



SEPTEMBER 2016



NEWSLETTER

Mailed to Interested Friends of Meserete Kristos College

Campus Hosts Multiple Summer Activities

Once again, during the month of June, several block courses were given for regular students. Guest lecturers, Dr. Richard and Jewel Showalter of Irwin, OH, team taught a course on World Religions, and Dr. Helen Walker, returned a second summer from Messiah College to teach a sophomore class on English reading and writing.

As usual, during the summer months the campus became a welcoming retreat center for many different groups in need of a friendly and convenient venue for their meetings, trainings, workshops, or retreat activities. For example, this summer, in a seven week period, July 14 to September 3, the College hosted 13 different groups for varying lengths of time.



Participants celebrate with an evening of worship and fun around a campfire

Among them were MKC regional or congregational staff retreats. One group came from the Kale Hiywot denomination. Others were para-church NGO staff retreats. Over 100 freshman students, preparing to enter universities, came for an inspirational get together. In total, about 946 participants graced the campus during those seven weeks.

Utilizing the campus facilities during the summer break serves as a blessing to many participants, and also helps to raise much needed income for the College. Much thanks goes to God for His indispensable provision! — Reported by Teku Kebede

Youth Leaders Training: “A New Generation for Christ”

Thousands of Christian students going to Ethiopia’s secular universities face many challenges intellectually, morally, and spiritually. They also have many opportunities to give a positive Christian witness. New students, and especially females, face many dangers. The Church Head Office gives special training each summer for student leaders. Again this year, 17 took the two-week training on campus. The purpose of the training is to equip them with God’s truth and encourage them in their leadership and ministry among their fellow students.

Peace & Conflict Transformation Training

Sixteen participants returned for the third summer for four weeks to complete a twelve-week training in Peace and Conflict Transformation in August. The training was provided by two guests, Dr. Sundy Angoma Okello and Dr. Mercy Fekadu, and two MK College instructors Amdetsion Woldeyes and Kebede Bekere. Courses given included Analysis: Understanding Conflict, Conflict Transformation, Trauma Healing and Resilience, and Restorative Justice. Participants said that the training has been helpful and constructive. Upon completion of the program they were awarded certificates.

— Reported by Teku Kebede



Summer Peace & Conflict Transformation Training Class

A Dorm: Giving Honor to the Mothers of the Church!

During the time the Meserete Kristos Church was forced to operate in a secret “underground” mode (1982-91), women played crucial leadership roles in the cell church movement. They served as leaders in the home cell groups; provided hospitality in their homes; led Bible studies; led in fasting and prayer activities; did pastoral work in preaching, teaching, and discipling new believers, in comforting and encouraging those who suffered illness, persecution, temptation, discouragement, or physical need; did neighborhood evangelism through visitation, hosting or attending coffee ceremonies; attended and assisted in funeral and wedding ceremonies, etc. Most of these sisters did all of these ministry services without the benefit of much higher education.

The Church officially recognizes no gender barrier to any leadership position or role. But the culture still impacts the practice of the Church.

During that dark decade, men were watched by the secret police for any sign of possible “subversive activity”, so had to keep a low profile. Women were assumed by the Marxist government to be less of a threat, and could move about incurring less suspicion. But, with the fall of the Derg regime and the restoration of religious freedom, men emerged out of the “woodwork” and assumed most of the public leadership roles. Yet, females continued as respected leaders in the less conspicuous helping roles. Today, **the Church officially recognizes no gender barrier to any leadership position or role**, but the Ethiopian culture still impacts the practice of the Church. Very few females hold key positions, and almost none of the delegates sent to the annual General Assembly are female. And the overwhelming preponderance of male students in our College only perpetuates and accentuates that gap.

However, most male Church leaders recognize that there is much potential talent and gifting lying dormant and unrealized in women who constitute at least 50% of the Church’s 275,000 members. Most of these women are less educated, and have been entrusted with less opportunities to exercise and develop their gifts. So there is genuine interest in equipping and encouraging the use of those gifts in the various ministries of the Church. Hence, the Church has included three females, all of whom have masters degrees, among the twelve full time teaching faculty. Also, the Church has provided special scholarships for young women and approved the building of a dormitory that will accommodate up to 258 women, a belated honor to the “Mothers of the Church”! — By Carl E. Hansen

“I learned so much in College. It enlarged my world view and gave me the necessary backbone for my ministry. Especially, the study of anthropology helped me to do my evangelism with sensitivity to the particular culture of the people I work with.”

- Tsedash Tefera, Horn of Africa Project

Female Graduates Make Their Mark

Some of the MK College’s 55 female graduates are engaged in the following activities: three are lecturers at Meserete Kristos College; one is coordinating the College’s Distance Education program, a program that provides an educating opportunity for 271 church leaders scattered throughout the nation in their homes; one is heading up a ministry to female prisoners; several have started unique ministries to rehabilitate destitute “street women”; one is editing another denominations’ magazine; several are serving as evangelists in their congregations; at least two have been ordained as pastors; at least one serves as an itinerant revival preacher; several are holding key positions in different para church organizations; a few are doing graduate studies on the masters level with future contribution yet unknown; others are working with congregations in Compassion ministries that sponsor children of destitute families; etc.

While these women are engaged in their critical career jobs, they are also more effectively serving their congregations as Sunday school teachers, youth workers, Bible teachers, in women’s ministries, as deacons, office workers, and elders, etc. These are some of the ministries our 55 female graduates are currently engaging in. So much more remains to be done, were more of our female members capacitated through education! — By Carl E. Hansen



Women’s Dormitory: Making Space for More Women

Progress was hampered by shortages of supplies. Forty tons of cement was paid for, but couldn’t be delivered at this time. But smaller amounts were found and construction is moving on.

Meet Our Alumni

My name is Haymanot Adamu. I was born and raised at a town called Shindi in Gojjam 427 kms north-west of Addis on September 27, 1973. I completed junior school in Shindi Elementary and Secondary school and then was promoted to Damot High School at Finote Selam 387 kms to north-west of Addis.



Haymanot Adamu, preacher-teacher

When I was in grade nine, a girl named Tsehay told me about Jesus. On November 7, 1987, I received Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and started attending Discipleship class in Meserete Kristos Church. After a month, I started preaching the gospel to my friends and my family. Then, I was baptized in 1989.

At that time, accepting Christianity was illegal because the Marxist Derg Government was still in power. So, there was persecution in my area. Especially near the end of the Derg rule, persecution was increasing. Therefore, I left the area and went to Gondar where I started fellowship with members of the Meserete Kristos Church who were students at Gondar Medical College (today's Gondar University). I preached the gospel there. On September 11, 1994, I became a fulltime minister in that Church in Gondar. The church grew.

In 1999, I joined Meserete Kristos College in the diploma program and graduated in 2001 and returned to minister in Gondar. Four years later I was given a chance to join MK College again in the degree level program and graduated in January, 2007.

After my graduation I returned to my local Meserete Kristos Church in Gondar and continued serving there till November

2012. I taught Biblical subjects in my local church and gave Biblical courses in other evangelical churches on the certificate and diploma levels. Since November 2012, I have been serving at the Meserete Kristos Head Office in the Prison Ministry, the Peace and Justice Office, and the Children's Ministry Office. In my ministry in prison and peace offices, I facilitated biblical and peace trainings. Now I am serving as the Coordinator of Children's Ministry in MKC. We have prepared holistic children's Sunday School curriculum which is ready to be published. Moreover, I am facilitating Sunday School teachers training in the regional and local levels. May God bless MK College which built up my knowledge of the Bible and how to serve the Lord in the church and in society. I have benefited much from the College. I hope to study more in the future.

From the President's Desk

We believe that our purpose-driven existence is God's mission, which is holistic development. This holistic development is also encompassed in our College's vision, mission, goals and values. Every development that doesn't include the human spirit's regeneration, really can't lead to holistic development. Real development begins with human spirit regeneration, which is reconciliation with the true God. Truthfully, a human soul that is weighed down with the power of sin is always under the influence of evil powers. Without having the true word of God, there is no authentic regeneration and reconciliation. That is why our College exists, for reconciling humans with God.

I thank all MK College friends, both far and near, for we are here because of you and God. Therefore, gratefully, we are joyfully serving God and those created in his image, both the converted and the unconverted. The hidden worldly person, who has learned God's truth systematically, is better than someone that doesn't learn God's truth at all, because, we believe, one day that person will be God's.

We are leading trainees from immaturity to maturity, from mischievousness to faithfulness, from infancy to adulthood. Both before and after graduation, they might not be perfect persons. Therefore, we will strive to elevate from the deformed person to a reformed, then to a transformed person. That is what the College is doing. We beg all our friends residing in and working at MKC Head Office, Regions, Local churches, Link Board USA, Link Board Canada, Mennonite Church Canada, and NWMC and so on to pray for us as we strive towards launching the social/liberal arts, revising the curriculum, strategic planning and building a dormitory for women, operating Regional Bible Schools and the academic affairs. We believe that your friendship and support and ownership will keep the MK College from oblivion.



President Kiros Teke



Architect's Vision of the MK College Dormitory for Women

Concerns for Prayer

- For the selection and admission of the right students
- For the provision of sufficient scholarship funds to support them
- For the teachers and administrators as they prepare and lead
- For the Meserete Kristos Church as it responds to growth issues
- For protection and wisdom for leaders of a quiet Muslims-to-Jesus movement involving some of our graduates
- For the Government that it would respond wisely and justly to protesting populations and criticism

Urgent: Time is Running Out!

In our June Newsletter, we announced a matching grant challenge opportunity by an anonymous donor couple from Western Canada who wish to match 50/50 any MK College Building Fund donations up to Cdn \$200,000 (US \$150,000) to complete the much needed Women's Dormitory now under construction. **Their offer will double the value of our best gift or pledge made before September 30, 2016. Donation pledges committed by September 30 and payable by March 31, 2017 will also qualify for the matching dollars.**

As of today, gifts received plus pledges have pushed us past the half way mark! Yet, we have only three weeks left to make up the remainder in order to take advantage of the full matching grant offer. With your generous help, we believe we can meet the goal to cover the remaining cost of \$383,533 USD needed to complete the dorm on schedule.

If you have not already sent in your gift to be matched, **please do so before the September 30 deadline.** Or, if that is not possible, please notify us, before September 30, of your pledge stating what you intend to send by the 31st day of March 2017.

For a tax deductible receipt, please send your gift earmarked for "MKC Women's Dorm", or if you prefer to support students, earmark your gift "Scholarships", and send to:

In USA, make your check payable to: **MK College Link**, and send to MK College Link, Box 1701, Harrisonburg, VA 22803, USA

In Canada write your check to "**Mennonite Church Canada**", and post to **Mennonite Church Canada, 600 Shaftesbury Blvd., Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4, Canada.** Be sure to designate it for "MK College Dorm", or "MK College Scholarships".

Or write your check to "**Northwest Mennonite Conference**" attn: Meserete Kristos College and send to **NWMC, Box 1316, Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0, Canada**

In other countries **wire funds directly** to: Bank of Abyssinia, Bole Branch, Addis Ababa, SWIFT Code: ABYSETAA, to **Meserete Kristos College Account # 14417.** Notify Kiros Tekla by separate communication at kiros1957@gmail.com

"Why Are We Doing It?"

When the donor couple, who had never been to Ethiopia, were asked: "What prompted you to match donations?", their reply was:

"We've always valued missions work and education (particularly Christian education and particularly for women) as priorities for our charitable giving. During a recent will-updating exercise, we were listing causes we'd like our estate to support, and included putting money towards the completion of the Meserete Kristos Women's Dorm in the list. On this particular item, our consultant challenged us by asking "**Why wait until you're dead?**". Why wait indeed! We think that by stretching ourselves and offering up a matching program to get the dorm done sooner rather than later, we might encourage others to also not wait and instead join with us. By working together, we will all be able to see this project blessing the believers in Ethiopia."

Our Appeal

Let us "first world" Christians join together in a true Christian spirit with our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia as they honor the "Mothers of the Church" by building their first dormitory for women! **Let each of us pray and then share this opportunity with friends and neighbors, bring it to the attention of your congregation or club or community, or share it with your small group or Sunday School class. Let everybody pitch in and think of ways to help.** We have done a lot to provide nice sanctuaries, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, seminaries, and retirement homes **for ourselves.** Let us also do something special **for our brothers and sisters far away!**

Remember, your gift today will help **twice as much** when it is matched by the generosity of our anonymous friends!

Contact us at:

Pastor Teku Kebede, Editor, PO Box 1869, Debre Zeit, Ethiopia, Carl E. Hansen, Associate Editor, 1523 Park Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, USA.

E-mail: mkcollegenewsletter@gmail.com

Tel.: 251-911-42-1887 or 540-830-0902