

Real Life Heroes

TWO POINT LOMA STUDENTS FEATURED IN EPISODE OF WB'S "7TH HEAVEN"

Jacob Puka and Nicodemus Lim appeared in the WB drama, "7th Heaven" on Monday, May 3. The episode, entitled "Lost and Found," focused on the plight of the Lost Boys of Sudan.

Puka and Lim, two of five Lost Boys attending PLNU, were forced from their homes in 1987 when death squads from northern Sudan swept through southern Sudan in an ethnic-cleansing frenzy that turned an estimated 17,000 boys into homeless orphans on the run.

Both say their week in Hollywood was "exciting," albeit sometimes tedious as scene after scene had to be set up and reshot. They scheduled the adventure during PLNU's Easter recess, April 8-12.

LOST AND FOUND

The series episode involved Ruthie Camden (Mackenzie Rosman) and her boyfriend Peter (Scotty Leavenworth) being stranded after missing their bus during a school field trip. They are found by Nicodemus and Jacob who not only take care of them until Ruthie's father, Rev. Camden (Stephen Collins) arrives, but also share the story of their struggle to stay alive.



'NEVER LOST BY GOD'

Their journey began with murder, fire and pillage. During the late 1980s, waves of fighters from the mostly Muslim northern Sudan swept through the south, wiping out whole villages in a civil war that hasn't yet ended. Puka and Lim fled along with 17,000 others boys. Crossing the desert without food, water or shoes, many died due to dehydration, starvation and wild animals.

Five years in an Ethiopian camp was disrupted by civil war there. The boys were forced at gun point to cross back into Sudan by the Gila River, infested with crocodiles. Many did not make it to the other side. Eventually the boys reached Kenya, where agencies arranged for them to come to the United States.



WHEN ASKED WHAT IS THE ONE THING HE HOPES PEOPLE WILL COME AWAY WITH AFTER WATCHING THE SHOW, LIM SAYS SIMPLY: "TO PRAY FOR PEACE FOR MY COUNTRY!"

Nicodemus and Jacob with Brenda Hampton, executive producer of 7th Heaven, on the set of the Camden family's living room.

Puka said one of the things that sticks with him about the filming is the unreality of seeing his own face on the television monitor. Stephen Collins was welcoming and humble, said Puka. "He talked with us like a normal person."

A report by TVweek.com quoted Brenda Hampton, executive producer of the show, saying "we had cast and crew volunteering to help them in every way they can." In fact, a donation to the PLNU Lost Boys scholarship fund was received from the show's producers soon after the filming.

When asked what is the one thing he hopes people will come away with after watching the show, Lim says simply: "To pray for peace for my country."

About 100 resettled in San Diego County. Puka has pointed out that although the boys were lost to their families and their home, "we were never lost to God."

PLNU'S LOST BOYS

Puka and Lim are two of five Lost Boys attending Point Loma. Buay Tang will graduate in May as a premed major in chemistry. Isaac Amol and Mamer Ajak are sophomores. Puka is a sophomore studying biochemistry, planning to become a physician. Lim is a freshman who wants to pursue information systems.

Both plan to return to Sudan when they are finished with their education. As Lim says, despite all the horror they have experienced, "home is home."