

The Meserete Kristos Church (MKC) in Ethiopia dates back to 1951. Mennonite work in Ethiopia was first promoted by Orie Miller in 1929 but did not become reality until after World War II. MCC's first involvement in Ethiopia was in 1945 when it cooperated with the Elkhart Indiana-based Mennonite Relief Committee (MRC) to send a shipment of clothing and medicine to post-occupation Ethiopia. In the years that followed, MRC established Haile Mariam Mamo Hospital in Nazareth and turned it over in 1951 to Eastern Board, whose first missionaries had arrived in 1947. Also in 1951, Eastern Board missionaries baptized the first believers in what would become the MKC.

The Communist/military government (the Derg) closed the church in 1982 and several church leaders were imprisoned until 1986. In March 1990 Evangelicals began to experience more freedom. Churches formerly closed were given permission to reopen. MKC was legally registered in 1992. Some churches have had confiscated properties returned and others are still hopeful that their requests for the return of their properties will be granted. There is religious freedom under the constitution, but in some areas where the majority is Orthodox or Muslim. Evangelicals are discriminated against and sometimes persecuted. As of 2019, MKC congregations worship in approximately 1200 churches and over 1300 church planting centers.

The MKC church has a seminary located in Debre Zeit/Bishoftu. Students for this seminary come from several regional Bible colleges that are organized in regional languages. Local regions and larger congregations have small Bible schools and training centres. MKC also has its own relief and development agency, MKC-RDA.