

# James Anei

Age: 26

Region: Bahr al Ghazal

I am Dinka from Gogrial. I was ten when I left home because of the war. The village was attacked on a daily basis. The Khartoum government raped women and took women to the north to act as slaves. Men were their enemies. That's how the whole thing came about.

When we left my village, my family and I were separated. Until recently, I didn't know where my parents and two brothers and sisters were. When we left Sudan we had to travel through the desert. It was tough, believe me, it was tough. The main problems were dehydration, starvation, and attacks by animals like tigers, desert lions, crocodiles, and alligators. We didn't have any modern equipment to protect ourselves from the wild animals. We were able to climb the trees. Most of the time when the tigers attacked, we fought with sticks and stones.

I traveled with many others. We formed friendships along the way. That's the unity we are still having today. It was only in God that some of us were able to survive. I believe for many of us who are here today we are blessed to have survived.

I went to Uganda and lived there for four years. I traveled to Kakuma to get the processing to come to the United States. I arrived in Kakuma February 22, 1996 and I was there for five years. Life was tough in Kakuma. The people, the Turkhanas, were hostile. Climactic conditions were bad. It was dusty and many people died of cholera.

On April 12, 2001 I came to the United States. It is safe and peaceful here. You are able to move freely about. Everything is okay.

I go to Phoenix College. Education is the best opportunity here. It is the key issue. If we educate ourselves we can understand why we are persecuted. I would like to work for the United Nations.