

Meserete Kristos Church

Quarterly Newsletter September 2023

#48



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We trust in God who controls our future.



*Pastor Desalegn Abebe
MKC President*

The Ethiopian New Year begins on September 11. It is 2016 in the Ethiopian Calendar. We joke that Ethiopia is one of the oldest nations but 8 years younger than the rest.

As I was thinking about this New Year in our context, the word of God that came for the people of Israel through the Prophet Jeremiah came to my mind.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”(Jeremiah 29:11)

This is one of the most quoted verses of the Bible. God sent this message of hope while the people of Israel were in exile. God’s people were not in a good condition. Despite their condition, God told them that he had good things in store for them. God told them that He was in control of the situation.

In recent years, our country has been rocked by a series of ethnic-based and political violence. We lost several lives due to these conflicts. MKC grieves the loss of many Christian brothers and sisters including church leaders during the wars. We could not visit local churches to encourage them in some places due to security issues. There were many churches burned down and looted. Some of our church members were displaced and currently living in makeshift shelters without humanitarian aid.

Despite our gloomy conditions, we trust in God who can change things for good. We pray that God keeps His promise to heal the wounded hearts, restore our broken relationships, and change our future. As we start our New Year, let us fix our eyes on the almighty Lord who is in control of things.



92ND MKC GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN BISHOFTU

The Meserete Kristos Church annual general assembly was held at Bishoftu Main Campus of MK Seminary on 22 and 23, September 2023.

The MKC General Assembly is the highest governing body of the church that makes major policy decisions of the church.

Representatives from various MKC regions, regional general secretaries, department directors of the MKC Head Office, and guests of honor attended the general assembly.

The General Assembly was opened with prayers and worship. Lidet Choir from Adama MKC Region sang old

gospel songs. Lidet Choir is one of the first MKC choir groups established during the formation years of the church.

Pastor Desalegn Abebe, MKC President, presented a major annual ministry performance of the church to the General Assembly. In his report, he highlighted that the MKC is growing but all should put more effort into accelerating the growth of the church in size and quality of services.

The finance director also presented an audit report of the Head Office.

One of the major deliberations of the general assembly was to promote the agenda of the Great

Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19) to sustain the growth of the church in line with the strategic plan of the church.

The leaders also stressed the importance of prayers for peace and stability in the country and around the world. The persistent conflicts in different parts of the country have impacted the holistic life of the people and the church. The leaders prayed for the regions that could not come to the general assembly due to high travel security issues.





Guests of Honor Attended the MKC General Assembly

The guests of honor from the Mennonite World Conference (César García, General Secretary, and Liesa Unger, Chief International Events Officer) and Mennonite Central Committee – Ethiopia representatives (Paul and Rebecca Mosley) attended the general assembly of MKC. The General Secretary of Ethiopian Gospel Believers Churches' Council, Reverend Dereje Jemberu, board members of the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia, and representatives of other church denominations participated in the opening ceremony of the general assembly.

Representatives from MWC and MCC-Ethiopia planted fruit trees in front of the multipurpose hall of the MK Seminary to symbolize our sustained fraternity.







Recognition for Preachers of the True Gospel

It has been noted that MKC designated and banned several false prophets and teachers about six years ago from teaching in any MKC constituency.

The church leadership realized the importance of acknowledging the ministry of

genuine preachers of the Word of God. MKC set up a committee that developed criteria to select evangelical preachers/teachers known for preaching the Word of God for years. The committee selected 11 preachers from MKC and 10 from other evangelical church denominations and gave each of

them the Bible with their names stitched and a certificate of recognition on the first day of the General Assembly. One of the preachers who received recognition for preaching the true gospel was a female evangelist.





Believers Praying for Peace



“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

(2 Chronicles 7:14)



Equipping youth for peace



Mekonnen Gemeda, peacebuilding Director

Meserete Kristos Church Peacebuilding Department organized a training for youth titled “Youth for Peace and Peace for Youth.” The training was held on August 21-22, 2023, at the Bishoftu Main Campus of MK Seminary. A total of 41 youth leaders from MKC regions participated in the training.

The purpose of the training was to equip Christian young men and women with skills to promote peace in their sphere of influence.

It is noted that young people have been active in conflicts and wars in Ethiopia. They are influenced by hate speeches shared on social media and engage in violence.

MKC has been organizing various programs to create awareness for youth to divert their energies to peacebuilding.

The training participants reflected that lack of awareness has been one of the reasons for the active participation of Christian youth in violence. Now, they said that they

realized they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ to love their enemies and work for the common good of society.

As part of the training, the participants got the opportunity to share their experiences, learn from each other, and pray for one another.

MKC Peacebuilding department is very grateful to MCC-Ethiopia for giving this important training given to the youth.





Other NEWS

MKC's Role in ECFE

Pastor Desalegn Abebe was elected as the Chairperson of the Board of Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia. ECFE held its 38th annual general assembly at Gihon Hotel on August 9-10,

2023. ECFE is an umbrella organization for over a hundred evangelical church denominations in Ethiopia. It has several affiliate members including evangelical churches of Ethiopia in the diaspora. The

Meserete Kristos Church was one of the ten founding members of the Evangelical Churches of Ethiopia during the communist regime.

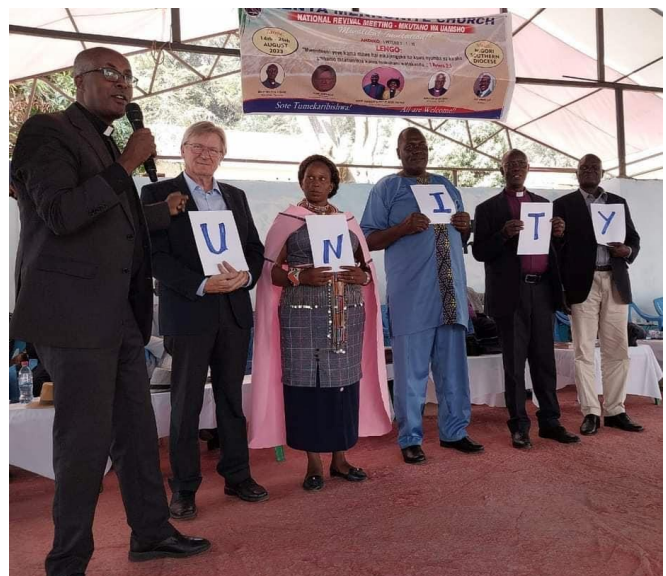


Regional Unity for Great Commission

Pastor Desalegn Abebe attended the East African Mennonite Church leaders' conference held in Kenya on August 14-20, 2023.

Pastor Desalegn spoke on the unity of the church and Agenda 2819 (Matthew 28:19). He said, "Regional collaboration is needed to undertake the Great Commission of Jesus Christ." He added, "We can fulfill the Great Commission if we work together and create cross-cultural collaborations."

Pastor Desalegn repeatedly says, "The Gospel is our priority number one!"





Condolences

The Meserete Kristos Church expressed deep condolences to the families of Brother Solomon Gebreyes and Pastor Hailu Medhianet.



Solomon Gebreyes went to be with the Lord on August 30, 2023.

Brother Solomon was the editor of Miskir Magazine and director of the MKC Prison Ministry, and Pastor Hailu was a full-time minister at Modjo Meserete Kristos.



Pastor Hailu Medihonet, Modjo MKC went to be with the Lord on September 19, 2023

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants. (Psalms 116:15)



“ Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

Prayer Requests

- Pray for peace and stability for Ethiopia and other countries suffering from conflicts and wars.
- Pray for displaced people, especially Christians who are in makeshift shelters without receiving humanitarian aid.
- Pray for MKC to develop competent and committed servant leaders at the head office, Katena, regions, and local churches. A few regional general secretaries will finish their two terms next year, and pray for leaders to make the right decisions in recruiting new leaders.
- Pray for church planters who are spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ in hostile areas for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, God’s protection, and wisdom to share the gospel with people to lead them to faith in Christ.
- Pray for MKC to get adequate resources to serve the Lord effectively.



About Meserete Kristos Church

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The Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) was established in 1951. At present (August 2022), MKC has 1 Ketena office, 52 Regional Offices, 1462 local churches, and 992 church planting centers in all the regional states of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Vision

MKC aspires to be a missionary church empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and expand God's Kingdom in Ethiopia and beyond.

Mission

The Meserete Kristos Church exists to preach the Gospel to all people and teach those who believe in Jesus to make them disciples of Christ.

Strategic Goals

The Meserete Kristos Church has the following strategic goals:

- To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people
- To provide effective pastoral ministry to church members
- To equip church leaders and ministers for the ministry of the gospel
- To promote justice and peace in the society
- To provide holistic service to address the basic needs of people

