Bukumbi Bound

Dental Tribune gives an update to the forthcoming visit to the village of Bukumbi to build a community centre with Bridge2Aid

With the trip just under two months away my mind has really been getting focused on what I need to organise before the team travels out to Bukumbi. I am already well on the way to becoming a pin cushion after getting the majority of the jabs my doctor has recommended – only one left to have now!

The main thing that has brought home how soon we will be travelling is the excellent volunteer confirmation pack sent to me by B2A. Reading through it, it is surprising how much information you need to take in before you go! But I’m sure that the preparation we need to do beforehand will enhance our experiences while we are out there, as well as keeping us out of trouble.

Words and phrases
As someone with a fascination with language (remember I do work with words allegedly) the bit that interested me most was the list of words and phrases in Swahili that could come in handy. Always willing to give a new language a try (although Greek was a bit of a challenge) it’s hard to remember how to ask for two shots of raki when you’ve already had four of them! I looked through the list and thought I would share some of them. I will put the English first, then the Swahili:

• Hello (polite form) – Shikamoo
• Yes – Ndiyo
• No – Hapana
• Why? (for those with small kids this one is for you!) – Kwa nini?
• My name is – Jina langu ni
• I don’t speak Swahili well (if there was ever an essential phrase, this will be it!) – Sizungumzi Kiswahili vinzuri
• Thanks for a wonderful time – Asante kwa wakati mzungu
• Hello (formal) – Asante kwa wakati mzungu

To help me learn some of the phrases I am enlisting the help of a very clever four-year old girl (my daughter Emily) as she likes the sounds of the words as I say them out loud and can remember them faster than I can!

Schulke
The team at Schulke (Andrew Thurston, Andrew Scott, Cornelius O’Mahoney, Julie Taylor, Nicola Furniss and Jackie Entwistle) are now really looking forward to making the trip to Tanzania and starting work on the Community Centre we are helping to provide for the people at Bukumbi. Andrew Thurston commented: “With lots of fundraising events behind us, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed both within the industry and beyond, your generosity has been astounding!”

“Our total across the team is now over £10k and we are continuing with events after we get back from the trip to continue to support the fantastic work that B2A do. We have done everything from Skydiving to Dinner Dances to selling old Jewellery and still have a big Jazz Night and Race Nights to look forward to.”

Thanks again to everyone who has supported me through my Justgiving site especially Smile-on, Practice Plan and Denplan and my friends and colleagues. If you would like to donate to B2A, please go to my fundraising page – www.justgiving.com/bukumbibound – and give your support. To help raise more funds, the team at Schulke are participating in a sponsored walk at Bewl Water in Kent April 10-11, and I will be joining the walk on April 10 so please support my legal!”

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Accreditation Seminars for 2010

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Clearstep Advanced Hands On Course dates for 2010

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