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**International Center of the Upstate and Mothering Across Continents<sup>sm</sup>  
Present:**

**“From War to Wisdom: A Young Man’s Dream to Educate a Country”  
*Lost Boy of Sudan Speaks on Dream to Build Schools in South Sudan***

**GREENVILLE, SC** -- The Lost Boys of the Sudan have risen from the depths of ravaged villages and epic journeys to safety to become college-educated American citizens who feel called to help raise – build schools, promote the growth of tomorrow’s leaders and restore to life – Sudan.

On Wednesday, March 3, hear the story of Lubo “James” Mijak – how he and his “brothers” survived and how they are committed to ensuring today’s young Sudanese have schools and education so they can give hope to this war-torn nation. Mijak will speak at 7 p.m. at the International Center of the Upstate, Greenville City Hall, First Floor, 206 S. Main St.

Mijak’s dream, called “Raising Sudan,” has been adopted by Mothering Across Continents, a Carolinas-based 501(c)3 coalition of women catalysts and social entrepreneurs compelled by the idea *mothering* is the act of developing responsible citizen leaders around the world. Patricia Shafer, chief catalyst and co-founder of Mothering Across Continents, also will speak. David Johnson, a photojournalist and founder of Silent Images also will share his experiences. Johnson personally has documented the strength and courage of the Sudanese as they have faced many grueling situations.

“There is great need,” Mijak says. “From education comes wisdom, and with wisdom perhaps there will not be war.

“Our goal is to raise enough money to build two schools in our home county, Ruweng, by Mother’s Day,” he continues. “It only takes about eight weeks to construct a school, but this must be done during the dry season window.”

Mijak and Mothering Across Continents expect to galvanize other Lost Boys from across the US and Canada to join and partner with an established and experienced NGO to build multiple schools in southern Sudan.

While the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement ended Africa’s longest running civil war, the accord remains tenuous between the north and south in Sudan. Southern Sudanese voters will decide in 2011 whether to secede. There is – and will continue to be – tremendous need for infrastructure, including educational facilities, many of which are in remote areas.

“We understand the Sudanese government believes the country needs on the order of 2,000 schools,” says Patricia Shafer, chief catalyst and co-founder of Mothering Across Continents. “It will be critical for Sudan to raise the next generation of leaders who face the formidable task of rebuilding their country.”

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Mijak who recently visited his homeland and taught in a school holding classes under the trees, spoke with the girls attending: "I was especially impressed with a handful of girls who told me that Sudan would be a better country to live in if more women became educated."

The "Raising Sudan" project is accepting donations through Mothering Across Continents' website, [www.motheringacrosscontinents.org](http://www.motheringacrosscontinents.org).

**Want to go?** RSVP to [info@internationalupstate.org](mailto:info@internationalupstate.org). Presentation is free for ICU members, \$10 at the door for non-members.

