

Please note:-

- * You receive a tax refund of 33% of your donations to the Trust when you send your receipt and claim to the IRD
- * newsletter via email -we are now able to send them this way so, please let us know if this is what you require.
- * speakers are available to tell you about the work of the Hospitals
- * bequest brochures are available on request.

Gifts for christmas giving.

DVD "Lighting a Candle" ..\$25

keyrings \$5,
lapel pins \$4,

Books as listed.

Borrow the DVD "Walk to Beautiful" to show to your friends.



Kings School boys' work

Help the work of the Trust

Hamlin Charitable Fistula Hospitals Trust, P.O. Box 6395, Christchurch 8442
 Email address -hamlinht@xtra.co.nz new website www.hamlinfistula.org.nz

N.B. " every cent of every dollar donated is available for the work of the Fistula Hospitals"

I would like to help the work of the Trust .

- Please send mecopy/copies of Dr Catherine's book-"Hospital by the River" at \$25. (Cheque with order)
- Please send mecopy/copies of "Catherine's Gift" by John Little at \$35
- I wish to make a donation and enclose a cheque for \$.....
- I wish to make a regular donation of \$.....to the Trust Account National bank no 060817 0264043 00
- I wish to help with the expenses of running the Trust in NZ and donate \$..... to National Bank account No 0608170264043-02
- Please debit the sum of \$.....to my Visa or Master credit card no Expiry date.....
- Please send me brochures so that I can interest others in the work.
- Please send me a bequest leaflet

See our website at www.hamlinfistula.org.nz

Hamlin Fistula NZ

From the Trustees

Firstly, we would like to apologise for not publishing our third newsletter this year but I am sure that you will all be aware that Christchurch has suffered badly with earthquakes (9,000 so far) so normal programmes have not been completed. Professor Gordon Williams, the Medical Director of the Hamlin Hospitals, who was in Christchurch at the time of the February quake, was unable to access his luggage from his room in the Crowne Plaza. He had to return home without it but fortunately, eventually a special team gained access to his room in the soon to be demolished hotel, retrieved his luggage and Errold and Ellen Paynter were able to return it to him in Ethiopia just before he was due to leave for London to be given an OBE by the Queen.

After this honour he travelled to Edinburgh to deliver the Bicentennial Memorial Simpson Lecture - Simpson, born 200 years ago, was famous for his original contributions to care in childbirth.and in anaesthetics. In the three day programme, the work of the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital was highlighted. Dr Hamlin was presented with the Farquharson medal and Dr Williams was awarded the Lecture.

He spoke of Simpson's dream of safer childbirth with pain relief, now a reality in the developed world. He contrasted this with the



Second intake of students graduate



Professor Gordon Williams receiving his award

reality of Ethiopia today where the vast majority of women still labour without any medical assistance or pain relief. The risk of death in labour is 1 in 20 and those who survive complicated labour may be afflicted by the untold suffering of life-long incontinence. Minimal medical resources are available. Although 90%of patients can have

their fistulas closed, unfortunately 25% are still troubled by stress incontinence. He described many of the research projects being conducted at the hospital, to look at

treating this problem. He ended by talking about the newly founded Hamlin College of Midwifery which is the crowning achievement of Catherine Hamlin's 50 years of service to the poor women of Ethiopia. The next morning, for the finale of the Symposium, Dr Catherine gave a most moving address to the large congregation at St Giles Cathedral.

She spoke of her experience of begging to fund the building of the present Fistula Hospital, about the expansion of the work through the support of many generous individuals and the network of Trusts that have now allowed the completion of 5 regional hospitals.

She paid tribute to the dedicated team of Ethiopian specialists who staff these hospitals - "they have rejected the temptation to work in the capital or to emigrate, for the sake of their own country's womenfolk."

Professor Gordon Williams

has had a full programme this year. After his time in Christchurch where he was to present a paper at a Urology conference, he made a visit to Afghanistan with an Ethiopian colleague. There they operated on 14 women, who were older than the women they usually see. All were accompanied by their husbands in tribal dress. They had no problem with a white foreigner operating on their wives and were so grateful for what the Doctors were able to do. He will return to work there again, in April.

Recently, he was in Boston then Washington. He gave three lectures and took part in 2 meetings. He returned to Ethiopia then accompanied Mark Bennett the CEO of the Hamlin hospitals, to South Sudan for a week then back again to Addis before going to Mozambique for 5 days. His next trip will be to the UK to lecture in January.

Blankets

Professor Williams assures us, "We need the blankets as we give them to the patients to take home. They are so distinctive that they are a symbol of the hospital and people want to know how the women got them. They are a great advertisement for our work." We are so pleased to say that we were again able to send 70 blankets to Ethiopia with Marty Van Den Berg of "Habitat for Humanity". He has been so generous in fitting our blankets with his luggage. These blankets were made by NZers who want to support the work in Ethiopia and we are so thankful for their help.

Story of a patient

Kima Hassan Adem

I married at the age of 15 and immediately became pregnant. When I gave birth to my child I was in labour for three days and I could not get any medical help. Each day I became weaker and by the time I gave birth the child died and I got

fistula. I would refuse to eat and drink so that I wouldn't leak but that didn't stop it. I couldn't work, so my husband was the breadwinner in our home. He spent all that he earned and sold most of what we had, including our cattle, in search of treatment for me but the money we earned from our cattle was stolen and we had to beg. We had nothing to live on. Friends would help out at times. We would use the money they gave us to buy food and we ate



sparingly so that it would last us a long time. I lost a lot of weight. Everyone hated me, even my husband, so one day I left home. Though he never told me to leave, I could see his reaction to my humiliating condition and he could no longer stand it. When I got to the city, I could not work as a house maid because of the incontinence. I lived on the streets for six years. One day, the Woreda Administrator found me and let me stay in his backyard for a couple of days then he sent me back home and told my husband that he should take care of me till death do us part. I feared my husband was not happy with this, yet he also feared that I might commit suicide. We continued to live together for the next 12 years. I visited several places in search of treatment. I went to traditional healers and religious leaders but no one could help me. Every one discriminated against me. People would insult me and call me all

kinds of demeaning names because of the smell. I got fed up of seeking help that was unavailable so I planned to commit suicide. I met a voluntary community health worker. She came over to my home and told me that I could be sent to Addis Ababa for treatment and that she could facilitate my travel. I refused. She tried hard to convince me and came to my home three times. I refused to go because I had completely lost hope that I could be treated. I did not believe that she could help me. She was persistent and the fourth time she came, I decided to give it a try.

I was sent to Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital. I was doubtful and scared of raising my hopes for what may fail. I was then treated and I stayed at the hospital for 15 days. I got my meals and a bed. I was happy. I felt very well during that time and I asked if I could go home to my husband. All my costs were covered and I was provided with new clothes and shoes.

When I got home I told everyone about my treatment. Today, I tell women that there is treatment for such a condition. I encourage them to seek assistance if they suffer from fistula.

For 19 years, I did not know that what I had was called fistula, until I went for treatment. I thought it was a condition unique to me. It was only when I got to Addis Ababa Fistula hospital that I realised that there were so many women suffering in the same way. It has been 10 months now since I have been repaired. I'm in good health and my life has completely changed. I am now able to go about my social affairs without fear or shame.

(Story from USAID)

Kings School boys - Real Men Knit!

Through Terms 2 and 3, boys, staff parents and grandparents, aunts and friends of the school community met every Thursday to



knit and chat and they have completed 50 blankets. One of the parents, Jackie Jensen, was able to arrange for free air freighting of these blankets to Ethiopia. What an outstanding effort and a huge thankyou for this kindness shown to the poor women who have these



horrific child birth injuries.

Christchurch Girls High School Interact Group

After advertising around the school for 40cm knitted wool squares, there was a great response from pupils across all years. Bright rainbow colours and pretty crochet have been have been made up into



four large cosy and colourful blankets, ready to be sent away to Ethiopia. More squares are in storage so more blankets are underway. Prizes are being awarded for the girl with the most squares. Well done to these knitters!..

A knitting family

When Grace (13 years) heard about the Hamlin Fistula work through her High School (Girls High, Christchurch) she was so touched that she decided to join her school friends in the 'knitting for Ethiopia' project. She enlisted her Mother,



Janine, to buy the wool and knitting needles. Janine decided she wanted to support the women who suffer so unimaginably and joined her daughter in a knitting frenzy. Janine's partner, Jonnie, decided to give it a go and soon young Tan followed in his Father's footsteps. Both males learned to knit.

It was a privilege to sit down with this knitting family and



the new midwifery and administration building

Thank you to all donors

The original dream of Drs Catherine and Reg Hamlin, more than 50 years ago, would have remained a dream without the help that donors continue to offer. With the contributions, more and more fistula sufferers receive life changing treatment but there is a vast number of women with untreated fistula,

who are still waiting for an operation that will dramatically change their lives. Remember that this condition is one hundred percent preventable. If you would like to help please fill in the form on the back page and post it to our P O Box.

discuss what impact 'knitting for Ethiopia' has made. All of them commented how it has brought the family closer together. "It provided a

common goal in the cold winter evenings and weekends. It was such fun to learn together". Grace thought it was "cool" to teach Dad how to knit. She gave him wool as his birthday present. A heartfelt thank you to this wonderful knitting family.