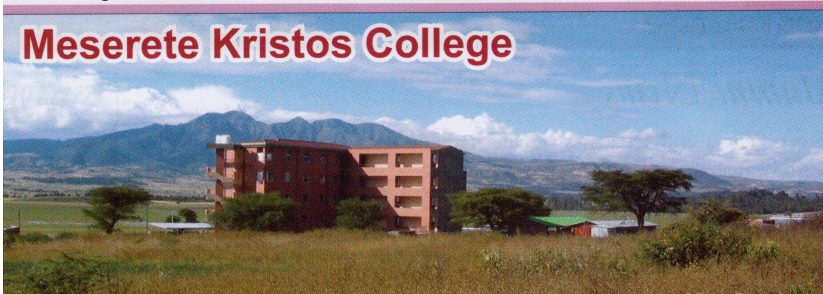


Points of Connection

Northwest Mennonite Conference Newsletter

November 2008

Featuring....



The largest group of Mennonite Churches are to be found, not in Canada or in the U.S., but in Ethiopia! Founded in the 1950's by Mennonite missionaries, the Meserete Kristos Church now numbers 316,000 people.

In Ethiopia 85% of people earn their living as subsistence farmers with the average income of \$120 per year. There is 70% urban unemployment. This means there are very few people who can afford education. Only about 50% of children go to school. There are many new Christians, but few trained pastors to lead them.

The Meserete Kristos College was founded in 1994 to meet this need. Begun with only 13 students meeting in a rented home, they now have 13 acres of land and a new Academic Building. There have been 384 graduates from their programs. They project 2000 students by 2020.

Their purpose is to train leaders for the fast-growing churches of Ethiopia and to provide educational opportunities for all in a land where such opportunities are scarce. Academically they are expanding their programs, working to become a Christian University.

The College is in the middle of a large building program. With the completion of the first phase of the Academic Building and a dining hall, chapel and guest facility (to which several NWMC Churches contributed significantly), the next step is the building of a student dormitory.

Carl Hansen, who has roots in the Duchess Church and has pastored the Salem Church, went to work at MKC together with his wife, Vera, in 1996. At that time they

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found 10 students in a rented compound without even a typewriter!

Since then he has been involved in teaching, administration, fundraising, and has been Interim President.

The College has been blessed by supporters outside Ethiopia who have caught the vision of sharing in the incredible work of God in this country. Donations can be made through Nwmc.

GAMBIA

February 09

The opportunity you've been waiting for:

An Adult Missions Trip with CVM
Contact Milo Stauffer of Tofield
At 780-662-2505

Coming Up Soon!

**Annual NWMC
Men's Retreat**

Feb. 6-8/09

At beautiful Camp Caroline

Speaker: Stan Burkholder

Cost: \$170 per person

Plan to attend:

Breakforth

**The Equipping and Renewing
Conference in Edmonton.
January 30-Feb.1, 2009**

It includes over 160 workshops with training in men's, women's, youth and children's ministry, drama, music, leadership, technical skills and much more!

See www.breakforthcanada.com

Newspoint

Did you know...

* **The Salem Mennonite Church** in Tofield baptized 7 youth on November 9th.

* **Carol Gelleney** has put together a Benefits Package for our pastors. Many thanks for all your hard work on our behalf, Carol!

* **Mal and Eleanor Braun** are scheduled to teach a LIFE Weekend on Early Church History in Smith on Nov. 14-16.

* **Calgary Iglesia La Gracia de Dios** has begun a Saturday evening Bible School. Silvio Diaz is teaching a course on the Holy Spirit.

* **The Edson Mennonite Church** hosted the MCC Annual General Meeting on Nov. 7,8.

* **West Zion Church** held a Youth Retreat at Circle Square Ranch October 31-November 2 with about 50 attending.

* **Thank you to Sabrina Rivera** and the Red Deer Spanish Church for hosting the annual Night of Warfare on October 24, 25th.

* **The Saskatoon Hispanic Church** hosted a Men's Conference Oct. 17,18th.

* **Bethany Mennonite Church** in Smith has 3 students studying at Prairie High School: Stacy Malone, Daniel Fulmore, and Graeme De Grace.

* **Spanish Services in Brooks** sponsored by the Duchess and Medicine Hat Churches are continuing to grow. A core group has emerged, and the need for a pastor is becoming apparent.

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