

GABRIEL'S DREAM. . .

A CHARITY FOR SUDAN'S LOST BOYS

Newsletter

GOD DOES NOT CALL THE EQUIPPED. . .

HE EQUIPS THE CALLED. . .

LIFE IS DIFFICULT FOR LOST BOYS

The Sudanese culture has endowed the Lost Boys with an incredible will to survive and has fostered the grace and humility that I see in many of them but, on the other hand, some of the cultural traditions are holding them back. It may be that they don't want to abandon some of the customs because, unlike other immigrants who chose to come here, they were forced out of their homeland,

It seems they have one foot planted firmly in the Sudan and the other in the United States, which is a very uncomfortable place to stand. They want to live here, while continuing some of the practices of rural, uneducated and naïve people.

Most, if they could, want to help the people in Sudan and that is truly understandable. Some have never been able to visit the families who survived the civil war because of lack of funds.

We have one young man who is working for the World Bank, and I am sure there are other success stories but many, while they have received degrees, don't know how to market themselves. They are from a non-competitive culture; and we are hyper-competitive. Many still find our culture overwhelming. They do not know where to turn for help, and often do not ask for it because that is taboo in Sudan.

So many are still working blue collar jobs, and while some have moved into supervisory positions, some have not advanced even though most have a work ethic that is unsurpassed. Most still live with roommates, and in some apartments there can be as many as 4 young men who are not working due to the current economic crisis.

Of those who have married, only a few have been able to bring their wives here. Most are working 2 or 3 jobs to raise the needed funds. Since they have been sharing living costs with other young men, they don't own any household

goods, and the leap from sharing expenses to managing alone is a huge one. Some have been married for as long as six years and their wives are still in Africa.

Even those who are single are sending money back home monthly—three to four hundred dollars or more. There are no jobs in Sudan, so the families call the Lost Boys for help. Many young men change their phone numbers constantly because the pressure for help is so intense.

While it is difficult for them here, they really can't go back to Sudan, after being exposed to life in America. They are so torn between two cultures, struggling on a daily basis to be American, and still to be a part of the Sudanese culture. Life should be easier by now, but for many life seems harder. I would say that in many ways they remain "lost."

MOTHER'S DAY BRINGS CHANGE. . .



In Sudan, women don't have any rights. A man would never cook or set foot in the kitchen, nor would his sons. Women bring the food to them and they don't eat with the men. When the Lost Boys arrived here, they had never shared a meal with a female. For most, the first time was when we cooked holiday meals. In view of this, an incredible change happened this year. On Mother's Day, the men cooked and served the meal to the ladies! In the past, the women had always cooked for the Sudanese Mother's Day event. It was so wonderful to see that the men are learning to honor their wives, and have a willingness to begin to break with ancient practices that demean women.

SHARING THE JOY...



God has given me so many public forums for my testimony. The major ones have been to secular audiences. What a joy to be able to tell people about God's plan to provide love and comfort to young men who had suffered so much, and how he just asked me to join him in it.

On October 10 of this year, the alumni association of my high school gave me the Distinguished Alumni Award, and much to my amazement, the mayor of my hometown of Findlay, Ohio issued a proclamation declaring October 10, 2011 Reita Clark Hutson day. I accepted the award in honor of the Lost Boys, who have given me a master class in the resilience of the human spirit. I also gave tribute to all of the dentists and hygienists who have given their time and resources to give these young men new smiles—and all of those who have donated and/or helped me along the way.

Only in heaven will we see how much we owe to the poor for helping us to love God better because of them. -Mother Teresa

Opportunity to Give to the Working Poor...

If you have an Arizona State Tax obligation for 2011, you have the opportunity to help us and reduce you tax with the Arizona Department of Revenue's Charitable Tax Credit. A year end gift to Gabriel's Dream, Inc. will reduce your tax obligation by \$200.00 if you are single, and \$400, if married. Please visit azdor.gov/refunds for details. Forms are available on our website gabrielsdream.org.

ANNUAL SUDANESE BIRTHDAY PARTY...

We will host our 6th annual birthday party on January 1, 2012. In addition to the Lost Boys, there are lots of families with children who now attend.

We do need volunteers to donate food, socialize with the guests, and help with kitchen duties. It is a lot of fun and very rewarding. Please let me know if you will help us.

ROTARIANS SPELLBOUND...



Gabriel Kuany and I spoke to 150 Findlay, Ohio Rotarians. No one in my hometown had ever met a Lost Boy, and few knew their story which is both tragic, and inspiring. Many commented after the speech how deeply they were moved by the presentation.

We hope that this is a wonderful season for you and yours and that you remember that you are blessed to be living in this country in spite of problems. Please remember the refugees that we help with a gift to: **Gabriel's Dream, Inc. 7904 E. Chaparral Rd. Suite 110 #268, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. Phone 602-909-5956. We are a 501 (c) 3. Our Website is gabrielsdream.org. Bless you and thank you for making a difference!**