



# Meserete Kristos Church

Newsletter 003 November 2019

## President's Message

As I was reflecting on 2Timothy 4:2, I realized that preaching the Gospel in this evil world is a dangerous task. Preaching the Gospel is not a work that can be done only at a convenient or safe time. Those who were called continue preaching the Gospel even in a situation that threatens their well-being. Many organizations evacuate their employees in the event of conflict or war or when other threatening situations occur. Priority is given to workers' safety. But in the Gospel ministry, ministers are required to serve in situations where they feel insecure.

In an environment where there is opposition to the Gospel, the Church never stops serving the Gospel. However, it is important to learn to walk wisely as we fulfill the mission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the world. Our Lord admonished us, "Be as wise as the serpent." So while paying for the Gospel is important, it is not necessary to pay the wrong price by going the wrong way.

Followers of Christ often serve in areas of various kinds of conflicts. They often live in anguish. They are concerned for their personal lives as well as for the life of the Church. In most cases, the conflict in the community transmits to the church, leading to division among believers. This hinders the congregation from focusing on the Gospel work.

True Gospel ministers and Church leaders will continue to serve the true Gospel during such difficult times. They should preach the true Gospel because it is the Gospel of peace, which brings people together to solve the conflict.

Various kinds of persecution arise over time as the Church preaches the Gospel of Christ. These include lack of religious freedom, hunger, war, social strife, conflicts within the Church, false teachings and practices, and anti-biblical philosophy. We faced these at different times. The Church survived even multiplied during the communist regime in our country. Now, we have a different kind of challenge that we have been facing and yet, Let us Keep preaching the Gospel of peace and unity in our nation.

Desalegn A.

## MKC Head Office

The MKC Head office division directors and all staffs held regular meeting to share what God accomplished in their respective ministry areas, challenges faced during the month and opportunities they plan to use in the days ahead.

The president has also used to opportunity to share the Word of God on the importance of working as a team. He stressed that God has not given all the gifts to one person. He gave different gifts to different people. The Church can provide holistic ministry when these people who have different gifts work together as a team. By working as a team, we can provide effective service. In a good team, people build up their strengths and improve their weaknesses. We do not have our own kingdoms; we work for one Kingdom—God's Kingdom. So we have to learn to work collaboratively. When we are a strong team, synergize our gifts and efforts, we can do better and more lasting work for God.

## Children Ministry

The Children Ministry conducted training for children ministry workers on the topic of *Understanding Children* in collaboration with regional offices.

The first training was conducted in Meta Robi MKC Regional Office for 174 trainees who came from 34 local churches within the region.



The second training was given to 16 Sunday schools teachers in Arsi Robe town in collaboration with Arsi-Bale local church.



Both trainings were facilitated by the children ministry coordinator at the Head Office.

*Many of the children ministry workers serve children without proper training in Bible and on how to teach children. There is a huge need to serve*

*...children in Ethiopia. Children under the age of 15 accounts for 41% of over hundred million population of the country. The future of our church depends on how well we serve these children.*

## Youth Ministry Workers' Workshop

The MKC Head Office Youth Ministry section has organized workshop for youth ministry workers in the Head office training hall from November 14-17, 2019.

A total of 241 youth ministry leaders from congregations of Addis Ababa Regional Office participated in the workshop.

In the workshop various topics such as biblical foundation of youth ministry, youth ministry in the history of MKC, designing need-based youth ministry curriculum, and purpose-driven youth ministry were presented and discussed.



*The need for effective youth ministry is also big. Adolescents/ youth (15-29 age) accounts for 28% of the total population of the country. There is also high number of adolescents/youth in the church. MKC is praying and discerning the best ways of addressing the needs of adolescents/ needs in the church and the community.*

## Mission training ( Evangelium)

The mission has trained 30 and 25 church planting workers on "Christ-centered life and ministry in Jarte and Shambu Regional Offices respectively.



Training participants—Jarte MKC Region

### Meeting with Former MKC Leaders

During the month, two former MKC leaders have visited the head office. Gash Million Belete, who was the first MKC chairman, and Dr. Tesfatsion Delelew, who has served MKC as a General Secretary of MKC came to the head office to learn the current status of the church as well as to share their wisdom to the new leadership of the church.

It was a joy to meet with them and learn from their long years of accumulated knowledge and wisdom. During the conversation with the president, they emphasized the importance of keeping the unity of the church, effective communication and expanding God's Kingdom in all areas across the country and beyond.

Both Gash Million and Dr. Tesfatsion are currently living in Addis Ababa and actively participate in their local church.



### MKC Regional Office News

Kotobe, one of the MKC congregations in Addis Ababa, inaugurated its Church building on November 17, 2019. The church building has the main sanctuary, Sunday school classes for adults and children, prayer rooms, meeting rooms and offices.

The building was completed within 3 years with the financial, labor and technical skills contributions of the members. The youth and construction related professionals volunteered to provide their labor and technical skills respectively.



The church members, leaders, and invited guests attended the inauguration ceremony. Special worship services were also conducted by the church's choir.

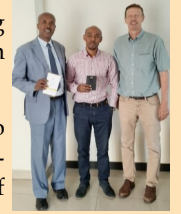
Dire Dawa MKC Regional Office conducted training for key leaders. The topic of the training was characteristics of effective Christian leadership. Desalegn Abebe facilitated the training. It was unfortunate that the training was disrupted due to the conflict in the town.



### International Visitors

Some organizations visited MKC Head Office to explore areas of mutual interests to partner in the work of the Kingdom of God.

A team from Talking Bible visited the church to explore ways of working together in distributing audio Bibles in different languages to people in need.



A group of Mennonite pastors from Canada also visited MKC Head Office. The team went to Debre Berhan town, located in the northern part of Ethiopia, to visit a correction center where MKC Prison Ministry has been helping people in the correction center and their families.



Recently, the state Media Network broadcasted the significance of the support of MKC in improving the lives of those in the correction center and their children who did not have someone to look after them.



Finally, a team from Bible League Canada led by Bob Beasley, the vice president, visited the office to explore ways of strengthening partnership with MKC in the areas of church planting, children ministry and Bible distribution. Bible League Canada has been supporting church planting efforts of the church in one of the MKC regional offices.



### Prayer Requests

- ◆ Pray for the peace of the country so that the church focuses on spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to people.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ The new leadership in MKC seeks God's guidance in charting out strategic direction for the next five years. We seek your prayers and sharing of your wisdom as we work on strategic planning.
- ◆ Pray for children and youth in Ethiopia as they are facing many challenges and problems and for the Church to reach them with the love of Christ.