

## Still not signed up?

We have been delighted at the support you have given us for our major fundraising events in 2008 – the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge. Nearly 40 trekkers are taking part in the May event, walking in teams up and over the 3 peaks of Pen-y-Ghent, Wharfedale and Ingleborough, a distance of some 24 miles which must be covered in 12 hours or less.

Have you signed up your team yet? Without these events, and the willingness of supporters like YOU, we cannot carry on doing what we do for the poor in Tanzania. Set yourself and your colleagues a real challenge this year – **sign up for the Yorkshire 3 Peaks weekends on either 25-27 July or 12-14 September 2008!** £99 deposit, £599 minimum sponsorship per person, all food, accommodation and trained guides and sweep team included!

**Call Jennie on 079645 10978 or email [jennie@bridge2aid.org](mailto:jennie@bridge2aid.org). Or see the website for more details!**



## Bridge2Aid Golf Days

2008 Sponsored by A-dec (UK) and practiceplan

With summer just a few short months away, the Bridge2Aid Golf Days are fast approaching!

What more reason do you need to get out of the office for a day, enjoy the fresh air and a beautiful championship course in top condition? It's all in aid of our work in Tanzania, after all!

### In the south:

**Tuesday 1st July**

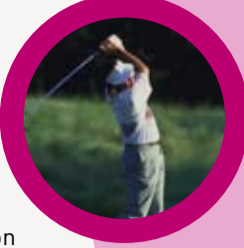
Woosnam Course at Dale Hill Golf Club, Ticehurst, East Sussex

### In the north:

**Wednesday 2nd July**

Prudhoe Golf Club, Northumberland

For more details and a registration form, visit the website or email [rob@bridge2aid.org](mailto:rob@bridge2aid.org)



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Bridge2Aid is a UK Registered Charity No. 1092481



Spring 2008

## Bridge2Aid news



### Inside this issue

- 4 years of DVP
- Bukumbi update
- Team News
- Climb Kili 2009

[www.bridge2aid.org](http://www.bridge2aid.org)

## B2A Team Profile - Beatrice

Beatrice is 25 years old and works as a receptionist in Hope Dental Centre. She is Mum to a seven year old. Beatrice has been working with Bridge2Aid for the past 16 months, and is enjoying every minute! She previously worked as a teacher in Tanzania, but is relishing the challenges her new role provides.



"Bridge2Aid is improving the lives of so many Tanzanians, not only by providing good dental care and education, but by providing good sanitation, better food and a better standard of living to the Maskini. This is important to me, and makes me feel like what I am doing is worthwhile," she said.

**Beatrice is a practising Christian, and enjoys spending her spare time praising God for all his goodness, and worshipping in her local church.**

## She's Fay-ntastic!



**Fay has seen tremendous successes in her role as Education Co-ordinator, with many more of the children now attending school and in receipt of uniforms, books and pencils. But it hasn't been a straightforward task!**

Fay explains, "Initially I was finding out who the children were; although there is some fluctuation, there are approximately 34 children actually living in Bukumbi camp, and 80 living in the village just outside the camp, who have family members affected by leprosy or disease. These children are my main focus.

We will keep you updated on Fay's progress in forthcoming newsletters.

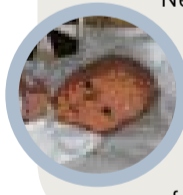
"Exact ages of the children are rarely known, but about 40% are of Primary age and should be attending Kigongo School. I have spent the last few months building up a relationship with both the school staff and the Ward Education Officer, Rukia Masaza, and we have been addressing the issues of why some children do not attend school. Reasons given were: children were needed to help with the housework, they had no shoes, no pencils, were sick, or were simply skipping school because they and/or their parents did not value education.

Now, with everyone working together, we can ensure the children of Bukumbi and the surrounding village will at least receive a basic education, enabling them to read and write, do mathematics, and learn something of the wider world."

Fay's other main area of focus is on the school teachers themselves; there is no rigorous system of teacher training as exists in developed countries, and resources are painfully limited. So Fay took four of the teachers from Kigongo School to visit the Montessori School, and there they were shown simple resources that could be made and utilised to develop the teaching and learning in the classroom. Fay was delighted when, on visiting Kigongo the following week, she was ushered in to Class 1 and shown the resources in action! Proof that the simplest ideas can be the most effective.

## Maisha

Maisha – meaning 'life' in KiSwahili – is the name Andie and Ian have given to their fourth child, a little girl born on 11th March 2008. Weighing in at a healthy 7lb 7oz, Maisha Hope was born at the Wilson's home in Mwanza. Jake, Imani and Neema have happily welcomed their new sister, and we send our warmest congratulations to the Wilson family.



## Margaret – here for a year!

**Our new Volunteer Project Co-ordinator, Margaret Carleton, arrived in January to spend a year working with us in Mwanza.**



Margaret is currently covering for Andie's maternity leave, and later in the year will provide invaluable help with the project management of some of our dental and community development programmes.

Taking a year's career break from her job as PALS Lead Officer in Manchester, Margaret said, "I am really looking forward to this challenge, and to making a difference to the lives of people in Tanzania. But I know I'm going to miss my friends and family!"

Margaret is no stranger to volunteer work, though - she has been volunteering in the UK for over 20 years, and previously undertook a short-term placement in Lima, Peru.

## Climb Kilimanjaro in 2009

It's the challenge of a lifetime, and YOU can be a part of it! Last summer, 38 Bridge2Aid supporters scaled the heights of the famous 5,895 metre high Mount Kilimanjaro; and literally 'stood on the roof of Africa'. Will it be you in 2009? For more information on next year's Challenge, on 20-30th August 2009, email [jennie@bridge2aid.org](mailto:jennie@bridge2aid.org) for a no-obligation information pack.



## Skydiving

**Can life sometimes seem a little... ordinary? Are you looking for thrills, adventure, and something different to do? Then we have just the thing for you!**

We're looking for people from all over the country to spend a day living a 'life less ordinary'! The great news is that you can do an amazing tandem skydive for Bridge2Aid - for free! All we ask is that you raise a minimum of £395 in sponsorship.

Think how amazing it would be. Close your eyes and imagine standing at an open doorway 10,000 feet from the ground. Feel the rush of adrenaline as you leap into a free fall at over 120mph! Then the canopy opens and you glide through the sky, absorbing the tranquil atmosphere, and knowing you're supporting a worthy cause at the same time.

If you would like to experience the exhilarating feeling of a sponsored skydive, please contact Jennie on 079645 10978 or email [jennie@bridge2aid.org](mailto:jennie@bridge2aid.org)





# The Bridge2Aid Dental Volunteer Programme - the 10th in 4 years!

February 2008 saw the successful completion of the 10th Dental Volunteer Programme organised by Bridge2Aid. DVP is a hands-on experience whereby British dentists and dental nurses deliver, and train others in delivering, Emergency Oral Health Care (EOHC).



Participants on the 10th DVP were: Judy Wheble (Site Clinical Lead), Gus Stead (Site Clinical Lead), Kiaran Weil, Phil Loughnane, Graham Stokes, Julie Stokes, John Miller, Bob Jones, Elizabeth Stringer, Denise Tulip, Rakhee Talati, Judith Beckerson, Emily Holroyd, Dawne Strauch, Tracey Evans, Susan Mills, Claire Maasz, Karen Phillipson, Sarah Clarkson, Louise Collier and Shaenna Loughnane.

DVP began in 2004, and was initially developed in partnership with Dentaid. Since the inaugural DVP, B2A has run 9 more Programmes, each one reaching and training more people than the last.

In total, DVP participants have successfully trained 50 Rural Clinical Officers (RCOs), providing a long-term, sustainable solution to the problem of unskilled clinicians in remote areas of northern Tanzania.

## Why is emergency oral health care (EOHC) such a necessity in Tanzania, and how does DVP help?

The main problem is the absolute lack of trained medical personnel who can provide EOHC to people living in rural areas. Essentially, DVP provides a solution to this problem. Each DVP is a structured 13-day programme of delivering training to RCOs and carrying out basic dental services.

## How does DVP equip RCOs?

RCOs undergo an intensive dental training course, with three distinct phases:

1. Four days of training in basic dental anatomy and theory.
2. Six days of one-to-one tuition with a qualified dentist or experienced dental therapist or dental officer.
3. A follow-up by the District Dental Officer.



In late 2008, we will enhance DVP even further, by using RCOs on each site as trainers in an initial trial. This principle of trainees becoming trainers is fundamental to B2A's philosophy of sustainability. Amazingly, we have now trained 51 RCOs in EOHC. And, as the catchment area for each Rural Clinical Officer is between 7,500 and 15,000 people, as a charity we have increased access to emergency dentistry for at least 375,000 people, and as many as 765,000!

## How does B2A plan to enhance DVP?

Sustainability underpins the aim of DVP; with this in mind, we will be empowering RCOs that have successfully trained on a previous DVP, to become trainers of others. This will be effective from late 2008, when we will be using RCOs on each site as trainers as an initial trial. This principle of trainees becoming trainers and the districts eventually having their own team of skilled practitioners who can operate in house training is fundamental to B2A's philosophy of operation.

## How many RCOs have now been trained and equipped on the DVP?

Amazingly, we have now trained 51 RCOs in EOHC. And, as the catchment area for each Rural Clinical Officer is between 7,500 and 15,000 people, as a charity we have increased access to emergency dentistry for at least 375,000 people, and as many as 765,000!

## Want to be part of a future DVP?

Places fill fast, and a waiting list is now in operation. If you are a dental nurse/hygienist, or a dentist with two years' post-graduate experience, download an application form from our website: [www.bridge2aid.org/cm/general/dvp](http://www.bridge2aid.org/cm/general/dvp)

**B2A's Ian Wilson and Mark Topley are also thrilled to be hosting a seminar entitled 'Bridging the Gap' at this year's BDA conference on 3rd May - come along to find out more on how volunteering your time and skills really can be a life-changing experience.**



# That's Containerment!

With another container in transit between England and Tanzania, we would like to thank those who kindly donated materials for us to use either in Hope Dental Centre, or out on our remote operations.

This time around, we received donations from A-dec, satelec UK, Elmsleigh House Dental Practice, Rocky Lane Dental Practice, Triodent, Murtuza Hasnaini, Ramshaw and Silver, The Whitburn Dental Practice, Berlington Dental Centre, Quadralene and CK Office Furniture. We also received a cash donation from the Cordent Trust, which we used to buy sterilisers.

Using the donated materials and equipment that arrived on the last container 2 years ago, we have been able to generate more than £75,000 of profit through Hope Dental Centre - benefiting hundreds of thousands of people in the region.

In that period, and using some of the HDC profits to fund the programme, we have trained 51 Clinical Officers in Emergency Dentistry, increasing access to safe extractions for 765,000 people!

We have been able to provide free treatment to well over 5,000 people through our rural tooth camps and using Hope Dental Centre facilities.

And finally the profits of Hope Dental Centre have helped to resource our team working with the disabled and those affected by leprosy at Bukumbi Care Centre, where we are working with the community to bring about lasting change.

**The Bridge2Aid team would like to thank EVERYONE who has donated equipment to us, and if you are able to make a donation for a future container (next one planned for late 2009), please contact [rob@bridge2aid.org](mailto:rob@bridge2aid.org)**



# Mine's a large one!

**Mining is big business in Tanzania, but with most mines being located in remote, inaccessible places, employees with oral health issues could often experience prolonged pain and infection with no option but to travel to a dentist in Dar es Salaam, over 800 kilometres away.**

In 2003, Dr. Rob Barbour, chief medical officer at Barrick Mines, recognized that dental problems were becoming increasingly serious at the company's Bulyanhulu mine in Tanzania. He contacted Bridge2Aid Director, Dr. Ian Wilson, in an effort to bring dental services right to the mine site. Dr Ian came up with a basic yet effective portable dental kit. The team from Bridge2Aid then began conducting dental procedures at Bulyanhulu and the number of off-site referrals fell almost immediately.

From these humble beginnings, the dental program at the mine has expanded to include a full range of curative and preventative procedures. Barrick invested in a dental unit with permanent equipment at the site, with Dr Ian and the Bridge2Aid team managing the clinic and supporting the staff to ensure the quality of care remains high.

Today, the team from Bridge2Aid, which includes Dr Ian, locally trained nursing staff and western locum volunteers, have served nearly 1,500 mine workers at the company's Bulyanhulu, Tulawaka and North Mara mines, with plans to extend the services to Buzwagi. Local villagers living in these remote areas who have no dental coverage are also able to use these clinics for free emergency dental care. Currently over 5,000 patients (in the Lake Zone area) have received treatment free of charge.

**"Barrick's relationship with Bridge2Aid has helped us round out our push to offer holistic health care at all of our operations," says Dr. Barbour. "We are proud to be associated with this dental NGO, which provides an invaluable service to so many people in Tanzania."**

# Bukumbi Update

**Jo and Andie returned to Bukumbi Care Centre after the Christmas break, and reported that the community were in good health. January saw the inaugural meeting of the Buildings and Maintenance Committee - the aim of which is to encourage residents to take more responsibility for their own surroundings. The meeting went well, with representatives joyfully elected! And on inspection, the two dormitories (Wafadhili and Sijaona) which we have previously refurbished were in a good state of repair, which was a real encouragement.**

Plans are underway for the refurbishment of a third block later this year, and with this in mind, Lwango dormitory was assessed. It was a pretty grim task as the plumbing, roofing and electrics were in a terrible state, and the beds were 'sprung' with chain link but no mattresses. It will be fairly daunting, both work-wise and financially, but it is exciting to think of how it will look after the Work Team do their magic in September 2008.

February saw the community welcoming lots of visitors! Chris Barrow and Annie Bradley from Breathe Business, and Steve Turnock and his Practice Plan team (who will be returning in September to help with the renovations). The community are always happy to welcome visitors, and these were no exception!

In March, the 22 DVP volunteers also paid Bukumbi a visit, to see the non-dental side of Bridge2Aid's work. There were also meetings of the Buildings, Education and Health/Water committees. The planning for Lwango dormitory continues!

**Plans are underway for the refurbishment of a third block later this year**

