

HAPPENINGS

CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY'S STAFF & FACULTY ONLINE NEWSLETTER

Continuing quest to help his hometown in Ethiopia

It's all about the water now. Clean water for drinking. Water for irrigating crops. Water that's close to home and that doesn't have to be carried for miles and miles.

That's what **Michael Belay** – the Public Safety officer who sold his house to help build a school in his hometown in Ethiopia – is after now for the people of Tembien. But he's \$2.4 million away.

Fundraising is tough in this economy. But Belay, who was awarded the Albert Schweitzer Award of Excellence for public service in 2007 by Chapman University, keeps asking anyway.

With the assistance of Pure Effect, an Orange-based water-treatment company that is ready to help out in Tembien, Belay has sent out many proposals for financing to groups, such as the **Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**. He won't know until September if he is awarded any money from the Hilton foundation for water treatments in Tembien.

In the meantime, the people of Tembien haven't forgotten what Belay has done for them. Two months ago, the mayor sent Belay a gold medal and cup as thanks for the four-classroom school, library, bathrooms, showers and playground.

Asked why he didn't go there to receive his award, he said: "I didn't have anything to give them, and I didn't want to go back empty-handed."

For more info on the project [CLICK HERE](#). See photos (below) of his trip to Tembien last year with Pure Effect's Michael Slaby.

