

# Lost Boy of Sudan

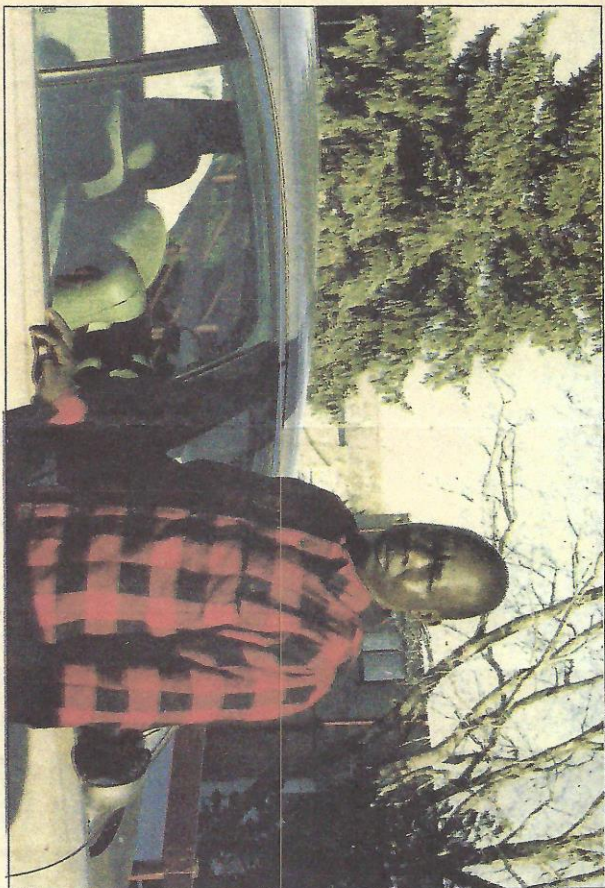
## Refugee recalls his journey from Africa to Colorado Springs

By Jim Myers/HERALD ASST. EDITOR

**COLORADO SPRINGS.** By the age of 10, Paulino Chol had experienced more heartache and physical pain than most people can imagine. One of the Lost Boys of Sudan (Sudanese orphans who banded together at United Nations refugee camps and who have been the subject of books and movies), Chol was separated from his family at an early age and forced to flee his native village due to civil war in South Sudan. He is now an orphan with no family in the United States, yet he credits his strong faith as a Catholic for getting him through numerous ordeals.

"If I was not a good believer, I would not be alive. My life has been bad, but praying to God helped me," said Chol, who now lives in Colorado Springs and attends Pikes Peak Community College.

Chol, a member of the Dinka tribe, was born in a village in the Bahr El Ghazal Region of Southern Sudan as one of six children (three boys and three girls). His



Paulino Chol stands next to the car he recently received. The Sudanese-born student at Pikes Peak Community College is one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, a group of boys who banded together in African refugee camps. Chol is focused on getting more Lost Boys to the United States from Kenyan refugee camps. (Herald photo by Jim Myers)

father was a herder of cattle, goats and sheep, and Chol expected to follow in his footsteps.

However, civil war tore the region apart in the 1980s, forcing many Christians to flee for their lives rather than face persecution at the hands of the Muslim-controlled government.

Arab Muslims have persecuted Christians in Sudan for more than two decades, imposing Sharia law on the area. Sharia law follows the Quran and places tight restrictions on Christians and Christianity, outlawing its practice in some instances. Sudan instituted Sharia law in 1983.

The Sudanese civil war erupted into an all-out genocide; not only were Christians killed for their beliefs, Muslims executed those who were educated so they could not influence others.

Arab Muslims had another reason for taking control of Southern Sudan: natural resources. The region is rich in oil and diamonds, and the verdant landscape is good livestock and farming territory.

In 2005 a peace treaty was signed between the Sudanese government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, the governmental arm of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). It is estimated

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