They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky

The true story of three Lost Boys from Sudan



BENSON DENG ALEPHONSION DENG BENJAMIN AJAK

WITH JUDY A. BERNSTEIN

Alephonsion Deng

Author of They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky

Monday, September 21, 2009 12:00pm R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center Monroe B

Book Signing to Follow Presentation

Sponsored by: Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project, Liberal Arts Division, and The English Department





Alephonsion Deng

"The name Lost Boys came to be when our village was attacked by fierce Arab horsemen. We, little boys, spewed out of the blazing village like a colony of ants disturbed in their nest. We ran in different directions not knowing where we are going. We gathered some fruits for our breakfast and lunch. We, little boys, were so messy, all chaos and cries filled the dark fiercely lightless night."

In 1987, when Alephonsion was seven years old, his village in Southern Sudan was attacked by government troops. To avoid capture he ran into the night with many other young boys. Without food, water, shoes or parents, he crossed a 1000 miles of lion and crocodile infested territory. After five years of fleeing war, starvation and wild animals, he reached Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya and began his education.

In 2001 the U.S. Government welcomed Alephonsion as one of the Lost Boys of Sudan. His first job was at Ralph's Grocery Store where he worked for nine months. An opportunity came up to be in a Russell Crowe movie and he spent six months on the Fox Studios set in Rosarito Mexico where he learned to sail a tall ship, fire a cannon and swordfight. Now, he attends San Diego City College and works in the Medical Records Department at Kaiser Permanente Hospital.

Alephonsion, his brother, Benson, and cousin, Benjamin, wrote their memoir entitled, "They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky." Alephonsion has spoken to over 60 schools, universities, clubs and organizations about his extraordinary story of survival in Africa and adapting to his life here in America.

