

## The Obama Campaign: Change I Finally Believe in

By Mezgebe Gebrekiristos (emaa\_go@yahoo.com)

From the outset, I must admit that I am a convert—from Independent to Supporter of Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States of America. Even though my colleagues tend to believe that my newly-found support for Obama stems from my being black, I respectfully disagree with them. My change of heart--rather finding where my heart lies--is a function of the Senator's stand on the recent economic crisis, the skyrocketing healthcare cost, the dwindling student loans, and the security of our nation.



After all, my acquaintances tell me that the Senator who happened to be from my home state, Illinois, has the same complexion to that of mine—with big ears, and skinny face-- which I, as you can imagine, take as a compliment. Who wouldn't of a man that is a heart-beat away from becoming the next president of the United State of America? But, that didn't cut it for me; and thus, I stayed undecided until the last debate.

The president of the United States is expected to be knowledgeable on matters that directly affect us here at home, as well as the intricacies of diplomatic relationships with countries in the world. This expectation is more so at a time when many Americans struggle to put bread on the table due to a plummeted economy that resulted in a record number of home foreclosures, and an ever-rising unemployment rate. The electorate know quite well what is at stake this election year, and are weighing their options very carefully on a highly important scale—the merit of the two presidential candidates.

### **“Joe the Plumber”**

During the recent and last Presidential debate, the Republican Presidential nominee, John McCain, introduced a new phrase to the Lexicon of American politics—“Joe the Plumber,” in an attempt to portray Obama's tax plan is nothing but a way of “distributing wealth among all Americans” that is taken from the book of the former Soviet Union. Is the main-stream America buying the notion of Obama being an agent of Socialist ideals? Not quite so, and the polls indicate otherwise.

From what we have seen on the campaign trail thus far, however, Barack Obama has shown remarkable interest and a sharp grasp on the issues that matter most to the “average Joe”, and is favored by both the American people and the International community as evidenced by recent polls.

Even though the very term “Average Joe” has been part of the American political landscape for years, the new version “Joe the plumber” became a catch phrase, particularly as of the recent presidential debate--frequented by both campaigns in an attempt to attract the middle class America to their respective camp. However, as recent investigations indicate, the man that has been hailed as the “Joe the Plumber” is not after all a plumber by profession for he doesn't hold a registered license in his state of residence.

Plumber or not, at least he represents an important group of voters—the middle class; and, in that regard, he deserves the attention he has gotten from both campaigns over the last week or so. As records indicate, his income falls within the group that is slated to benefit from Obama's tax plan, and if he owns the plumbing business in the future, he is not going to be negatively affected for Obama's tax increase applies only to those who make \$250,000 and above.

In closing, I like what I see in Barack Obama's Agenda for America, and am convinced that he is the right person to reverse the economic woes that we currently face for the better, if given a chance to be the president of this great nation of ours. We need Obama for a change—a change I finally believe in.