce Director





# Business

By Lee Williams  
Business Pillar Lead

The Business Pillar of Ubora continues to seek to improve the economic condition of Karansi in three areas:

## 1. Graduates

2020 saw the creation of the Graduates Platform--an alumni association (of sorts) formed for mutual encouragement and shared continuing education for former students of Siha Leadership School.

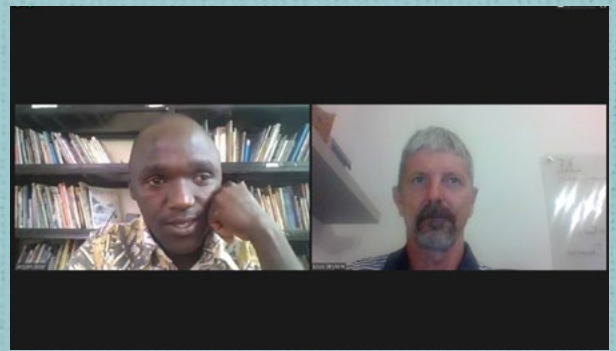
We also kicked off a mentoring program to match US-based mentors with Tanzanian young people. Louis Strydom was our first mentor and shares his experience (see [➔](#)).

## 2. Community

The lack of trips limited our ability to provide seminars and one-on-one training to village businesses but our partners, led by Joseph Kimaro, conducted an ambitious survey of 384 area farmers. The results led to recommendations for continuing education, enhanced extension agent services and other new programs. We are eager to find experts in agribusiness who would join with us in helping to develop these programs and perhaps provide Zoom-based training. If you are interested, contact Lee Williams at: [LHWilliamsJr@gmail.com](mailto:LHWilliamsJr@gmail.com).

## 3. SHEFO Sustaining Projects

Our partner in Tanzania, SHEFO (Shelter of Hope and Excellence Foundation) runs a small pig farming business with the goal of becoming self-sustaining in 2021 and contributing to the support of SHEFO by 2022. COVID hurt the market for pork products as tourism was significantly curtailed. However, we are optimistic that the market will rebound. There are 44 pigs "in inventory" currently.



## Ubora Volunteer Louis Strydom shares more on mentoring

### Why did you choose to be a mentor?

When Lee presented the Mentor program in the Ubora Town Hall and then mentioned Jackson and his background, I felt there was a natural opportunity for me to add value. For most of my professional career I have worked with young IT people and have been responsible for the personal and professional growth of many of them. A natural fit.

### What have your mentoring conversations been like so far and what kind of technology do you use?

We have used a bit of everything to communicate. We have emailed, had Zoom calls, WhatsApp messaging and telephone calls and will introduce Microsoft Teams shortly as a test collaboration tool that we might roll out to the whole organization if it works well. A lot of our conversations have focused on the goals we have for his personal and professional development. We are working on our first tasks of inventorying the existing systems at the school, updating the systems drivers, installing new Project management software for Baraka as well as deploying Office 365. With Baraka's approval we have allocated one of the existing laptops to Jackson that he can call his own and it's clear that he feels a sense of empowerment. We are also currently looking at some on-line courses in cyber security and systems administration that Jackson can access on-line, to help grow his skills and certifications.

### How has Jackson responded to the mentoring?

Jackson is a pistol. He has a thirst for learning and gets to tasks quickly and meticulously. All the things you want in a mentee.

Continued on page 11.





# Community



**Lots of exciting community-wide initiatives in the works through our community pillar!**

## **Towers of Hope, Nutrition, Learning and Love Silos Feeding Project**

It's a sad truth but it is next to impossible to learn when you're starving. Short-term hunger for children who attend government primary schools in Karansi Ward and the Siha District has been an ongoing and persistent concern. It is estimated that between 50 to 70% of children in these schools do not eat breakfast nor do they receive meals while at school. The end result is high absenteeism, inability to concentrate, and inability to fight off infection and other disease.

**Thanks to a generous donation by Ubora supporters Griffin and Valerie Stewart and their company 5DayDeal,** this situation is about to greatly improve thanks to the establishment of seven grain silos throughout the Siha District! One silo will be installed at each community school and an additional silo will be constructed specifically for widows who face periods of food insecurity.

These silos will provide safe storage of maize and beans and ongoing distribution of quality nutrition to students who would otherwise go hungry.

Simply a-mazing!

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..."  
- Matthew 25:35 (NIV)

## **COVID Response in Tanzania**

While we are thankful that the virus has largely spared the village, Ubora still mobilized to prevent an outbreak. Religious and community leaders attended a training on the importance of social distancing and hand washing. SHEFO staff traveled to multiple villages, educating the communities and providing soap to villagers. A feeding program ensured that our students and their families continued to receive proper nutrition even while school was closed. Also, while schools were closed, teachers and staff at Siha Leadership School created and delivered learning packets to the students. Once schools reopened, handwashing stations were installed throughout our campus.

## **VBS Goes On**

This year, as the Ubora volunteers gathered virtually to discuss Vacation Bible School 2020, they all agreed that cancellation was not an option. Turning over logistics to the SHEFO team in Tanzania, we witnessed a "COVID blessing"--our partners taking ownership of the program.

The group landed on the theme, "Jesus is the Perfect Sanitizer," which underscored the message that while cleaning our hands is very important, cleaning our hearts is even more so. While COVID changed the program, it allowed us to reach nine new churches and so future trips are going to be VERY busy!

**Continued on Page 11**



# Project Child

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## Your Generosity is Producing Great Results

By: Tim Neet  
Director, Ubora Project Child

Not long after the new millennium began, we entered into what would become an unprecedented partnership with our friends in Tanzania. Our initial years were spread over a large region of Northern and Central Tanzania beginning in Dar es Salam and progressing North to Moshi, Arusha and the Kilimanjaro Region. God opened door after door after door presenting us with the wrinkled faces of poor, neglected widows and then hundreds of young children eager for contact but lacking food and education. We came alongside Pastor Wariaeli in the village of Karansi simply helping him provide food relief in the midst of a drought – but God continued to engage us in longer-term change and the expansion of his Spirit in the life of the village.



God blessed Pastor Wariaeli with a vision of a flourishing Christ centered ministry providing strong educational opportunities for the poorest of the village poor desiring to break the strangle hold of poverty that squeezed out hope for a bright tomorrow. In the 18 years that have followed this initial encounter, an English based pre and primary school (SLS) has taken root and truly transformed the outlook and worldview of the inhabitants.

To date, 620 children have begun individual journeys, each encouraged and funded by a sponsor on far away continents. 191 of our kids have not only graduated from primary school – but high school as well, with 25 having graduated from college by the end of this year. All of this from a village that previously offered little opportunity beyond 4th grade. All of this. All of this, has been made possible by the generosity of sponsors and donors of Project Child. You have opened up new horizons that were heretofore unthinkable. The Spirit of God is at work and we are excited to see how he uses these children, and now young adults, to bring His blessing in their midst. Thanks to you.

**“Sometimes a little personal touch with a young life on the other side of the ocean does us good to recalibrate what’s important.”**

– Tim Neet  
Director, Ubora Project Child

### 2021 Ubora Mission Trips Update

We are expectantly waiting the return of Ubora-led mission trips to Tanzania and continue to monitor the situation as it relates to safe travel and COVID-19. We promise to keep you posted via email and social media as more information becomes available!



# Steps/Ways to Serve

Our steps are uniquely our own and ordered by God.  
Is God calling you to step forth in faith with Ubora?  
Let us know the ways you might like to serve:



## Donate

Consider becoming a monthly donor! To donate now, please return your check in the enclosed envelope or donate online: [uboratz.org](http://uboratz.org)



## Sponsor

Is there room in your heart and family for one more? Consider sponsoring a precious child from Tanzania through Ubora Project Child.



## Volunteer

There are many ways to lend your time and talent to Ubora through our four pillars: education, health, business and community plus helping carrying out the work of our ministry in a number of other roles.



## Go

Mission trips to Tanzania will hopefully be back soon, once conditions improve as a result of Covid-19. Sign up to get on the list of updates!



## Pray

A strong group of dedicated prayer warriors have always been part of UboraTZ. Please remember to pray for UboraTZ and our brothers and sisters in Tanzania. Your prayers are so very important and greatly appreciated!

# Get Involved

At Ubora, you can use your spiritual gifts and talents to help make concrete changes for His kingdom. Our 18-year involvement in Karansi has produced deep relationships and is now bearing fruit in many ways. We would love you to join us on this magnificent journey. **Where might you use your gifts?**

**Medical professionals** – Change healthcare for a REGION

**Education** – Help create a new education model that could lead a country through Tanzania's first Christian STEM school

**Business Leaders** – Drastically impact the employment situation, introduce Biblical business practices

**Community** – Deliver hope to the hopeless

For more INFORMATION, email: [INFO@UBORATZ.ORG](mailto:INFO@UBORATZ.ORG)





# Asante Sana

*“Thank you very much” in Swahili*

## Education (cont.)

### Exciting Developments on the Horizon

Our school and teachers in Karansi are working toward new ways of teaching and learning. Traditional education in Tanzania involves lots of rote memory, surface-level treatment of subject matter, little critical thinking, lack of resources and training. Our Ubora teachers in the U.S. have helped make incredible changes, by coming alongside Tanzanian teachers to help them go deeper in the subjects, providing new methodology to teach this content, and by providing teaching resources and manipulatives.

As we set our sights on an even more rigorous curriculum, our UBORA teachers will be called on to continue helping their Tanzanian counterparts to reach new heights.

### Excellence in Education Siha Leadership Pre and Primary School

Proposed plans include:

- The purchase of 50 acres of land (completed!) to allow for a second campus is now underway
- The construction of six new classrooms
- Building eight dorms on campus to allow for safe, comfortable boarding of students
- Construction of three teachers homes
- And much more!!!



## Community (cont.)

### More on VBS

“Jesus is the Perfect Sanitizer” VBS in Tanzania was carried out over the two weeks of May 25 and June 1, 2020. Over 10 local churches and 531 children participated!

This year’s VBS featured:

- A half-day program held at various churches in the area,
- Education around the importance of proper handwashing and social distancing
- Each child received a VBS gift bag that included a face mask, sanitizer, soap and a bag of rice for their family
- Each child also received a gospel bracelet and learned the meaning behind the colors for each bead.

## Business (cont.)

### Louis Strydom shares more on his mentoring experience

#### What are your prayers for the future of your relationship?

That God will show up in a big way and that we will both learn from each other by being the best examples of Christian servants in IT. (Geeks for God!) The best mentor relationships are the ones that outlast the program that originally initiated the relationship. My hope is that I can be there for Jackson from this point forward and that I can have the privilege to see him develop professionally and spiritually. My prayer is also that Jackson will start thinking about the day he will become a mentor to those that are coming through the ranks of our school.

#### Why would you encourage others to mentor?

There is no greater satisfaction than to be part of somebody’s journey where you have the opportunity to nurture and add real value and see the fruits of that. Just the personal growth and joy we as mentors get from that is worth the effort. We were all created to serve.

#### Would you ask Jackson how it's going for him?

I asked him and he said he is very grateful for the opportunity and can see that he will learn a lot. He is very excited to really start using his existing skills and to build on them.



**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!**

**To donate to UboraTZ**

Return your check in the enclosed envelope or use your own and mail to:

UboraTZ

4575 Webb Bridge Rd., #5487  
Alpharetta, GA 30023

-or-

Donate online: [UboraTZ.org](http://UboraTZ.org)



4575 Webb Bridge Road, #5487  
Alpharetta, GA 30023

*Asante Sana*



# Join Us

Adventure awaits as you Climb Kili, a virtual fundraising event during the month of February for UboraTZ. Sponsorship opportunities available. Registration now open!

**For more information: [ClimbKili.org](http://ClimbKili.org)**



Use camera to scan code

