



# FOOT STEPS TO HEALING

A Global  
Commitment  
to Improving  
Women's Health  
in Rural Ethiopia

DECEMBER 2010  
globalsoulinternational.blogspot.com

## NEWS

### GLOBAL COLLABORATION IN EMERGENCY OBSTETRICAL SERVICES

#### THE MOTA PROJECT OVERVIEW

In collaboration with the Ethiopian Department of Health, our small team from Portland, Oregon will travel in January to a hospital in the remote village of Mota to train local health officers in emergency obstetrical services. Through hands-on training, we will be servicing the community of women while transferring the skills necessary to sustain these services to local providers employed by the government hospital.

In addition, the team will document the lifestyles of young women in rural Ethiopia.

#### MOTA PROJECT DETAILS

Girls are married off very early in rural Ethiopia, sometimes by the age of ten. Often their pelvis has not yet formed adequately to give birth. Many girls experience difficulty during childbirth. If the baby does not fit through their pelvis, it dies in the womb. The pressure of the baby's head can create a fistula, a hole in the bladder or rectum resulting in leaking feces or urine. A girl may endure the trauma of days of obstructed labor, losing a child, uncontrollable leaking and being ostracized from her community because of the odor. Too often, she cannot be helped while living in the countryside.

We will be working with the Ethiopian government to train local health care providers to provide emergency

obstetrical services giving the girls close to Mota a place to go when labor takes too long. Training local health officers offers a sustainable solution to prevent fistula.

The lack of emergency obstetrical services in the rural highlands of Northern Ethiopia leads to complications in childbirth, such as bleeding, infection, fistulas and neonatal death. Our project delivers hands-on training to health officers, to provide emergency obstetrical services for the women in their community.

We also will be documenting the lifestyle of one Ethiopian girl, and will produce a video with the goal that it will solicit further training and supply assistance to this beautiful country. You can see our preparatory video here: [vimeo.com/15262440](http://vimeo.com/15262440). For more information about the medical conditions, please read our book here: [stores.lulu.com/ethiopianwomen](http://stores.lulu.com/ethiopianwomen).

For some astonishing information on fistula, you can view a documentary that details what happens when a young girl develops a fistula in Ethiopia. You can read about it here: [walktobeautiful.com](http://walktobeautiful.com) and watch the full version on YouTube by searching for "A Walk To Beautiful."

Our project will be focusing on the prevention of this socially, psychologically and physically debilitating condition and the prevention of neonatal and maternal death.

#### THE MOTA TEAM

**Dr. Philippa Ribbink** is a partner with Everywoman's Health, PC, a private OB/GYN practice in Portland, Oregon. She traveled to Gimbie Adventist Hospital in Gimbie, Ethiopia in 2010 to perform pelvic prolapse surgery with a group of Oregon physicians and has performed surgeries in Madagascar.

**Darlene Nastansky, PA-C**, spent several months in Karatu, Tanzania and Gimbie, Ethiopia volunteering her medical services.

**Joni Kabana** has worked with numerous international organizations, producing photographic exhibitions, books and video projects.

**Jay Wright** has produced several documentary videos in Tanzania and Ethiopia.

**Sosena Demissie** is a local Ethiopian woman, working on gender and development issues. In 2008 she participated in the Global Women Leadership Conference and will be invaluable in navigating Ethiopia and assisting with access to the surrounding villages.

#### FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Our fundraising goal of \$20,000 will cover expenses related to surgeries, training, supplies, medications, documentary media and the team's modest expenses.

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### FUNDRAISING EFFORTS *continued*

KEEN has generously donated 900 pairs of shoes to facilitate the Ethiopian women's walk home after surgery.

Book clubs have read the book *Cutting for Stone* and have invited members of our team to participate in the following interactive fundraising discussions and slide shows, which are open to the public:

- December 21, 2010  
Tennis Bookies Book Club—  
Tucson, AZ
- February 17, 2011 at 7 P.M.  
Lake Oswego Library Lecture at  
Marylhurst University:  
Commons-Hawthorne Room.

### UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENT

Please come—and help spread the word!

## ***FUN-Raiser***

**Friday, December 3, 2010 6–7:30 PM**

*Hilarity, bedlam & highly talented  
show-womanship ensue as the beauties at  
Darcelle's help us raise bucks for Mota.*

**Tickets: \$20, \$50, \$100—YOU Pick!**

*100% of proceeds & tips  
will go to the Mota Project.*

**Darcelle XV Showplace**

208 NW 3rd Avenue, Portland, OR

More info? Email: [joni@jonikabana.com](mailto:joni@jonikabana.com)  
or [darlene.nastansky@gmail.com](mailto:darlene.nastansky@gmail.com)

### DONATIONS FOR MOTA

All donations are tax deductible; no charity administration fees are deducted. Your full donation will be applied to the project. Donations of air miles are also appreciated.

**GlobalSoulInternational.org**

*Please specify*

*“Footsteps to Healing:  
Mota Project”*

*with your donation.*

**Checks are also welcome.**

MAIL  
CHECKS  
TO: Global Soul International  
6416 SW Corbett Avenue  
Portland, OR 97239

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6416 SW Corbett Avenue  
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NEWS

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