

## COUNTDOWN TO TANZANIA

In October 2009 a dental team from Smilestyle (Kirsty Hawkins and Leo Jurkiw) will be travelling to Tanzania in order to continue Smilestyle's work with its designated charity Bridge2Aid ([www.bridge2aid.org](http://www.bridge2aid.org)). They will be taking part in the "Dental Volunteer Programme", a training scheme set up several years ago by Bridge2Aid in partnership with the Tanzanian government whereby dentists from the UK go to Tanzania and train "Rural Clinical Officers" (Tanzanian paramedics) dental first aid, that is: to diagnose dental pain, anaesthetise teeth and carry out extractions.

In common with most African countries, Tanzania simply does not have enough qualified medical personnel to take care of its population. It has addressed this problem by creating a form of health-care worker (the Rural Clinical Officer) who is qualified to deliver basic front-line services to the vast majority of the population who live outside the cities. Unfortunately, in common with most medical personnel, the RCOs do not have much knowledge about dentistry, and as dental pain is the second most common pain known to man, this is obviously a serious shortcoming.

The dental team from Smilestyle will work one-to-one with an RCO over a two week period to make him competent to treat dental emergencies. Although extraction will be the only treatment he will be qualified and equipped to deliver, even this will be a tremendous improvement to the lives of the people he serves.

### AND YOU CAN HELP!

We have produced a Charity Christmas Calendar to raise money to fund the costs of sending our nurse Kirsty on this expedition (our dentist Leo has funded himself). The calendar gives a light-hearted behind-the-scenes look at real life at the practice (you have to see it to believe it!) which we hope our patients will acquire for a donation to the cause (£5 minimum, but more is greatly appreciated).

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY, YOUR HELP WILL CHANGE LIVES!**