

# GATLUIT'S STORY

Let my story be the light  
for someone else

# MY JOURNEY

## Gatluit shares his walk from South Sudan to Australia

Renk, South Sudan... violence, struggles and trauma. I left Renk in January 1995. Travelling by lorry, I arrived in Maban for a couple of days before starting my seven day trek to the border town of Malual Gohoth (my birthplace). Leaving Maban, my mum, sisters and I continued to walk for another 15 days, moving along in a small group at a slow pace, carrying all we could. Malual Gahoth was home for the next three months.

We were walking again... trudging through swampy waters, eventually crossing the river and reaching Gamella in Ethiopia. We were able to catch a bus to Addis Ababa where we registered as refugees at UNHCR. As refugees, our group was sent to Dimma Refugee Camp in Ethiopia. I spent five long years at this camp working as a teacher.

Living conditions in the camp were horrendous. Refugees are given rations - 10 kilos of maize, three litres of oil and two kilos of beans. Everyone did what they could to survive, from collecting water from afar, chopping firewood for cooking as well as trading or selling their meagre supplies. Circumstances were so dire in the camp that many attacks and deaths occurred. Many of these happened while chopping firewood in the forest to sell. I was fortunate to earn my living working as a teacher which enabled me to support my family as well as others.

## RESETTLEMENT TO AUSTRALIA

It was a huge relief and extremely exciting when I was granted resettlement. I arrived in Australia in November 2000. I decided to change my career from teaching and so I completed my Diploma in Social Welfare. I had help from the Australian Refugee Association and Lutheran Community Care, attended Church at Ferryden Park Lutheran and settled into my new home. With further study and a degree in Social Work, I am now employed by Lutheran Community Care as a Settlement Support Worker.