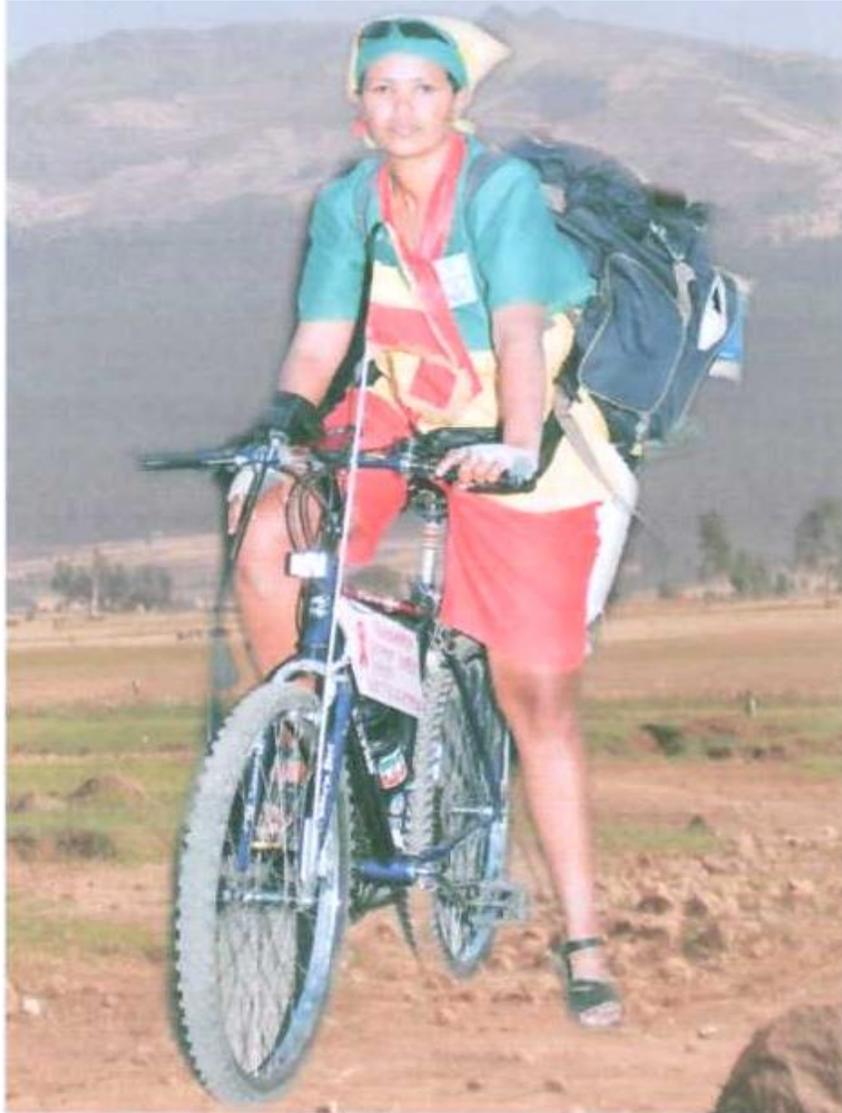


“I CARE, DO YOU?”



Woman of courage & Inspiration

“I am not anxious to be the loudest voice or the most popular. But I would like to think that at a crucial moment, I was an effective voice of the voiceless, an effective hope for the hopeless.” Whitney Young Born July 31, 1921-March 11, 1971

The above words resonate with Hirut Gedlu’s mission. She is an Ethiopian woman who rode her mountain bike over 15,000 km across Ethiopia, a combined size of the State of California and Texas. She travelled through Rift Valley Mountains, dirt roads, scorching hot deserts and freezing rain. She

faced bandits, and wild animals. Hirut gave voice to the many voiceless Ethiopian women and children afflicted by the deadly Aids virus, and she gave hope to the hopeless

This is a one woman's determined crusade against the spread of the Aids virus, a disease afflicting over three millions Ethiopian adults and children. Hirut's work is nothing short of amazing. Wearing a red green and yellow bandana on her head, riding a Mountain bike appears, like a modern day Messiah, she can be compared to mother Theresa, to Mahatma Gandhi, and to many unsung Ethiopian Heroines who passed before her and left their legacy. Hirut is following in their footsteps.

Hirut's message is basic and simple. To young boys and girls she teaches them to abstain from sex and concentrate more on their education, which will be their passport out the poverty they are in. To adult men and woman and those who are married she tells them to be faithful to each other and take care of their children; to work hard and not wait for a handout from anyone. She strongly believes she will change their behavior single handedly and makes them productive citizens.

Hirut though she has no formal education, has become a hope to the hopeless. She is a psychologist, an ambassadors and a diplomat, all in one. She wants to eradicate the Aids virus, and make a difference to her fellow countrymen, woman, and children. She says her bike is her only companion with the words written on it: "I CARE DO, DO YOU?"

Hirut has travelled overseas to Africa, Australia and many parts of the United States spreading her mission.

To conclude Hirut is an inspiration to all, she is living her passion. If Christianity is a way of life she is living the life. When you speak to Hirut in person her enthusiasm is palpable, and she tells you the truth, and take you out of your comfort zone. I applaud her and take my hat off for this incredible woman of courage.

GOUDAYE DEMESSE