



of a lifetime

the Sudan made their way to the UA

Photographs by Will Seberger
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

senior, is taking 18 credits and works full-time at Fidelity National Title.

When they are not studying or in class, they work. They work to pay their bills, to send money back to family in Africa and to save enough to someday return.

They dream of a peaceful Sudan, a country they can call home — not just where they are from, but where they live.

They are Sudanese, but they haven't been to the Sudan since 1992.

For some of these men, attacks on neighboring cities prompted the journey.

For others, family forced them to leave so they wouldn't be hurt if an attack did occur. But all of them left their homes, ran for days, walked for months and found themselves in Ethiopia.

"The day of the attacks I was out in the field with goats and sheep. It was about 4 p.m. local time. I was

pulled along by someone running. I didn't want to go, but I was pulled," said Khor Lukuach Malual, 26, an electrical engineering and mathematics junior.

They spent four years in Ethiopia that were filled with school, missionaries and struggles. Many of the Lost Boys were baptized there.

Others were already baptized Christians before they fled, and a few, like Khor, waited to be baptized.

In 1991 another war erupted around them.

As civil war broke out in Ethiopia, the boys were once again on the move — back to Sudan, back to the war they had escaped and back to the struggles along the way.

Just like the trip into Ethiopia, the trip out of the country was filled with tragedy, sorrow and sights so gruesome some of the men won't talk about what they saw.

The Dinka are the largest

tribe in the Sudan, and though many of their traditions vary from clan to clan, cultural consistencies remain.

Daniel Keech, 24, a business finance sophomore, said a Dinka boy is not allowed to see a dead person until he is 18.

But as they walked, the Lost Boys buried best friends, brothers and cousins by the thousands.

Lions and hyenas attacked the large groups at night, starvation and dehydration during the day.

Between 1987 and 1989, 125,000 boys escaped the



Clockwise, from top left: John Majok (top left); Biar Keech (top right); Peter Arok (bottom left); David Nyok (bottom right); a group of the Lost Boys outside Grace St. Paul's Church; Peter Ayuen; Khor Malual (left) and Jok Mabior; (from left) Khor Malual, Jok Mabior, Solomon Machar and Peter Ayuen; Peter Ayuen (left) and James Mabior; John Majok; Daniel Keech (left) and Jok Mabior; Biar Keech; (top) John Majok; (bottom, from left) Khor Malual, Solomon Machar and Peter Ayuen; Biar Keech; part of the group outside their church; David Nyok; Biar Keech.

