**The Nun’s Story**

Emahoy (a title given to a nun) thinks she is 75 years old, she may even be older. She says: “40 to 50 years ago I had a still birth after 6 days labour. After I regained my strength I found I was incontinent and the leaking did not stop.”

She continued living with her husband thinking she would get better. She conceived a second time and she prayed to have a normal delivery and a live baby. Sadly, the labour went on for four days and her worst fears came true. She said: “After a stillbirth and with a chronic fistula, this incredible endurance race takes place annually across the Sahara Desert in Morocco. It is known as the “toughest footrace on earth”.

Eleven years ago Dr Hamlin cured Chaltu’s obstetric fistula. In 2006, Chaltu went back to Addis Ababa and stayed at the Fistula Hospital after giving birth to a baby girl. Chaltu is now 26. She has just made her third trip to Addis Ababa. She brought her daughter and a traditional Ethiopian basket which it took Chaltu four months to make. Before that she saved for nearly a year to buy the necessary raw materials.

Chaltu presented her beautiful colourful basket to Dr Hamlin and the staff at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital to express her heartfelt thanks for the loving kindness and good treatment she received at the Hospital so many years ago.

**FUND NEWS**

The Fund thanks the many Australians who support the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, through direct donations to the Fund, by knitting shawls, and donating other goods and by undertaking fundraising activities.

**Feats of Endurance**

Some of these activities involve impressive feats of endurance, such as the recent Sydney City to Surf Race in which a number of competitors ran 14km through the city and suburbs of Sydney to raise funds for the Hospital. Other supporters donated to the Fund in support of Karen Kalaitha Brewis who lives in the UK and walked barefoot from her home in Ealing to the Women’s Hospital in Birmingham, a distance of about 35 miles.

A few months ago another Sydneysider Paul Goldman, who works for Macquarie Bank in Hong Kong, completed the Marathon des Sables to raise money for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. Dr Hamlin described Paul Goldman’s feat in the following way: Congratulations Paul. By completing the Marathon des Sables, you have experienced the strength of will and agony that prolonged endurance inevitably requires and so your achievement has identified you with our women of endurance. The same can be said for all these feats of endurance. The Fund thanks all its supporters who, by their contributions in so many ways, sacrifice something to help Ethiopian women in need.

**Lighting a Candle**

The Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund proudly presents Lighting a Candle. This new documentary about the lifelong dedication of Dr Hamlin and the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia comprehensively depicts, for the first time, the midwifery training strategy, the Hospital’s regional outreach program and the long term benefits for rural Ethiopian women who are cured of obstetric fistula through the Hospital’s holistic approach.

The first Sydney screening of this new documentary will be held on Tuesday 19 October 2010 in the Atrium at Macquarie University at 8pm.

Tickets to this event can be purchased via www.hamlinfistula.org.au or by completing the attached slip and posting it with your payment to the Fund’s office. Tickets cost $25 per person which includes a light supper at the conclusion of the one hour screening.

The Fund is also planning to hold screenings in other States and cities and invites supporters who would like to assist in arranging such events to contact the Fund’s office.

**See the Hamlin Fistula® Relief and Aid Fund’s new website at www.hamlinfistula.org.au**

The Fund’s new contact details are: Telephone 02 8007 7435 | Fax 02 8007 7470 | Email: emailus@hamlinfistula.org.au

See the Hamlin Fistula® Relief and Aid Fund’s new website at www.hamlinfistula.org.au.
It is with pleasure that I write this message and send my greetings to you all. I am now safely back in Ethiopia after a successful operation in London to install a new hip which had worn out. Everything went well and I was discharged after the surgery on the 8th day and now a few months later I am walking normally with only one stick, soon to be discarded, and with no pain.

A wonderful welcome

I arrived back on 8 June to a heartwarming welcome. My son Richard came with me to see that I arrived home safely. The plane arrived early, at 7am, and yet even at this early hour there were 4 staff members to meet me at the airport. Matron Eljigieghu was there with a lovely bunch of roses. So too were Mamitu and Likiteash, who have worked with me since the Princess Tsehay Memorial Hospital days, when they first arrived as patients. Now they both have senior positions on our staff. By their care many patients have been blessed and returned to a “new life” after suffering tragic fistula injuries. Daniel our driver took control of the luggage and we were on our way.

By their care many patients have been blessed and returned to a “new life” after suffering tragic fistula injuries. Daniel our driver took control of the luggage and we were on our way.

What a welcome awaited me at the Hospital! As I arrived it was so cold and very wet weather here in Addis Ababa. So we were thankful last Sunday to fly North to Mekelle in the Province of Tigray. There we had some staff meetings at our centre. We do this occasionally. There we found warmth and sunshine again!

Dr. Melaku is in charge of this centre, and was our host for the almost three months we spent there and what a perfect host, and what a welcome we received from the staff of that centre and from the patients too! It is really your centre as you in Australia provided the money to build it – and how beautiful it has turned out! Amongst the greengrocers and some old big trees and bougainvilleas in bloom on the walls and roses in the gardens round the car park area.

The doctors from our other regional centres, senior nurses, and Health Officers and our own senior staff from Addis Ababa were all there. So it was a big social occasion as well as a time when we reviewed our work, and were able to talk about the future, our problems and our ideas for improvement. We looked forward to seeing some of you from Australia here at the graduation ceremony!

Another piece of news is a sad one. We shall be losing Dr Andrew Browning soon, as he moves on to work elsewhere, which I am sure will be the same needy patients. We thank him for his wonderful work throughout these past 9 years and we shall all miss him – for his example of car for his patients and for his teaching of other fistula surgeons. I feel sure we shall hear of what he has accomplished wherever he decides to work and we wish him and his wife, Stephanie, and their two small boys much success and God’s blessing on all they undertake.

Since I arrived back from England visitors have been coming in a steady stream. Some are tourists, others are here to work on special projects in Ethiopia but all with a deep concern for our patients, and it is for these precious broken lives that we are all here. One guest arrived yesterday from Melbourne returning to the University of Addis Ababa where he works. He was laden with huge boxes of wonderful gifts for the patients – things that young women and girls will enjoy! And recently we have had many boxes of shoes from Australia and from England all carefully knitted and packed by kind friends. Our gratitude for all these gifts is enormous, and I know as I see every patient in this cold weather wrapped in a lovely warm colorful shawl that they too are enormously grateful.

I am thankful that there are now so many who are dedicated and trained well to carry on this work into the future until the day when no more women suffer such an injury and such sorrow. The task of prevention ahead is enormous! But we have made a start and our midwives have received such a good clinical training that I know as more and more go out into the provinces we shall see a reduction in this tragic condition in the areas where they will be working. It is surely the beginning and, we hope, the eventual “death knell” for fistula injuries! It is the dawning of new hope for so many mothers in the countryside, who will now have skilled help and loving care as they face labor, no longer alone and fear.

So once again I send you all, my greetings from Ethiopia and my thanks and love. Our gratitude to Australia is great and I feel proud that we have such wonderful support from my own country!

With my greetings and love.

Dr. E. Catherine Hamlin AC
DR HAMLIN’S LETTER

My Dear Friends in Australia

It is with pleasure that I write this message and send my greetings to you all. I am now safely back in Ethiopia after a successful operation in London to install a new hip which had worn out! Everything went well and I was discharged after the surgery on the 8th day and now a few months later I am walking normally with only one stick, soon to be discarded, and with no pain.

A wonderful welcome

I arrived back on 8 June to a heartwarming welcome. My Iona Richard came with me to see that I arrived home safely. The plane arrived early at 7am, and yet even this early hour there were 4 staff members to meet me at the airport. Matron Elgiegenhu was there with a lovely bunch of roses. So too were Mamitu and Likeresh, who have worked with me since the Princess Tsehay Memorial Hospital days, when they first arrived as patients. Now they both have senior positions on our staff. Their care many patients have been blessed and returned to a “new life” after suffering tragic fistula injuries. Daniel our driver took control of the luggage and we went on our way. What a welcome awaited me at the Hospital! As I arrived it seemed that the whole car park area was full of staff holding flowers to give me. Soon I was overwhelmed with hugs and kisses as I struggled to remember the names of all the faces I know that my memory failed me partly because of the emotion I felt at such a welcome, but perhaps I can also blame the anesthetic!

The welcome in my home from my faithful workers was touching and overwhelming – two have been with me from almost the day we arrived in Ethiopia and have been loyal friends and have cared for me through all my years in this wonderful country.

Later in the day we had another big welcome in our chapel when there were prayers and speeches of welcome and again my heart was touched and a few tears shed! Later we shared a lovely lunch in the sunshine on the lawn. There we all enjoyed a feast together and exchanged news. And so ended a day that will remain in my memory and a day when I thanked God for bringing me safely home to go on working for our beloved and needy patients with my loyal and wonderful staff.

So now after nearly three months I feel that I have barely been away especially after this week operating for the first time since my return! My hip is no longer a problem and I only use a stick when I am walking up the long path with many steps which leads from my house to the main hospital building. Mikelle Fistula Centre visit is still cold and very wet weather here in Addis Ababa. So we were thanked last Sunday to fly North to Mikelle in the Province of Tigray. There we had some staff meetings at our centre. We do this occasionally. There we found warmth and sunshine again!

Dr Mebraat is in change of this centre, and was our host for the almost three days we spent there and what a perfect host, and what a welcome we received from the staff of that centre and from the patients too! It is really your centre as you in Australia provided the money to build it – and how beautiful it is surrounded by the green lawns and some old big trees and bougainvilleas in blossom on the walls and roses in the gardens round the car park area.

The doctors from our other regional centres, senior nurses, and Health Officers and our own senior staff from Addis Ababa were all there. So it was a big social occasion as well as a time when we received our work, and were able to talk about the future, our problems and our ideas for improvement. We heard reports from the Centers and other presentations on different subjects, and lots of new ideas!

Picnic lunches were a welcome break on the lawn under the trees, provided by the centre’s kitchen staff. We had more meetings in the afternoons, sometimes in smaller groups, until the evening meal at a restaurant in the very nice town of Mekelle, or at the hotel. The last night was rather special and amusing, as Mark Bennett, our CEO, and Professor Gordon Williams, the Medical Director, and I were all dressed up as Ethiopians. We had each received lavash presents – among which were outfits for the two men and a special Tigrean dress for me. Mark and Gordon wore two starting white cotton trousers, and a long over shirt of white top, and even white sandals that fitted! I had a glamorous Tigrean dress made from special soft white cotton with multi colored borders on the dress, sad! and shawl! It fitted well and I felt comfortable in it. You can see in the photograph how we looked! We were overwhelmed by such kindness and generosity. It was indeed a happy party with much chatter and laughter. I feel sure it will be hard for any future similar event to be quite so enjoyable!

Another piece of news is a sad one. We shall be losing Dr Andrew Browning soon, as he moves on to work elsewhere, which I am sure will be the same needy patients. We thank him for this wonderful work during these past 5 years and we shall all miss him – for his example of care for his patients and for his teaching of other fistula surgeons. I feel sure we shall hear of what he has accomplished wherever he decides to work and we wish him and his wife, Stephanie, and their two small boys much success and God’s blessing on all they undertake. Since I arrived back from England visitors have been coming in a steady stream. Some are tourists, others are here to work on special projects in Ethiopia but all with a deep concern for our patients, and it is for these precious broken lives that we are all here. One guest arrived yesterday from Melbourne returning to the University of Addis Ababa where he works. He was laden with huge boxes of wonderful gifts for the patients – things that young women and girls will enjoy! And recently we have had many boxes of shorts from Australia and from England all carefully knitted and packed by kind friends. Our gratitude for all these gifts is enormous, and I know I see every patient in this cold weather wrapped in a lovely warm colorful shawl that they too are enormously grateful.

I am thankful that there are now so many who are dedicated and trained well to carry on this work into the future until the day when no more women suffer such an injury and such sorrow. The task of prevention ahead is enormous! But we have made a start and our midwives have received such a good clinical training that I know as more and more go out into the provinces we shall see a reduction in this tragic condition in the areas where they will be working. It is surely the beginning and, we hope, the eventual “death knell” for fistula injuries! It is the dawning of new hope for so many mothers in the countrywide, who will now have skilled help and loving care as they face labor, no longer alone and fear.

So once again I send you all, my greetings from Ethiopia and my thanks and love. Our gratitude to Australia is great and I feel proud that we have such wonderful support from my own country!

With my greetings and love.

Dr E. Catherine Hamlin AC

Hamlin Fistula Hospital

Hospital staff singing
It is with pleasure that I write this message and send my greetings to you all. I am now safely back in Ethiopia after a successful operation in London to install a new hip which had worn out! Everything went well and I was discharged after the surgery on the 8th day and now a few months later I am walking normally with only one stick, soon to be discarded, and with no pain.

A wonderful welcome
I arrived back on 8 June to a heartwarming welcome. My son Richard came with me to see that I arrived home safely. The plane arrived early, at 7am, and yet even at this early hour there were 4 staff members to meet me at the airport. Matron Ejigayehu was there with a lovely bunch of roses. So too were Mamitu and Liketesh, who have worked with me since the Princess Tsehay Memorial Hospital days, when they first arrived as patients. Now they both have senior positions on our staff. Their care and kindness has been appreciated and returned to a “new life” after suffering tragic fistula injuries. Daniel our driver took control of the luggage and we were on our way. The welcome in my home from my faithful workers was overwhelming and a day when I thanked God for a feast together and exchanged news. And so ended a day that was a wonderful country!

The welcome at the Hospital! As I arrived it was a “new life” after suffering tragic fistula injuries. Daniel our driver took control of the luggage and we were on our way. What a welcome awaited me at the Hospital! As I arrived it was overwhelming with hugs and kisses as I struggled to remember the names of all the familiar people. I know that my memory failed me partly because of the emotion I felt at such a welcome, but perhaps I can also blame the anaesthetic.

The welcome in my home from my faithful workers was overwhelming and friendly and I am grateful for all their kindness.

A high note
I have also had another excitement recently when we farewelled our first graduates from the Midwifery College. This recent farewell was a lovely family occasion and the eleven pupils surprised us as they stood up one by one and gave such a talk, in fluent English. We were all impressed and proud of our College tutors who have taught them so well. We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the College’s new kitchen and I was overwhelmed by such kindness and generosity. It was indeed a happy occasion with much laughter and tears. I feel sure it will be hard for any future similar event to be quite so enjoyable!

Another piece of news is a sad one. We shall be losing Dr Andrew Browning soon, as he moves on to work elsewhere, which I am sure will be for the same needy patients. We thank him for this wonderful service during these past 9 years and we shall all miss him – for his example of care for his patients and for his teaching of other fistula surgeons. I feel sure we shall hear of what he has accomplished wherever he decides to work and we wish him and his wife, Stephanie, and their two small boys much success and God’s blessing on all they undertake.

Since I arrived back from England visitors have been coming in a steady stream. Some are tourists, others are here to work on special projects in Ethiopia but all with a deep concern for our patients, and I feel for these precious broken lives that we are all here. One guest arrived yesterday from Melbourne returning to the University of Addis Ababa where he works. He was laden with huge boxes of wonderful gifts for the patients – things that young women and girls will enjoy! And recently we have had many boxes of flowers from Australia and from England all carefully packed and posted by kind friends. Our gratitude for all these gifts is enormous, and I know I see every patient in this cold winter wrapped in a lovely warm colorful shawl that they too are enormously grateful.

I am thankful that there are now so many who are dedicated and trained well to carry on this work into the future until the day when no more women suffer such an injury and such sorrow. The task of prevention ahead is enormous! But we have made a start and our midwives have received such a good clinical training that I know as more and more go out into the provinces we shall see a reduction in this tragic condition in the areas where they will be working. It is surely the beginning and, we hope, the eventual “death knell” for fistula injuries! It is the dawning of new hope for so many mothers in the countryside, and, we hope, the eventual “death knell” for fistula injuries. It is the dawning of new hope for so many mothers in the countryside, who will now have skilled help and loving care as they face labor, no longer alone and fear.

Dr E. Catherine Hamlin AC

Visit our new website www.hamlinfistula.org.au
Emahoy (a title given to a nun) thinks she is 75 years old, she may even be older. She says: “40 to 50 years ago I had a still birth after 6 days labour. After I regained my strength I found I was incontinent and the leaking did not stop.”

She continued living with her husband thinking she would get better. She conceived a second time and she prayed thinking she would get better. She continued living with her husband and the family her smelly, unclean condition made it more and more difficult for her to live with relatives.”

After 3 years living with members of her family her smelly, unclean condition made it more and more difficult for her to live with them. She says that: “After a stillbirth and with a chronic health condition, my husband left me and I started living with relatives.”

FUND NEWS

The Fund thanks the many Australians who support the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, through direct donations to the Fund, by knitting shawls, and donating other goods and by undertaking fundraising activities.

Feats of Endurance

Some of these activities involve impressive feats of endurance, such as the recent Sydney City to Surf Race in which a number of competitors ran 14km through the city and suburbs of Sydney to raise funds for the Hospital. Other supporters donated to the Fund in support of Karen Kaliania Brewis who lives in the UK and walked barefoot from her home in Eckington to the Women’s Hospital in Birmingham, a distance of about 35 miles.

A few months ago another Sydneysider Paul Goldman, who works for Macquarie Bank in Hong Kong, completed the Marathon des Sables to raise funds for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital.

In 2006, Chaltu went back to Addis Ababa and stayed at the Fistula Hospital after giving birth to a baby girl. Chaltu is now 26. She has just made her third trip to Addis Ababa. She brought her daughter and a traditional Ethiopian basket which it took Chaltu four months to make. Before that she saved for nearly a year to buy the necessary raw materials.

The Nun’s Story

Chaltu presented her beautiful, colourful basket to Dr Hamlin and the staff at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital to express her heartfelt thanks for the loving kindness and good treatment she received at the Hospital so many years ago.

CHALTU’S BIG ‚THANK YOU’ BASKET

Eleven years ago Dr Hamlin cured Chaltu’s obstetric fistula. In 2006, Chaltu went back to Addis Ababa and stayed at the Fistula Hospital after giving birth to a baby girl. Chaltu presented her beautiful, colourful basket to Dr Hamlin and the staff at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital to express her heartfelt thanks for the loving kindness and good treatment she received at the Hospital so many years ago.
The Nun’s Story

Emahoy (a title given to a nun) thinks she is 75 years old, she may even be older. She says: “40 to 50 years ago I had a still birth after 6 days labour. After I regained my strength I found I was incontinent and the leaking did not stop.”

She continued living with her husband thinking she would get better. She conceived a second time and her worst fears came true. She said: “It is 100 times more difficult for her live with this condition, my husband left me and the staff at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital to express her heartfelt thanks for the loving kindness and good treatment she received at the Hospital many years ago.

CHALTU’S BIG ‘THANK YOU’ BASKET
Eleven years ago Dr Hamlin cured Chaltu’s obstetric fistula. In 2006, Chaltu went back to Addis Ababa and stayed at the Fistula Hospital after giving birth to a baby girl. Chaltu is now 26. She has just made her third trip to Addis Ababa. She brought her daughter and a traditional Ethiopian basket which it took Chaltu four months to make. Before that she saved for nearly a year to buy the necessary raw materials.

Chaltu presented her beautiful colourful basket to Dr Hamlin and the staff at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital to express her heartfelt thanks for the loving kindness and good treatment she received at the Hospital many years ago.

FUND NEWS
The Fund thanks the many Australians who support the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital, through direct donations to the fund, by knitting shawls, and donating other goods and by undertaking fundraising activities.

Feats of Endurance
Some of these activities involve impressive feats of endurance, such as the recent Sydney City to Surf Race in which a number of competitors ran 14kms through the city and suburbs of Sydney to raise funds for the Hospital. Other supporters donated to the Fund in support of Karen Kalantha Brewis who lives in the UK and walked barefoot from her home in Eckington to the Women’s Hospital in Birmingham, a distance of about 35 miles. A few months ago another Sydney-based Paul Goldman, who works for Macquarie Bank in Hong Kong, completed the Marathon des Sables to raise money for the women who endure great suffering from obstructed labor and obstetric fistula. This incredible endurance race takes place annually across the Sahara Desert in Morocco. It is known as the "toughest footrace on earth". Comprised of six marathons in seven days and totalling a distance of 243kms, Paul crossed sand dunes, rocky terrain and salt pans in temperatures as high as 50°C. As all competitors have to be self sufficient, Paul had to carry everything he needed (apart from water) including food, cooking stove, clothes, sleeping bag and medical supplies. With the support of the Macquarie Group Foundation and many other donors, Paul raised over $30,000 in support of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital.

Dr Hamlin described Paul Goldman’s feat in the following way: Congratulations Paul. By completing the Marathon des Sables, you have experienced the strength of will and agony that prolonged endurance inevitably requires and so your achievement has identified you with our women of endurance. The same can be said for all these feats of endurance. The Fund thanks all its supporters who, by their contributions in so many ways, sacrifice something to help Ethiopian women in need.

Lighting a Candle
The Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund proudly presents Lighting a Candle. This new documentary about the lifelong dedication of Dr Hamlin and the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia comprehensively depicts, for the first time, the midwifery training strategy, the Hospital’s regional outreach program and the long term benefits for rural Ethiopian women who are cured of obstetric fistula through the Hospital’s holistic approach.

The First Screening of this new documentary will be held on Friday 29 October 2010 in the Atrium at Macquarie University at 8pm. Tickets to this event can be purchased via www.hamlinfistula.org.au or by completing the attached slip and posting it with your payment to the Fund at PO Box 965 Wahroonga NSW 2076 or by contacting the Fund’s office on (02) 8007 7435. Tickets cost $25 per person which includes a light supper at the conclusion of the one hour screening. The Fund is also planning to hold screenings in other States and cities and invites supporters who would like to assist in arranging such events to contact the Fund’s office.