

## CNN Hero 2008 & Janet Lee Visited Zerorha Elementary School

Yohannes Gebregeorgis who is one of the top 10 CNN heroes 2008 and Janet Lee a returned peace corps volunteer and who is a librarian at Regis University in Denver, Colorado visited the Zerorha Elementary School which is constructed by Enderta Regional Development Association (ERDA).



Yohannes was engaged in organizing the Segenat Children and Youth Library, which is a modern full serviced library which is officially opened to the public on 22<sup>nd</sup> August in Mekelle, Tigray, Ethiopia. Janet a returned Peace Corps volunteer who was assigned to Ethiopia 35 years ago during the time of Emperor Haileselassie is one of the fundraisers and supporters of yohannes's project. She has worked for two and a half years for realization of the project and recently she has voluntarily worked for about 2 ½ months in Mekelle, in organizing the Library.



Yohannes and Janet started working hand in hand after discovering they had much in common: "a love for Ethiopia, a love for children and a belief that reading and literacy are the key to development, good health, and life long learning." Since ERDA also shares the above mentioned values, through its committee back home forwarded an invitation to these dedicated personalities to visit the Zerorha Elementary School, the children and the community at large. After traveling through the rough terrain and road to the coldest part of the region which Janet compared it with the Rocky mountain of Colorado, Yohannes's and Janet's eyes were filled with tears after seeing under what condition the young children, which are the future of the country, were learning before the construction of the new building



During their visit in October 2010 they were accompanied by board member, committee members, community representative and current US Peace Corps volunteers serving in Mekelle. Among many things they promised the school's new library will be filled with books and the children will start ABC of knowing the word beyond Zerorha. On the other hand Janet Lee expressed her readiness to work hand in hand with ERDA, Denver chapter in achieving the goals of the association. In Zerorha the minds and hearts of progress and development loving personalities and ERDA reaffirmed their readiness to work for the better of the impoverished, for the better of the young generation for better tomorrow