


AFRICAN



IF I COULD GO ANYWHERE IN GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD, I'D CHOOSE AFRICA. I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE, BUT MY FRIEND KIRK NOONAN HAS. HE EVEN WENT ON A SAFARI! I ASKED HIM TO TELL US ALL ABOUT IT.

Have you ever had an elephant or a lion or a black rhino sneak up on you in the middle of the night while you were walking down a road by yourself?

No?

Well, neither have I.

But I've seen these animals up close and personal while taking a short break from my reporting duties for *Today's Pentecostal Evangel*. I was in Tanzania, an African nation bordered by Kenya, Mozambique and the Indian Ocean.

Fortunately, I was not on a road by myself in the middle of the night when I saw these animals (and many others). I saw them while traveling through the Ngorongoro Crater.

Ngorongoro used to be a volcano. Its massive crater has 25,000 large animals roaming in it. A huge elephant with enormous tusks blocked our path as we drove. After about 10 minutes he grew tired and finally lumbered out of our way. He was bigger, stronger and probably heavier than the truck we were riding in — in other words, he was awesomely huge.

After our encounter with the elephant we were able to move on and see leopards, hyenas, warthogs, impalas, buffaloes, hartebeests, giraffes and elands. I also heard there were cheetahs in the area, but I didn't see any.

Besides the animals there are some really cool people who live in Tanzania who are known as the Maasai. Maasai means "speaker of the language Maa." The Maasai are easy to spot. They are tall and slender and usually dressed in red dresses or wraparound togas. Many of them live much the way their ancestors did thousands of years ago. The Maasai are known for herding cattle, sheep and goats, and also for being great hunters.

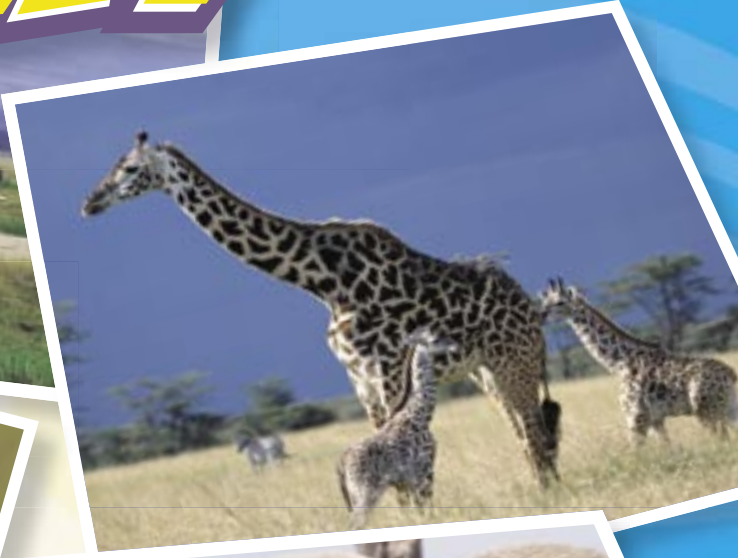
My friend Scott Hanson, an Assemblies of God missionary in Tanzania, ministers to Maasai people. According to Scott there are many Maasai people who love Jesus. On Sundays, he says, they can be seen in church praising the Lord just like you and I do in the United States.

— Kirk Noonan

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tanzania is home to Mount Kilimanjaro, which is 19,335 feet tall.
- The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world. A cheetah can run 71 miles per hour.
- One of the main foods for the Maasai is milk. Sometimes they mix milk and cow blood. Gross!

SAFARI



Photos.com

