



McMaster Divinity
College

NEWS LETTER

WINTER 2016



Christmas is a time when we pull out treasured decorations and traditions and get together with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. For many of us, this includes decorating a tree, hanging up stockings, eating turkey, sage dressing, Christmas pudding and even jellied salads, and reading special Bible passages and Christmas stories. It is a time of reflection and peace, at least once the Christmas shopping is done! At MDC, we have a growing group of international students from around the world who have different Christmas memories than ours. We asked them to tell us of a Christmas tradition from their home country and to let us know where God is calling them after their stay with us.



**Renta
Apriani
Manalu**

Indonesia
2nd year MTS
student

We go to church in the morning, then have a Christmas feast with my extended family at my grandparents' house.

I am waiting for God's direction in how best I can serve him.



**Olamma
Otisi**

Nigeria
2nd year MTS
student

Thinking of Christmas in my home country makes me feel homesick as it is a family time where we go to be with the rural clan and eat delicious African meals such as jollof rice with moi moi (Nigerian steamed bean pudding) and edikanekong (vegetable soup) with pounded yam.

I am not yet 100% sure where I will be serving the Lord after my studies, but I know that I will always be grateful to the Lord for the ministry formation and academic stretching that I have received at MDC. Merry Christmas everyone!!!



Solomon G. Ayecheluhim

Ethiopia
1st year PhD student

Church tradition has it that when shepherds heard of the birth of Christ, they rejoiced and started playing the game Genna (also our name for Christmas), a

hockey-like ball game, still played by men and boys on Christmas day.

After finishing my study at MDC, I will return to Ethiopia to continue my teaching ministry at Evangelical Theological College (ETC).

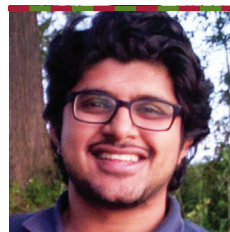


Ho Joon Ahn

South Korea
1st year PhD student

My church makes Korean dumplings on Christmas Eve and sings several songs together along with gratitude for God; my family celebrates Jesus' birth by lighting a candle on a cake.

I want to share my knowledge of the Bible with the Rural Ministry Society, whose members are church planters in the Gangwon province, as well as teach in a theological seminary.



**Rubil
Dhamija**

India
1st year MTS
student

My family's

custom is to eat a dessert that my mom makes called 'Halwa', a sweet dish consisting of carrots or semolina boiled with milk, almonds, sugar, butter, and cardamom.

God is leading me to serve with youth and family ministries, as a Christian counsellor, primarily with youth.



**Cynthia
Chau**

Hong Kong
3rd year PhD
student

During

Christmas in Hong Kong, one thing that I like is that some churches go out and sing Christmas carols in public areas.

When I finish at MDC, my call is to go back to Hong Kong and teach and mentor seminary students.



A note from Dr. Stanley E. Porter

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many of my colleagues and I have just returned from annual conferences held in the USA that bring together biblical scholars from around the world to discuss the Bible and its richness in language, context and content. It is a time to not only sharpen our research skills and debate current issues in theology, but also to hear the stories of challenges and triumphs of the teachers and mentors of the next generation of those who will reach the world for Christ. Despite our widely-differing denominational and cultural backgrounds, what unites us is our love for the Bible and the hope that it brings to all people.

At MDC, we see in our hallways more and more cultural diversity, and we are encouraged to see many international students coming to us for training that will ultimately better serve the Church around the world. We learn from each other and with each other, and that is a blessing that truly comes from God. We ask for your prayers for MDC and most particularly for these international students who have given up familiarity, customs, and even family to study with us. Please consider financially helping us to provide them with student aid and to update our building so that they and others can study in a safe and comfortable environment. We thank you for your commitment to MDC and our goal to reach the world for Christ.

At this time of unrest and insecurity in the world, let us together celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, the Prince of Peace. Merry Christmas and God's blessings for the New Year!



Attention all art lovers!

It is with deep appreciation to Mie McElcheran that we acknowledge the donation of *Baby Jesus Holding the Globe* by world-renowned Hamilton artist/sculptor William McElcheran (1927 – 1999) designer of the interior of our

Chapel. Mie, William's widow, has graciously allowed us to offer a limited number of this beautiful 5 ½" (plus 1 ½" base) bronze sculpture to donors giving a minimum of \$2,000 towards our work here at MDC. The sculpture is valued at approx. \$1,500, and you will receive a tax receipt for your donation minus the cost of bronzing, which has been estimated at \$400 per statue. Please contact us at divdonor@mcmaster.ca or call 905.525.9140 x23529 to pre-order yours today. We will only bronze the number pre-ordered.

Merry Christmas!

SAVE-THE-DATE

Miroslav Volf Conference
March 9, 2017



President's Dinner
April 6, 2017

Remember—

your gift paid online or postmarked by December 31 provides you with a charitable donation receipt for the 2016 tax year!