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## Call to me and I will answer you

Frew Zinna, a former student of Mennonite Church Canada worker Fanosie Legesse at Meserete Kristos College in Addis Ethiopia, says that the words of Jeremiah 33:3 called him back to Christ and into ministry.

Frew grew up in a family that had been rooted in Evangelical Christian faith for three generations. His father taught in a Mennonite school started by the missionaries.

“Having the privilege of being involved with the Mennonite Missionary work contributed to the whole family’s life because it gave access to good health care and education as well as being taught spiritually. Holistically, the missionaries had an impact on our lives,” Frew says.

After graduating from the Nazareth Bible Academy with “great distinction,” Frew received a scholarship to study at a government-run university. But two years later he was forced to leave school because of poor grades, low attendance and his use of “chat,” a locally grown leaf that is chewed for an amphetamine-like stimulus. He returned home disgraced and broken, bringing shame to his family.

At the age of 20, with his mother on her knees beside him, Frew prayed for God’s guidance. He found a position as an English translator for a nurse at a Baptist Mission clinic. Living and working in the clinic community of foreign and national Christians stirred the embers of his abandoned beliefs.

Frew says he heard God speak to him on three different occasions through the words of Jeremiah 33:3. “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.” His faith re-emerged when he realized that God had a personal interest in him and in his future.

When the mission clinic closed, Frew found work as translator that drew him closer to the capital city of Addis Ababa and his commitment to church grew. He directed his prayer toward four ranked priorities; helping his family, attending college, entering into marriage, and ministering for God. When his pastor suggested that Frew should seek God’s will rather than his own priorities, Frew changed his approach to prayer and marriage rose to the top of his priorities. Frew married.

Over the next seven years as Frew continued in his job as a translator, people encouraged him to study at Meserete Kristos College. Although he wanted to pursue his studies, he did not feel it was the right time – until a dream changed his plans. In that dream, he saw an open envelope with a letter from MKC extending an invitation to study and a scholarship. Frew woke up and wept tears of joy, knowing that his dream to study would finally come true. And it did.

As a 3rd year degree student at MKC, sitting in the college library surrounded by books, Frew jokes that he feels like Jesus must have felt as a small boy visiting the temple. “Surely this is where I belong!”

Frew says of his hopes for his future ministry, “I want to be fully engaged in the area of teaching. Change will come in the life of the church through teaching the body of Christ. My heart craves to teach God’s word.”

We invite you to share with your congregation the following story from Dianne and Fanosie Legesse, recently returned Mennonite Church Canada Witness workers to Meserete Kristos College in Debre Zeit near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The story should take no more than 2 minutes to read aloud. We encourage you to include it in your church newsletter.

