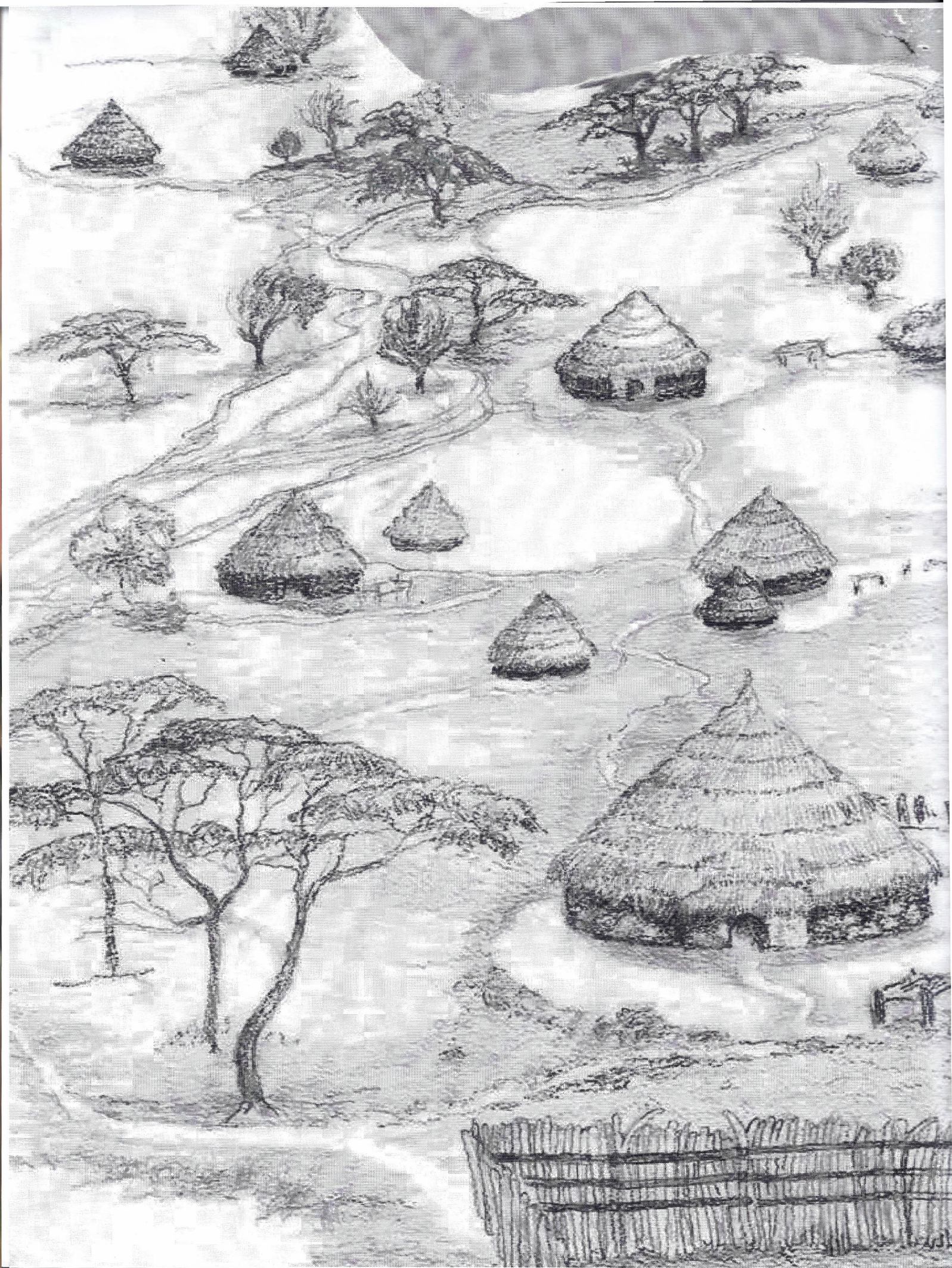
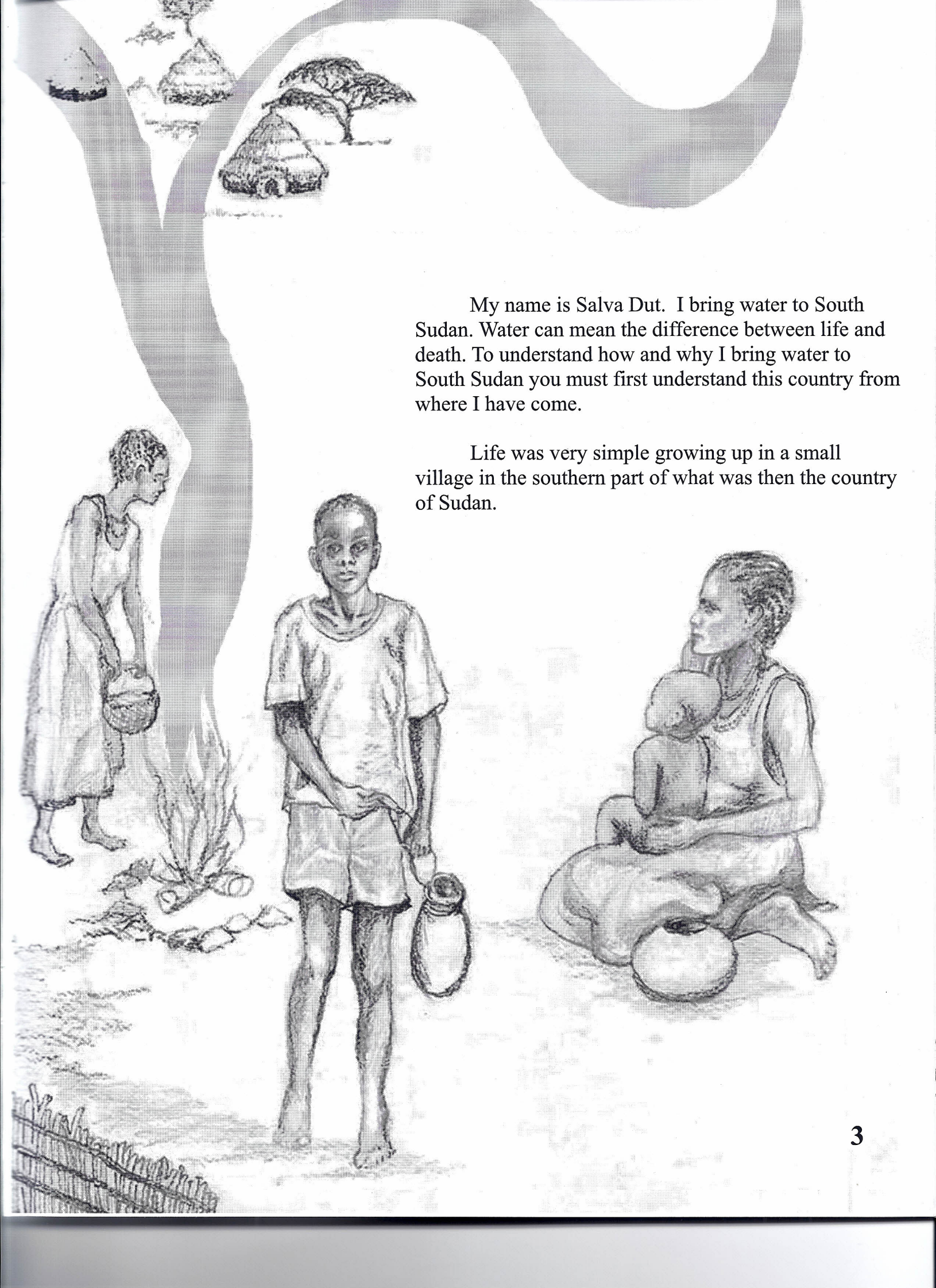


Just Add Water

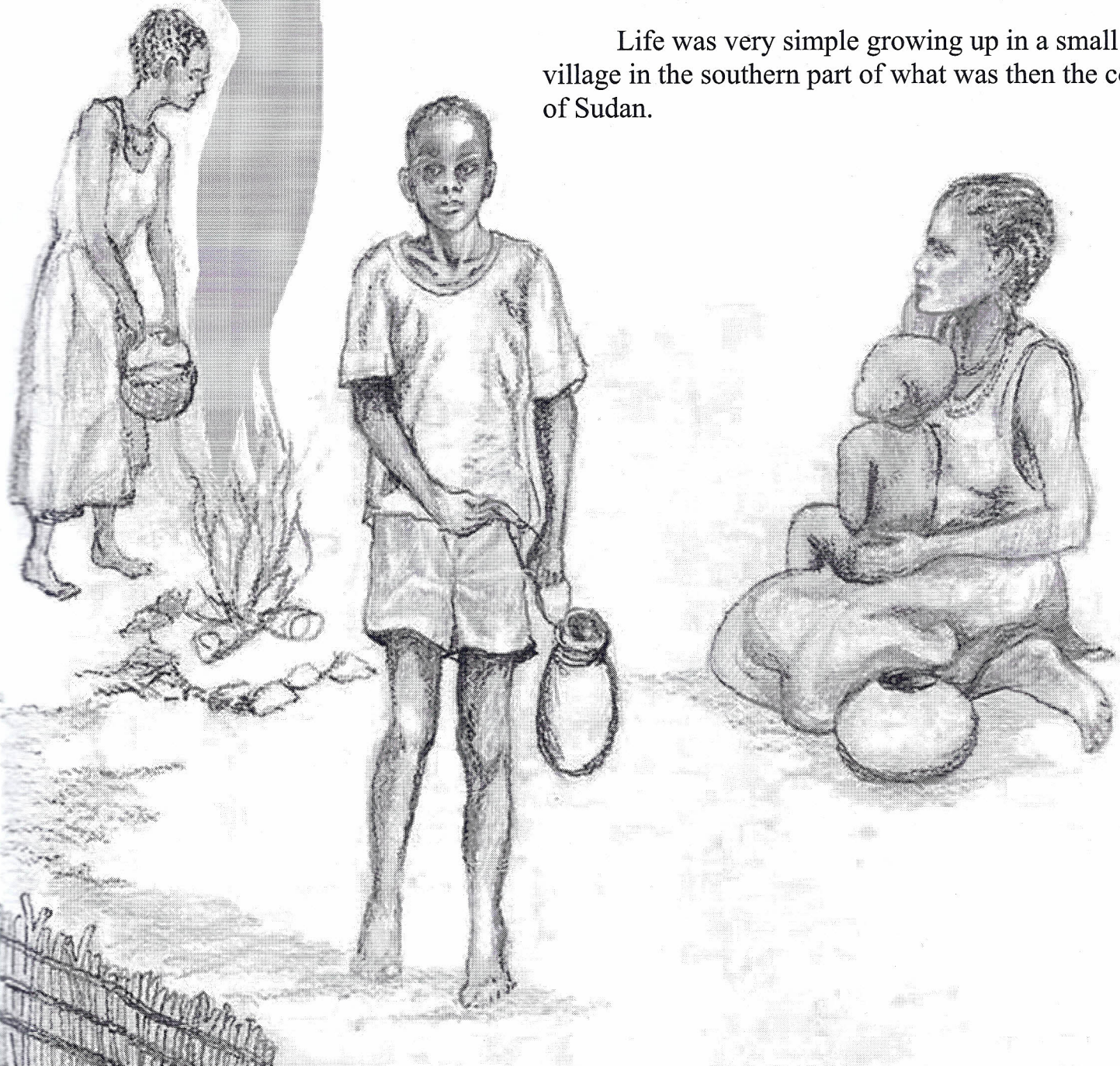
by *Robin Hill and Charles O Hall*
From the Autobiography of *Salva Dut*
Illustrated by *Sherry Stasse Wright*





My name is Salva Dut. I bring water to South Sudan. Water can mean the difference between life and death. To understand how and why I bring water to South Sudan you must first understand this country from where I have come.

Life was very simple growing up in a small village in the southern part of what was then the country of Sudan.



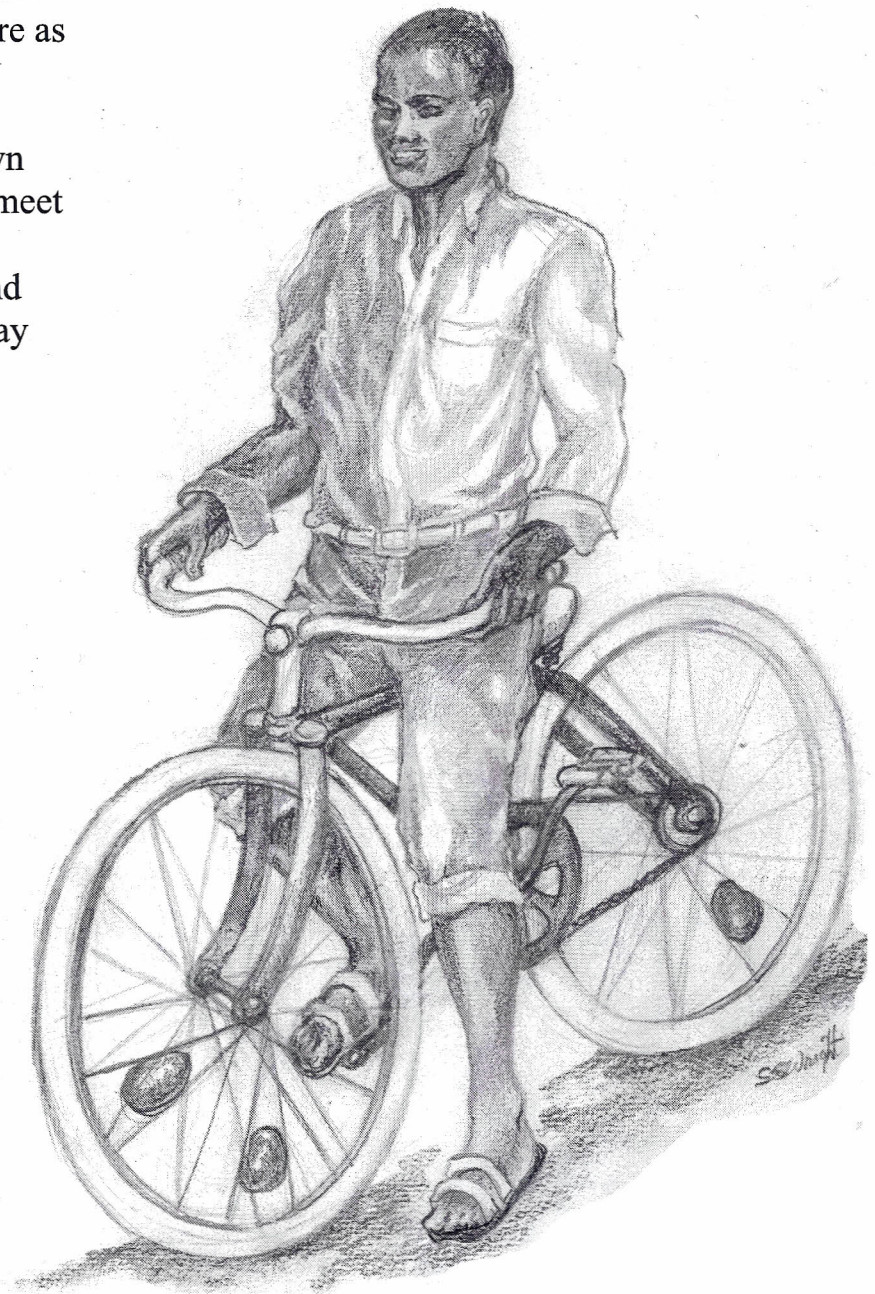
Outside our mud hut chickens rested in the shade of a big tree to escape the heat of the day. My mother started a small fire to boil beans for dinner.

From a distance, I saw the dusty trail my father's bike made as he peddled up the road.

He carried mangos stuck between the spokes of his tire as a special treat for us.

I jumped up and down with excitement and ran to meet him.

He got off his bike and we walked the rest of the way home together.



The ground was dry and cracked. Dust covered my feet as we walked.
“Father, when will the rains return? It has been so dry, everything is dying.”

Smiling, my father replied, “Salva, you have seen that we have wet and dry seasons. In the wet season there is rain, the grasses grow, flowers bloom, and fruit fills the trees.

“In the dry season most of the water dries up and begins an incredible journey. It travels to places far away and joins up with other drops of water. One day those drops of water will return to our land and working together they will bring life again. Water is truly a gift.”

I did not know it then, but my life would soon follow a similar path.



Dear Readers,

My name is Salva Dut. I was born in a small village called Lounariik in Tonj County. My village was then part of a region of Sudan known as southern Sudan.

In July, 2011 southern Sudan became a separate country, a new nation called South Sudan. On that day and for many days after, people sang and danced in celebration all over South Sudan. They were happy because many years of fighting and struggle were over and they now have hope and freedom for a better life. I celebrated with my family and many friends in South Sudan, happy and thankful to be together. I remembered my long journey as a young boy when I had to leave my home. I remembered living in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya before coming to America.

I am so grateful for the education that I received in the United States. I am using what I learned to help my people in South Sudan. People ask me how I have overcome the many difficult situations in my life. I say that it's because of hope, faith and perseverance. I would not have succeeded without having these three things.

I give great thanks to the community of Rochester, New York, and the many people in the United States and around the world that have joined me to make my project come true and help the people of South Sudan.

My message to all children is to stay calm when things are hard or not going right for you. You can overcome those things if you have hope, faith, and perseverance. You will find people who will help you succeed. Also, value your education and do whatever you can to make life better for others.

Thank you and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Salva Dut', with a stylized, cursive script.

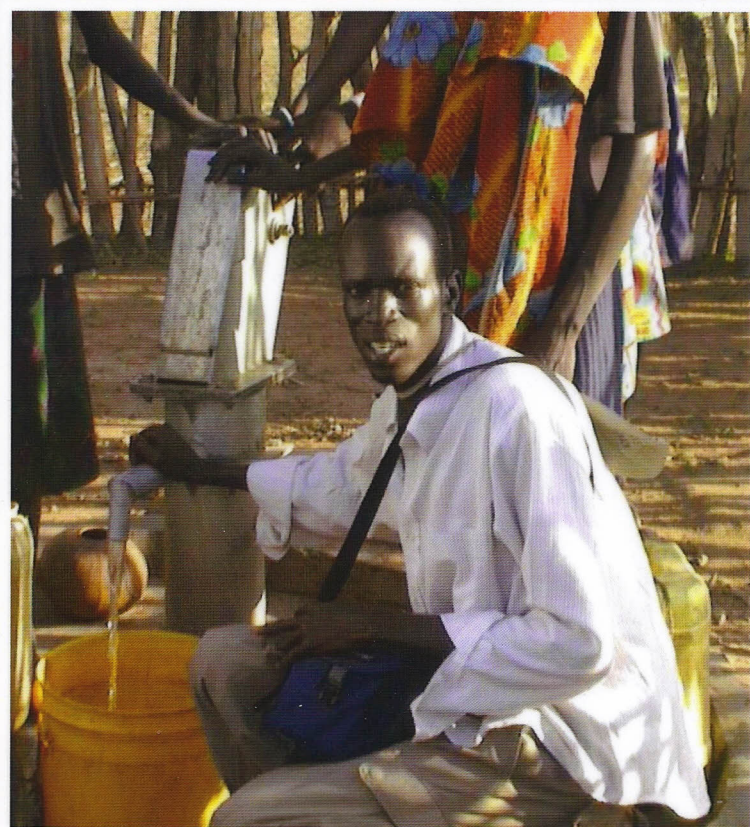
Salva Dut

The mission of Water for South Sudan is simple: drill borehole wells which bring safe drinking water to the people in South Sudan's remote villages, transforming lives in the process. This mission is inspired and led by its founder, a former "Lost Boy," Salva Dut.

As Salva says, "You never know which child will change the world someday... maybe a child in this corner of the world. It's very important to do this work... to show them the path where they could go."

Water for South Sudan has been drilling wells since 2005, bringing fresh, clean water to tens of thousands of people in South Sudan's remote villages. A single well may serve up to 3,000 people.

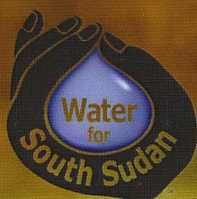
People in the villages where Water for South Sudan operates become partners in the process of making safe, drinkable water available there. Villagers help out in many ways, from unloading trucks and carrying supplies to lugging heavy bags of rocks then pounding them into needed gravel.



Salva Dut, Founder of Water for South Sudan

Village elders help determine a well's location and appoint one of their people to maintain the completed well and its pump. The Water for South Sudan team trains that well manager and provides spare parts.

The result is a village renewed by its own efforts with increased confidence that its people can continue to transform their own lives.



To learn more about Water for South Sudan, Inc., visit <http://www.waterforsouthsudan.org/>