

Mark & Annette plus Alleytia, Lewis , Martin & Dylan Bennett
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I didn't mention it in our last newsletter, but in 2011 we celebrated 20 Yrs of marriage almost 17 of them spent outside of Australia. Our daughter now 18 years old! I also turned 50, so it was a year to

review and recognise all we can be thankful for.

This month we have had some great family times and breaks with friends. It was a big step to leave Alleytia in Australia after completing her school here in Ethiopia, but she is finding her feet, we are grateful for our family caring for her in



Sydney.

Hospital After our short visit to Australia we have been busy with the development of the hospital and Midwifery college and deployment of graduates.

Mark was able to make a visit to Sth Sudan late in 2011 to meet with Ministry of health officials concerning developing Fistula treatment there and also training skilled midwives for the future. We are hoping to develop this relationship.



Mark with Prof Williams in Wau , Sth Sudan

In a rural Health centre, a place called Dangla, we have succeeded in setting up services for women to have a C-Sections. This emergency care is life saving as the nearest hospital is 80 Km and not easy to reach. This along with Midwifery is our prevention strategy.

New facilities take shape in the midwifery college and in our centre in Bahir Dar. We also continue with our projects to reach women in rural areas both for treatment and better access to pregnancy and delivery care.

In the 6 years that we have been at the Fistula Hospital, there have been many challenging times

Right now we are facing ,in some ways the toughest. We have been working to secure the future of the organisation through strong management and governance structures being put in place and also articulating the ethos and vision of the organisation. This is important so that future leaders on the board and senior management have a clear guide to work with. The necessary passing of leadership from a much loved, famous founder to a board of Trustees, is not an easy process. Early last year the board of Trustees including the son of the founder, approved a guiding document that articulated the ethos of the organisation. After sharing this with Hamlin International partners, there has been a huge amount of conflict with 2 non Christian partners (we have 8 Hamlin partners in all). This has also resulted in the son of the founder moving to assume his mother's authority to control the board. This is a very difficult time- we appreciate your prayers.

Midwifery **Annette** has struggled to find time to commit to completing her Masters thesis. Please pray she finds time in the next months to move this ahead.

With the 2nd graduation of midwives, we have now deployed 24 midwives into 12 health centres in 4 regions of the country. The challenges to support the midwives have been great but not insurmountable and we are constantly encouraged by their work. In late October one of our graduates successfully delivered triplets on her own by candle light! The numbers of deliveries in each health centre increases as each community sees the lives of their mothers being saved and their trust in the role of a highly skilled midwife grows. It is such a privilege to be part of this life changing work.

The College building work is coming to completion and student numbers grow. We hope to take more students in the coming years from even more diverse back grounds and we are thankful that our Midwives are "raising the bar" for midwifery practise throughout the country.

Pray for the College as it again goes through its 2nd accreditation process.



Kids

Alleytia in Australia— studying nursing at Notra Dame University in Darlinghurst. She completed two subjects in 2012 and now has a full time place commencing in 2013. She has found it a little difficult adjusting to life in Australia but is finding her feet. A part time job and is learning to drive are new experiences.

Lewis is now working hard on his final year of school in Ethiopia. He will finish in June.

Martin and Dylan had a good first semester at school and are working hard. Dylan is learning Saxophone and Martin continues with drumming. Alleytia flew in from Australia and enjoyed being with her brothers, sharing experiences with some friends who had also come "home" from their various universities around the world and of course riding her beloved horse, Binty through the fields and hills outside Addis Ababa.

Alleytia together with 2 old classmates spent a morning sharing their experiences and challenges transitioning out of their life in Ethiopia with the present year 12 students which was so valuable when it is still a process they are going through.



Prayer Points

1. Thanks for Alleytia getting a place at University
2. Give thanks for the success to date of the midwives deployed to rural areas.
3. For the board and the conflict we face at present
4. For Lewis and his final year at school.
5. For us as we consider our future.
6. For Hanna working with the Hospital chaplain— Zeneber.
7. For Bishop Mouneer and Christians in Egypt and Nth Africa. Concern over changes and freedom to worship.
8. For the appointment of the new Bishop in our region.

Staff

Hannah our social worker has been with our organisation for about 5 months now. She has made a huge contribution to the care of long term patients and those who live at our Desta Mender site. She is working closely with our Chaplain Zeneber. In this image staff have certificates after completing the Psychosocial training that she organised and ran so that we are able to more effectively meet the needs of women in our care.



Lewis and Martin have continued to enjoy playing music in our evening service at Church. The youth Ministry has had a wonderful year with thanks to Dave and Vicky Hartwell, mission partners from the UK working at Bingham school. They have made such a difference in the lives of teenagers in our Church and school.

I preached recently on Rev 2:18— Thyatira— tolerance— it reminded me of Jesus- John 8 the woman caught in Adultery. He forgave her without tolerating her behaviour— we need to learn this love without accepting sin as OK.

Roger Kay (CMS NSW) had an injury Christmas eve— he fell off a ladder and had a bad break to his elbow, he seems to be recovering well. They will take home leave in Australia this year and their daughter Elenor also finishes school with Lewis. A new Bishop has been found for our region— Horn of Africa. He will start later in 2012, this is a big mission opportunity— and needs prayer.

We have been Mission partners with:



We continue as partners with CMS in special agreement also supported by the Fistula Hospital, through the Australian trust. CMS can be contacted at: Level 5, 51 Druit St Sydney 2000. Tel. 92673711, fax 92673703,
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