

news

LOST BOYS OF SUDAN AT MEREDITH

Morgan Ericson
Staff Writer

On March 25th, 2009, the Lost Boys of southern Sudan gave two separate lectures at Meredith College. Part of the CBS "60 Minutes" documentary on the Lost Boys was shown and was followed by a personal account given by two Lost Boys, Joseph and Samuel, who have been relocated to the United States.

In 1983 civil war erupted in southern Sudan. Both Joseph and Samuel remember the day when their villages were attacked. The boys, after having been advised by their parents to flee and not return to the village in such situations, started walking with no intended destination. They, along with thousands of other children, walked for three months and battled hunger, crocodiles, lions, death, snakes and dangerous rivers before arriving at a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya. They were forced to relocate several more times.

In 2001, after a Congressman visited the refugee camp and saw firsthand the dire circumstances of the Lost Boys, the United States began to relocate them—including the Lost Girls—to the Midwest. Every week ninety names were posted on a bulletin board in the camp, and the Lost Boys checked to see if they would be part of the lucky few to leave the refugee camp. Joseph was one of the last of the Lost Boys to be relocated before the peace agreement was signed in 2005 in Sudan. The boys described the shock of the move, mentioning how difficult it was to accustom themselves to new phenomena such as snow and seafood.

Although the Lost Boys are spread out over several states, they still maintain contact with each other. While Joseph was only able to talk to his sisters in Sudan for the first time this year, Samuel mentioned that he still does not know where his mother is but knows that someday he will find her.

Both Joseph and Samuel still have hope for Sudan and continue to pray for peace for their home country. Current plans to restore peace to Sudan include the organization's funding of a co-ed school open to 400 children of differing religions. The organization hopes to open the school as early as January of next year. For more information on the Lost Boys and how they are rebuilding southern Sudan, visit their website: www.rebuildingsouthernsudan.org. ■



Photo courtesy www.bellbookcamera.com

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Contributed by Martha Fonville

Just Arrived from Fashion Heaven!

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FORMALS

Enticing styles that are coyly flirtatious with that "come hither" look. View our new-found joys now. They'll add zest to your "junior-senior"!



Pictured: Morgan Hoffman, Ashley Phillips, Chelsea Cullen, Lauren Moore
Cast also includes Amy Damone, Julie-Kate Cooper and Jenn Beckwith

TOP GIRLS

by Caryl Churchill will run March 31- April 4 at 8:00 p.m. The matinee Sunday, April 5, is at 3:00 pm.

Performances are in Jones Auditorium. Meredith students, staff and faculty get in free but do need to make reservations at 760-2840 or email boxoffice@meredith.edu.