



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

A historical summary of UTSS:

UTSS began as a collision of the heart, mind and vision of Peter Ash and Vicky Ntetema. At the time, Vicky was a journalist and Tanzania's BBC bureau chief, and Peter a Canadian businessman whose professional life was in transition. It was **Vicky's report in July of 2008 that broke the crisis of persons with albinism (PWA) in Tanzania to the world. It also broke Peter's heart.** Shortly after her report, Peter called Vicky and 2 people with big visions and even bigger hearts were united in a battle much bigger than themselves, a battle against discrimination so sinister that it had turned into grizzly mutilations, murders and the trafficking in the human body parts of persons with albinism in Tanzania. Later in 2008 founder and CEO, Peter Ash, registered UTSS as a charity in Canada. In 2009 UTSS - Tanzania branch was also registered as an international non-government organization (NGO) and the doors of our office in Dar es Salaam were opened to the public. Since the earth shattering report in 2008, Vicky Ntetema has resigned her post with BBC and



joined UTSS as Executive Director. Today UTSS - Tanzania has 13 staff, 10 of whom are PWA serving their own people in their own country.

Our Latest Trip to Tanzania:

A lot has happened since July, 2008. Our most recent trip to Tanzania took place in November, and it was also *our most encouraging trip for several reasons:*

1 - Key politicians, businessmen and relief agencies have shown significant support and interest in the work of UTSS - Tanzania.

Chief Justice, Augustino S. L. Ramadhani, of the supreme court of Tanzania hosted our UTSS team on each of our last 2 trips.



Prime Minister Peter Pinda has shown great interest in the plight of his countrymen with albinism by taking 3 children into his family. He has hosted our team several times, twice in his own home.



Prime Minister Pinda with 8 year old "George Bush"

Media mogul, business man and human rights activist Reginald Mengi invited us to his home where he committed to release the documentary in both the English and Kiswahili versions during prime time on all his television stations.



Reginald Mengi Receiving Master Copies of Documentary

Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania, Robert Orr, has shown his support by inviting us to his office and by speaking as a representative of the Canadian Government at 2 events hosted by UTSS.



Historical figure, Honorable MP Salum Khalfan Nassor Bar'wani is the first person with albinism to be elected into government in Tanzania. He is likely the first elected PWA on the continent of Africa. Peter was able to congratulate Bar'wani at our office in Dar. He then presented the MP with a hat and sunscreen, calling him to be a model to fellow citizens with albinism by wearing wide brimmed hats and sunscreen to avoid premature death from skin cancer.



Red Cross & UNICEF have expressed their interest in working closely with our UTSS office in Tanzania. We are thrilled to have gained their alliance and trust.

2 - Our Education Scholarship Fund (ESF) will place, and entirely fund, over 300 PWA of all ages into first rate schools throughout Tanzania during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Most of the 313 ESF students were "displaced children" in Government residential schools in the Lake Zone where most of the killings take place. In recent months many kids have already been relocated to better schools and so for the first time, we were able to visit 4 high quality private boarding schools where these children now attend. The condition of these schools is a significant improvement from the government schools.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE FOR THE KIDS!! WHAT A DIFFERENCE FOR US!!



Buhangija is the government boarding school in Shinyanga where overpopulation is again on the increasing even as you read this letter. Because of UTSS intervention, the Red Cross has already set up tents to help with the overcrowding. While there we met the many students with albinism and toured the compound to see the difficult conditions for ourselves.



We met Kabula Nkalango at Buhangija school as well. She is a girl with albinism who, at age 13 was attacked on April 26, 2010 by three men in her home as she was sleeping with her mother. The attackers hacked off and took her right arm to sell for witchcraft purposes.



We also had the sad task of meeting with several mothers who came to the school to tell their stories of how they lost a child due to the ongoing murders.



3 - The Gala in Dar es Salaam was a great success as we launched our documentary "White & Black" into the country of Tanzania.

The Gala was very well received by all 180 guests including Politicians, National Artist, Athletes, Business People & many PWA'. The guests were invited because of their influence on Tanzanian Politics, Business and Culture. We appealed to their "currency of influence" and asked them to invest it generously in support of their fellow citizens with albinism.



Famous Tanzanian Musician Sings to PWA at Gala



Prime Minister Peter Pinda was the guest of honor. In his speech, he repeated 3 times that the documentary must be shown throughout the country of Tanzania, especially in the rural regions where discrimination is most pronounced and most killings occur. His support was palpable.

In addition to PM Mengi, Canadian High Commissioner, Robert Orr and Media Mogul, Reginald Mengi addressed those in attendance in support of UTSS and the documentary.

All in all, it was worth the trip and we take hope in all the good that is happening in the face of such inexplicable tragedy.

If you are looking for some way to respond and to get involved with the work of UTSS in Tanzania please keep reading.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE A GIFT THAT SAVES A LIFE

1 - THE GIFT OF SUNSCREEN CAN LITERALLY SAVE LIVES:

Skin cancer is the # 1 killer of persons with albinism (PWA) in Tanzania, most dying between the ages of 30 - 40. There are tens of thousands of PWA in Tanzania alone, and yet it is almost impossible to purchase a bottle of sunscreen there. Even if it could be found, the SPF is inadequate and the cost prohibitive for the average Tanzanian. UTSS is having difficulty keeping up with the need of our 300 plus ESF students, let alone the numerous PWA that regularly visit our office in Dar es Salaam.

SUNSCREEN LOTION SPECIFICATIONS:

- No aerosol containers can be shipped.
- A minimum SPF (sun protection factor) of 35 - higher is better
- All bottles must be new and unopened
- Please seal each bottle in a Ziploc bag before shipping

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS:

US mailing address:

Under The Same Sun
c/o Mike's Parcel Pickup
183 W. Stutsman Street
Pembina, ND 58271-4100

Canadian mailing address:

Under The Same Sun
c/o Multicultural Family Centre
51 Morrow Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2M 1A5

NOTE: Once goods arrive at either of the above addresses, they will be shipped via secure transport to the UTSS office in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for distribution to people with albinism.

2 - THE GIFT OF CASH CAN LITERALLY ASSIST A PERSON WITH ALBINISM IN TANZANIA TO TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN SOCIETY BY GAINING AN EDUCATION.

\$25.00 per month can provide basic school and personal supplies, including sunscreen, for one primary or secondary student. **DONATE NOW**

\$50.00 per month can provide the same for 2 students. **DONATE NOW**

\$100.00 per month can provide high quality private primary or secondary boarding school as well as basic personal supplies, including sunscreen, for one student. **DONATE NOW**

A one time gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$500 will make a huge difference! DONATE NOW

Donations via cheque of any amount are also gratefully appreciated. Please send to:

UTSS Charities International
#400-15225 104 Avenue
Surrey, BC V3R 6Y8

PS. This fall the work of UTSS was featured on Canada's largest news program, the CBC National News. To view video of the story [click here](#)