



Meserete Kristos Church

Newsletter 006 February 2020

President's Message



The church in Ephesus was a multicultural church. Apostle Paul wrote to the believers a message that reminds their new identity in Christ. *Consequently, you*

are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (Eph 2:19)

We are people called by God to a new identity. The new elevated identity became a reality when God demolished the dividing wall that existed between people through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ made the bridge that connects people of diverse culture and worldview through this new identity in Him.

The Apostle Paul describes this new identity using two metaphors. The first is citizenship. In the past, Gentiles were considered as foreigners and strangers in the kingdom of God. They did not have equal status with Jews to participate in religious practices. But now, they became citizens of the kingdom of God.

Nowadays, people try to get citizenship in developed countries. They want equal rights, protection and privileges by being the citizens of those countries. Citizenship is an honor. It gives many rights. It makes all people equal. Although we came from different cultures, walks of life, religion, etc., through Christ we have the privilege of being citizens of the kingdom of God. No more aliens, strangers, and native. We are all equal before Him.

The second metaphor Paul used is family. We value our family. Our family is our root, it is our pride, and strength. In Christ, we have all become God's family. God is the leader of the family; we are His children. We all have the same right to approach God, the Father. He hears the voice of all His children.

Paul invited all of us to demonstrate the values, thoughts, attitudes and behaviors of citizens of God's kingdom. We have to live as per the standards required of us. The history we came from may not be helping us to live fully in alignment with this new identity. The new identity requires us to live together with equality, tolerance, love and respect. If we are determined, God gives us His enabling grace to demonstrate our new identity in our talk and walk. I encourage all of us to display this new identity in our daily lives so that others see and join God's family. God bless!

MKC was selected to host Mennonite World Conference

Mennonite World Conference has started preparation to celebrate 500th year of Anabaptist movement in 2025. As part of this celebration, a film crew came from MWC came to

Addis Ababa and filmed the experience of believers in MKC in the past (during persecution) and now. The film is intended to demonstrate religious freedom: inner freedom through faith even in persecution, how do we live our faith when we have freedom to do what we like in our society.

Furthermore, Meserete Kristos Church was selected to host Mennonite World Conference to be held in 2027.

MKC appreciates for being selected to host the global Anabaptist family.

Lisa and Lean, two delegates from MWC came to Addis Ababa to conduct assessment as part of the planning for the conference.



From right to left: Tewodros B., Desalegn, liesa, Lean, Kelbessa and Tigist.

Visiting retired fulltime ministers

The president and vice president of MKC visited two retired fulltime ministers. Support sent for Ev. Gebremichael and Teklu was delivered to both during the visit. They appreciated the support and visit.



Leadership Training

MKC head office facilitated a leadership training for local church leaders in woliso & Sebat Bet region for two days.

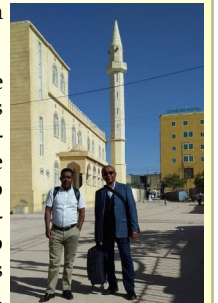
Brother Aklilu Yilma, the Education and Training Division director was the key speaker during the training.



Mission to neighboring countries

The Evangelum Mission at the Head Office visited believers in Hargeisa, Somali Land and encouraged them to stand firm in their faith despite the persecution.

In our Agenda 2819, one of MKC's strategic focus areas is cross-border mission activities. We have planned to reach out to the communities on borders and through them to reach out to people groups in neighboring countries. We need the support of our partners to make this plan a reality.



Peace training

The Peace and Reconciliation section at the Head Office has been conducting peace training for 68 church leaders and volunteers recruited in Woliso-Sebat Bet MKC Region for the last three years. The participants were given certificate of participation on February 21, 2020 at Wolkite town. The participants completed 6 topics covered during the training and practiced what they have learnt in their respective communities.



The Ziway case is settled

The dispute between Ziway MKC and Misgana ministries over the ownership of a school for the last 11 years was resolved amicably.



MKC Regional Offices' News

Nazareth MKC Regional Office

Nazareth MKC Regional office is among the early regional offices of the church. At present, it encompasses 88 local churches and 50 church planting centers in the towns and rural areas. The regional office held its general assembly on February 8, 2020. The president and the vice from the MKC head office attended the meeting.



Shone MKC Regional Office

Shone MKC regional office is located in the southern part of Ethiopia. From 53 local churches 165 leaders have attended the generally assembly which was held on February 7-8/2020. The Pastoral Ministry Division director, Pastor Sebrela Kedir attended the meeting by representing the head office.



Partial view of the partici-

Similar regional general assembly has been conducted Hosaena, central refit valley, Arsi and Bale, west hararge, Gimbi, Nekemete, North west(Bahirdar) Regional offices.

Besides, Belayneh Gebrehana the finance director of the MKC head office gave training on financial management and the church's financial policy for church leaders invited from Omo regional office and local churches on February 8/2020

Visitors

A group from Mennonite Church Canada visited MKC during the month. We worshipped the Lord together by singing and partaking in the Lord's Supper.



Dr. Jim Engle and Peg Engle from US also visited MKC head office . Dr. Jim has been serving on the MKC Link Board for many years. Peg served as a mission in Ethiopia for many years before the church was banned by the communist regime in the 1970s. In addition, they visited MK College and old friends in Addis Ababa and Adama areas.



Dr. Getu Fama, an Ethiopian born Canadian also visited MKC. He has been actively supporting church planting activities in central part of Ethiopia.



Dr. Sisay Desalegn from USA has also visited us with good words encouragement and idea of reconnection

with MKC families in and out of Ethiopia.

Gashie Bedru Hussien, the former General Secretary of MKC, visited the head office after long time. Bedru served MKC as the General Secretary and vice president of MWC . He was very happy to see the current status of the church.



Prayer Requests

- ◆ Pray for the peace of the country so that the church focuses on spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to people. As Election 2020 is approaching, we request for consistent prayer for the peace and stability in pre-election, during and post-election.
- ◆ Pray for the funding of peace building trainings in the country using the church's structure. There are requests from communities where MKC churches are operating to help in peace building training. MKC has been known for promoting peaceful co-existence among diverse people groups and the peace trainings would be instrumental to build peace at this particular period.
- ◆ Prayer support for the refinement and implementation of Agenda 2819, MKC's Roadmap for the coming decade