



Photo by Henok Tamirat

September 2021

Newsletter

Mailed to Interested Friends of Meserete Kristos Seminary

Summer 2021 Graduation Honors 124

On August 14, 2021, the Meserete Kristos Seminary held its commencement. This year, we awarded 48 students with Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Christian Ministries in English, 37 students with Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Christian Ministries in Amharic, 8 students with Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Christian Ministries in Amharic from the Addis Ababa Campus, and 31 students with Diploma in Bible and Christian Ministries with Distance Learning. The total number of MK Seminary graduates has now reached 2,073. Pastors and church leaders have been trained at MK Seminary not only for MK Church but also for other denominations.

The MK Seminary exists to prepare men and women for ministry marked by making people disciples of Jesus Christ. Whatever we do at MK Seminary, whether it is teaching and learning, agriculture, construction, or providing services, it should all contribute to the achievement of this mission.



Graduates at the commencement ceremony

Welcoming New Witness Workers in Ethiopia

The Mennonite Church of Canada has had a close affiliation with the Seminary which was first founded in 1994. Werner and his wife Joanne DeJong are among the volunteer instructors who have joined us. This partnership helps Meserete Kristos Seminary not only financially and materially, but also in generating pastors who are trained in Anabaptist Mennonite principles for its local churches and beyond.

Now, we are grateful to welcome them back! Having long-term volunteers like Werner and Joanne is beneficial to both the Seminary and the Church. On the one hand, faculty, staff, and students will exchange their expertise and cross-cultural experiences. Also, the ties that bind the two churches will continue to strengthen, ensuring the transmission of teachings and traditions. — By Henok Tamirat



Photo source: Courtesy: Joanne and Werner De Jong



MK Seminary instructors pray during commencement

New Leadership Structure of MK Seminary



Gishu Jebecha,
MK Seminary Principal



Dr. Emebet Mekonnen,
Vice-Principal for Academic Affairs



Mary Tesfay
Head of Finance Affairs



Pastor Teku Kebede
Students Dean



Nigatu Markose
HR Personnel



Addisu Birhanu
General Service Personnel



Ayaleneshe Erku
Management Committee

Endowment Fund Launched

On July 10, 2021 the MK College Link Board approved launching a **Meserete Kristos Church Founders Endowment Fund**. The name of this fund affirms the educational work of MK Seminary (MK College) which belongs to the MK Church. It honors the early missionaries, the early Ethiopian church leaders, the women and men who led the church during the Derg period, and the leaders since this difficult time.

The purpose of this endowment fund is to provide a stable long-term source of tuition financial assistance for students from Meserete Kristos Church congregations who enroll in MK Seminary.

The launching goal for this fund is to raise \$100,000 by June 30, 2023 after which the fund will begin to provide a percentage of its earnings for scholarships. These scholarship earnings will be sent by the Link Board to MK Seminary who in turn will select and reward scholarships to qualifying students.

The MK College Link Board members kindly ask you to join them in this effort to reach this goal of launching and building up this endowment fund. Giving to this fund will enable your gifts to keep on giving.

Send your gifts (marked Endowment Fund) to: MK College Link Board, P.O. Box 1701, Harrisonburg, VA 22803.

Words from a Great Distinction Graduate

My name is Tizitaw Mulunch. I am from Bale Goba Meserete Kristos Local Church. I received Christ as my savior and was baptized in 2006 E.C. I took a discipleship course in my local church and started my ministry through joining a prayer group. Then I started my full-time service as a church accountant and, after three months, I started my holistic service in the church with those who are great experienced servants in our Church.

The reason I joined Meserete Kristos Seminary was related to my experience with a heretical person who was originally from our town, but at that time lived in Addis Ababa. One day I was praying in the church alone when he came with one of our servants and joined me in prayer. Then he started prophesying over me. Even as I tried to question him, he was well organized in promoting his heresy. One of his ideas I couldn't embrace was that we don't need to repent of our misdeeds in front of God since God's kindness is like a shower. The person who brought him to me inquired, "How do you view him?" And I told him that the church needed ministers who were well-versed in their faith.

It was an exciting time for me when I first arrived at Meserete Kristos Seminary, but I was a little confused because I assumed it only offered Bible courses, but it actually began with an intensive English course, which is crucial for our four-year educational journey. In general, my attendance at this wonderful, fully equipped seminary was a great privilege for me because I met lifelong friends and brotherly and sisterly teachers who had a great capacity to teach and role model for me. Prior to joining Meserete Kristos Seminary, I had helped college communities through emergency nursing care because I had a clinical nurse diploma.

I took the Leadership and Peace and Reconciliation emphasis, and with God's help, I received 3.83 cumulative grade point average. "Having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross," according to the Bible. (See Col 2:15) Because I received a good biblical frame during my college years, I hope that I am able to achieve my goal of defending my faith.

Finally, I have a message for those interested in attending theological college. Meserete Kristos Seminary is the ideal setting for God's servants, with excellent teachers, well-organized staff, and high-quality facilities. So, rest assured, if you choose Meserete Kristos Seminary, you will not be disappointed. Those who wish to support this Seminary must understand that they are participating in God's kingdom. And God will never forget what you have done!



*Tizitaw Mulunch
Graduate of 2021*

A Strategic Plan Consultancy Meeting

Gishu Jebecha, the Principal, made some opening remarks at a Strategic Plan consultancy meeting on September 3, 2021. He welcomed Kebede Bekere, who has volunteered to coordinate the development of the Strategic Planning. If consultants were hired, this could have cost the Seminary more than 270,000 birr. He had a meeting with the faculty. The day before, he interviewed staff at various levels. The Seminary's staff and faculty examined its strengths and weaknesses and made recommendations. The Strategic Plan is expected to be completed by January of next year. — *Reported by: Teku Kebede*



Kebede Bekere standing before faculty members leading the Strategic Planning consultancy meeting

Join Us In Prayer For:

- a peaceful and just conclusion to the war that is disturbing the lives of millions in the north;
- wisdom for the nation's leaders as they seek to form a new government of national reconciliation following the election in the context of political polarization,
- our brothers and sisters in Tigray, Amhara, and Afar as they are passing through war and persecution.
- the well-being of students, faculty, and all the college community in this unsettled pandemic year;
- The Seminary's financial self-sustainability.

Building Project Update

The Seminary's current kitchen and dining hall were constructed in 2008 as temporary emergency facilities to enable the little College to begin its operations. After eleven years, Government inspectors from the Department of Health informed the administrators that the kitchen and dining hall were substandard and must be upgraded immediately. Consequently, with the financial support of MKC friends and partners, construction of a multipurpose dining hall and kitchen began 17 months ago. Unfortunately, inflation and shortages of materials escalated the costs way over budget and delayed building progress.

In July we sent out an urgent appeal for funds to complete this construction. We appealed for \$220,000 to make up the deficit. We are happy to report that generous response has brought in \$136,000 so far. \$84,000 is still needed.

Completion of this project will provide a permanent facility to serve and safeguard the health of a growing campus community of students, faculty, staff members and guests. In addition, church organizations, NGOs, and families will benefit periodically from this modern facility by using the seminary campus as a venue for annual conferences, educational seminars, workshops, weddings, and other activities. This additional use will provide a source of income for the College as well.

— Reported by Carl Hansen



Construction of the kitchen & multi-purpose dining hall is completed by 73%. Hope we will finish this year.

Photo by Henok Tamirat

Urgent Need!

Fall classes will resume in the last week of September. This means, once again, there will be more worthy applicants in need than there are scholarship funds to support them. Please, in your fall charitable giving, do not forget this need.

To support one student with tuition, room and board for a full academic year still costs only \$2,500!

Investment in the formation of a Christian leader is one of the best investments one can make!

Please designate your gift to:

“MK Seminary Scholarships”, “MK Seminary Building Fund”, or “MK Seminary as Needed”.

We are happy to provide tax-deductible receipts.

Write your check to

“MK College Link” and send to MK College Link, Box 1701, Harrisonburg, VA 22803, USA

Or “Mennonite Church Eastern Canada”, and send to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, attn: Meserete Kristos College, 201-50 Kent Ave. Kitchener, ON N2G 3R1 Canada (Or, if you prefer, you may send your gift to your Regional Church office)

Or “Northwest Mennonite Conference”, and send to Northwest Mennonite Conference attn: Meserete Kristos College, Box 1316, Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0, Canada

Or wire funds directly to: Bank of Abyssinia, Bole Branch, Addis Ababa, SWIFT Code: ABYSETAA, to Meserete Kristos College Account # 31976. Notify Gishu Jebecha by separate communication at gishuj@yahoo.com

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