

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION | 2009

A Long Journey Home *Baidit, Sudan*



Akuei Ahib was **only 10 when he left his home in Baidit**, near the city of Bor in southern Sudan, to live in the Kakuma Refugee Camp in northwest Kenya. Fourteen years later, Akuei with his wife, Ntandeng Adut, and their three children are starting their journey back home. **Through the repatriation work of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, more than 4,600 Sudanese people returned home in 2007** and many more plan to follow.

Prior to their journey, Akuei and Ntandeng received education and training on water and sanitation, gender and human rights, and landmine risk, to prepare them for the challenges of reintegrating into Sudanese society.

Ntandeng, who became a certified tailor and received a sewing machine through this project, started the journey back home with hope and joy that she will be an active contributor to the family's livelihood. Akuei developed skills and **earned the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education that will help him find a job**. He said that they had been in the camp for too long and it was time to be courageous and participate in the rebuilding of his homeland. Kakuma is home to more than 80,000 refugees from Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

To learn more about the ELCA's participation as a member of the LWF, visit www.elca.org/lwf.

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