The struggle to survive

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— John Majoik

“We grew very skinny, but still grew tall, from nature,” Abrahim said.

He is 6’10” and said if he and the other boys hadn’t been refugees they would have been bigger and taller.

The men in Tucson range from 5’10” to 6’0”. Abrahim said, “Being Dinka, he is of average height. Besides underdevelopment, they had to search against their own wills.

“I wanted to die. I felt useless,” Kosovo said. He said he felt like there was nothing he could do to help himself or others, and that he tried to die during the long trek.

“I wanted to die but I couldn’t,” Kosovo said.

Once, when they tried to stop for a rest, the boys were attacked by two people from a nearby village.

In that attack, 12 boys were killed, which Kosovo said was a low number.

“That was a good thing — very few died of 16,000,” Kosovo said.

After walking from Sudan to Ethiopia and back, the boys walked along the southern border of Sudan until they got to Kalouano, Kenya.

They stayed in Kenya from 1992 to 2001, where they went to school, played basketball and lived together in the clay huts they built themselves.

— Religion —

Khoor said he was confused about the conditions they faced, as boys kept dying and British missionaries tried to introduce religion into the boys’ lives.

“Sometimes I think, ‘If there is a God, why did he let this happen?’ To punish a child who has not done anything is not good,” Khoor said.

When the boys reached Ethiopia, missionaries took care of them. Most of the Lost Boys were baptized there and chose their Christian names.

John said he wanted to follow the footsteps of the elder John, so he adopted his name.

“He’s the only one that wrote the theme of the Bible,” John said. “God so loved the world, God loved all mankind.”

Khoor said he waited longer to accept God. He wanted to make sure he could believe in such a thing before being baptized.

Khoor left Sudan in 1987, when he was nine, and became Christian in 1992.

Most of the other Lost Boys converted in 1988 and 1989.

“I became Christian last because I was looking for the meaning of my life.”

Khoor said he was more and more convinced to accept God.