



TABS INTERNATIONAL Newsletter

ISSUE 4

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Let love and faithfulness never leave you, bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 3:3

What a Fantastic Team!

The next TABS Volunteer team had been selected!

This year we received 25 excellent applications for the next volunteer trip in Feb 2011. It was very hard to shortlist these down, but after a few hours of healthy debate we were able to invite 18 potential volunteers to a selection weekend in London.

Most travelled up the night before from all over the country and we were made very welcome at Chapter One's Waterloo hostel where we spent the Friday night. The group bonded immediately, and after some getting to know you games we took a walk along the South Bank to see the sites. For some of the applicants it was the first time they had been to London, and at TABS we always feel immensely privileged to share new experiences like this with other people.

We were up early on the Saturday morning and work began immediately. We put the applicants through their paces, with listening exercises, com-

munication games, team building tasks and group bonding exercises.

We then broke for lunch and the applicants prepared themselves for their individual interviews with the TABS trustees and

this. To all the applicants credit we were totally blown away with their honesty, passion and drive to become a TABS volunteer and what it would mean for them in their own lives, but also what they could bring to the team and the trip itself.

The applicants had all experienced disadvantage and difficulties in their lives, but are determined to use this in a positive way. They were all remarkable people and we wish we could have

offered them all a place. However we only had 10 slots and we spent the next 3 hours selecting the candidates!

We now have a team of 10 volunteers and 6 team leaders.

We feel we have a fantastic team that will get so much out of the experience and help TABS move forward with our Vision for Kian-datu in Thika, Kenya.

The real work for the volunteers begins now! They have to get a lot organized and ready before February 2011, and we can't wait.

see page 2 for what's next?



Potential new volunteers finding out about the next trip!

team leaders.

They were clearly very nervous and had worked so hard in the morning, but they didn't let the pressure get to them. We had 5 interviewing pairs and one by one the applications were called in. All weekend it was becoming apparent that we had a very special group of people with us, and it was going to be extremely difficult to select for the 10 places, and the interviews were no exception to



WHATS NEXT..Continued from page 1

The volunteers have a lot of work to do before the trip. They need to fundraise enough money to sort their passports, inoculations, kit and to make a contribution toward the project we'll be working with. They'll be getting support along the way, but the onus is on them

to continue with the outstanding motivation and commitment they showed at the selection weekend.

In October the whole team will be put through their paces at the Wilderness Adventure Centre in Gloucestershire for a team building weekend! We'll be

doing a lot more getting to know one other through some challenging problem solving activities. It's going to be physical and wet! Hopefully after the weekend, the team will feel united and will have formed the strong bond that is crucial to support them all while in Kenya in February.

All Saints Parish Church - Bedworth,

Held Family Fun day on Sat 17th July, and half of the funds raised were donated to TABS. We held our Trustee meeting in the upstairs room and were serenaded by the church band. It was a really well supported event and everyone had a lot of fun!

TRUSTEE NEWS

We are sad to say that **Gail Flower** has made the decision to step down from TABS as a Trustee. We thank Gail for all her hard work and commitment to help get TABS where it is today, and wish her all the best in the future.

On another note, we are delighted to welcome **Jim Nicholls** onto the board of directors who joined us on Sat 17th July. He comes with great experience of fundraising and we are really excited to be working with him.



Some of the volunteers busy solving the paper bridge challenge at the selection weekend!

We owe a huge thank you to **Doreen** from Kent. Like so many others **Doreen** has regularly supported us from the start and continues to do so, without people like you we wouldn't be where we are today.

Progression of our Vision

We have received funds from the funeral of **Jude Reader** from Bedworth who sadly passed away last month. Relatives requested that instead of flowers, donations were made to TABS, amongst others charities. We would like to say a special thank you at this very difficult time.

TABS WEBSITE

We are currently working really hard to put together a website for TABS. This will hopefully be launched soon, so you will be able to follow our development and catch up all the latest news online. Watch this space!

Some of you may remember that it is our intention to focus our efforts in one area of Kenya. Kiandatu is a slum on the outskirts of Thika, about 50km north of Nairobi.

We have been making inquiries to purchase a piece of land that we will donate back to the 'Spring of Hope' Project in Kiandatu. This piece of land is fundamental in all our plans to help the project build

a new school for their orphaned children, with the longer term aim of building new community resources for the local people.

Buying land in Kenya is very complicated and different process to the UK and we ask for your prayer's that this happens as quickly and smoothly as is possible.

How can I help TABS?

Become a friend of TABS / Sponsor a school Placement / Pay-roll Giving
Make a one off Donation / Hold a fundraising Event / Become a Thika 300!

For more information on how you can support us please contact any of the trustees or write to TABS International at PO Box 5129, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 2BJ