

LORI PECKHAM, editor



Guide's Greatest

**WILD
ANIMAL
STORIES**

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Chased by a Rhinoceros

by Virgil Robinson

Stuart Watt, a missionary, was out and about visiting schools in Africa. He traveled alone and carried no gun.

Though he didn't know it, in the tall grass not far from his path rested a large rhinoceros. A little breeze carried the scent of the missionary to the rhino and quickly aroused the animal to fury. The rhino is one of the most vicious animals in the bush and will charge humans without apparent reason.

The missionary suddenly heard a thunder of hooves nearby. Looking toward the sound's direction, he saw the heavy beast bearing down on him at great speed. The rhino, in spite of its heavy weight, is a very fast runner and has been known to overtake and kill even horses.

Stuart realized that his only safety was in flight, so he started to run as fast as he could toward a row of trees some distance away. His chances of reaching them were small, but he would certainly try his best. He put forth all the strength he had, yet he could hear the beast getting closer and closer. He dared not look back even to see how near

the rhino appeared.

Just as it seemed the cruel horn must strike his back, Stuart heard a voice say, "Your hat!"

Instantly he reached up and pushed his heavy pith helmet off his head onto the ground behind him. He kept running, but the thundering hooves stopped. The rhino, which has very poor eyesight but a wonderful power of smell, thought it had really caught its prey.

When Stuart finally looked back, he saw the creature tossing his helmet into the air and trampling on it as it came down. Then, convinced it had completely destroyed its hated enemy, the rhino charged off toward the river.

The missionary walked back and picked up some of the broken pieces of his helmet. No, he could never put them together again, but he did take them home to show his family. It was proof that the angel of the Lord had spoken to him that day and saved his life.

The Crocodile at the Crossing!

by Spencer G. Maxwell

A crocodile lurked in the waters at the crossing of the Bembesi River. The creature already had seized many goats and even some people.

Fourteen-year-old David had to go over that crossing every day. His job was to herd his father's cattle, and during part of the year, the only pasture he could find was on the other side of the river. This meant David had to take the cattle through the water past that crocodile every morning and bring them back through the water past that crocodile every night.

The water was shallow at the crossing, but deep pools sat on both sides of the shallow area. In that deep water the crocodile lived.

David's father, who was a deacon at church and held family worship every day, prayed for God to protect his son.

One morning the sun rose bright in a clear sky. All looked peacefully serene, and the cattle splashed obediently in front of David as he drove them into the river to the pastureland beyond. Waving to four boys standing on the

bank, he started into the water behind the cows.

Suddenly there was a ripple. David saw the glint of a horny tail flashing in the sunlight. He heard a snap. Then he felt almost a hundred wicked teeth fasten on his leg!

"Help!" he screamed.

Oh, how it hurt! But the four boys on the bank had turned and were running for their lives.

Now David had fallen into the water. He struggled to get onto his free leg, digging his hands in the sand under the bank.

"Help!" he shouted again.

Sethe, his twelve-year-old brother, heard his call and came running to see what had happened. One glance told him all. The crocodile was dragging David off for breakfast!

Sethe, a Christian, didn't fear danger. Without a moment's delay he rushed into the water. Grabbing David's arm, he tugged with all his might. David tried to pull himself out too, but the crocodile pulled harder than both boys combined.

Then a bright idea occurred to Sethe. It must have been the angels who whispered it to him. Yet only a boy who really loved his brother would have dared to try it because it was so risky.

Leaning down, Sethe picked up sand from the riverbed and rubbed it into the crocodile's eyes. Then he pushed more sand into its mouth, right past those cruel teeth.

Although crocodiles aren't very particular about what they eat, they don't relish sand. When the crocodile felt the horrid stuff in its mouth, it let go of David's leg. As it backed up and spit out the sand, Sethe quickly tried to help his lame brother out of the river.

The crocodile was not giving up so easily, though. It rushed up from the water and seized David's leg once more.

But Sethe now knew how to fight a crocodile, so he gave it the sand treatment again. And this time he made sure he used enough.

The crocodile objected strongly and released its hold on David. With frantic speed, Sethe dragged his brother out of the water and far up the riverbank, where the crocodile couldn't reach him. Then Sethe ran home to call his father.

Together they improvised a stretcher and carried David to a truck. They rushed him to the hospital, where his torn leg was treated.

Afterward the people around the Bembesi River asked, "Why is it the crocodile does not eat Seventh-day Adventist boys?" But David just gave thanks to God and his brother.