O L I V E T  C O L L E G E
Education for Individual and Social Responsibility

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# Former Sudanese slave to speak at Olivet College

OLIVET, Mich. — Francis Bok, a former slave from southern Sudan, will speak as part of Olivet College's Lecture and Symposium Series Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 1:30 p.m. in the college's Mott Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

At the age of 7, Bok was enslaved during an Arab militia raid on the village of Nymial in southern Sudan. All around him, children and adults were brutalized and killed as he was strapped to a donkey and taken north to Kirio. For 10 years, he lived as a family slave, forced to sleep with cattle and endure daily beatings.

In December of 1996, Bok escaped to a nearby town, where he was enslaved by local police for two months. An Arab truck driver helped him escape to Khartoum, the capital, where he was arrested by security forces and held for seven months. After being released, Bok fled to Cairo. In 1999, the United Nations resettled Bok in America. He is now an associate at the American Anti-Slavery Group in Boston.

In 2000, Bok became the first escaped slave to testify before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in a hearing on Sudan. He has been featured in *The Boston Globe* and *The Christian Science Monitor*, and appeared on Black Entertainment Television, FOX News and CNN. His autobiography is titled, "Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity—and My Journey to Freedom in America."

For more information, call (269) 749-7164.

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Established in 1844, Olivet College is a private, liberal arts institution located in south central Michigan. The college remains dedicated to its vision of *Education for Individual and Social Responsibility* by providing a quality higher education to all, regardless of gender, race or financial means. The college is home to more than 1,000 students, who study under *The Olivet Plan*. In this unique educational experience, students engage in both curricular and co-curricular programs that combine real world experiences with lectures and service learning.