



600 Shaftesbury Blvd  
Winnipeg MB R3P 0M4  
Toll Free 1-866-888-6785  
T: 204-888-6781  
F: 204-831-5675  
E: [office@mennonitechurch.ca](mailto:office@mennonitechurch.ca)  
W: [www.mennonitechurch.ca](http://www.mennonitechurch.ca)

## **International Witness Support Network**

### **Meserete Kristos Church/Seminary and Werner and Joanne De Jong**

#### **How does it work?**

The support network is a partnership made up of congregations who choose to support ministry in Ethiopia, Mennonite Church Canada Witness, your regional church and our Witness workers, Werner and Joanne De Jong. Representatives from these groups meet together regularly to learn about the ministry, receive updates, discern direction, and participate in spreading the word about this ministry, inviting others to join, pray and give. The network will also meet with and learn to know leaders of MKC, colleagues of Werner and Joanne at the seminary or perhaps some of their students.

#### **How can I be involved?**

Congregations may have various ways they want to be involved with this ministry. Please consider together with your service/missions committee or church board how you would like to participate.

Tasks for congregations will change depending on the worker and area of ministry but may include:

- distributing e-mails/printed newsletters written by workers
- organizing annual fundraisers
- sending e-mails and encouragement to workers
- contacting other congregations to encourage giving toward international ministries
- connecting with international partners online or in person through visits/learning tours
- sharing prayer requests with the larger church family and praying regularly.

Many of these are things your congregation has done for years in support of international ministry. For this we are grateful!

#### **Why is this important?**

Congregations supporting international ministry help meet five priorities of Mennonite Church Canada international ministry initiatives:

1. Generate financial support
2. Form and nurture relationships between Witness workers and supporters
3. Provide personal support and care for the Witness worker(s)
4. Create opportunities of congregational engagement internationally
5. Nurture relationships with international partners



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The Witness Support Network reflects what congregations are able and willing to give to their relationships with Witness workers and their partner ministries. The congregation informs, inspires and connects with Witness workers to form relationships across political and ethnic borders through ministry together.

### **Connecting with workers and with each other**

We ask that congregations choose a representative to meet online about 4 times a year with other participating in the network. This will form another important chain in the Witness Support Network: congregations across the country connecting with one another! Staff of Mennonite Church Canada and the regional churches will support you as you get to know each other. Werner and Joanne will also attend some of these meetings to get to know their supporting Canadian congregations.

Thanks again for your faithful support! May God richly bless you as we work together to strengthen our relationships for international ministry!