



### WAGING WAR WITH WATER

During the last couple months we have had to wage war with water. It seemed to have begun with the water balloon fight we had with the Amecet kids. Knowing full well of our need for water, Water took revenge by weaning itself from us. For weeks the city water would not come. No matter how much pressure we put on



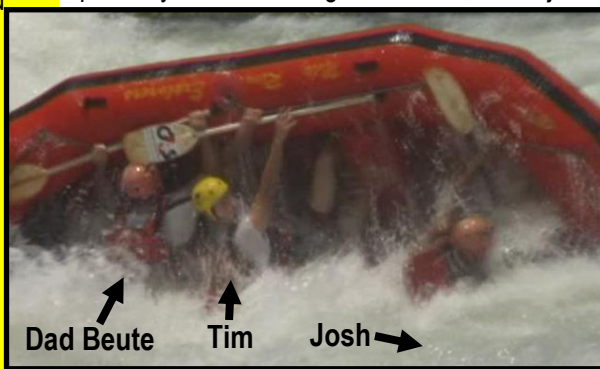
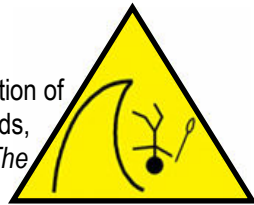
Local Spring Well

the water company there was never enough water pressure to fill our water tanks, causing the tanks to run dry and our blood pressure to run high. However, Water could not win that easily. We have a 2500 liter (658 gal) rain-water tank! So what if we have to regularly fill, bathe out of and wash from buckets. We could handle that... at least until the tank dripped its last drop, which it did only a few days later. The lack of direct rain and the tanks' use by many of our neighbors and friends didn't help. Our next option was to fetch water from a local spring well. The nearest one that did not have a long line-up or charge money is about 2.5 km away. While frustrating and time-consuming, we would not and will not let Water's siege get the best of us. It helps that Avalien loves to play in the spring well.

#### WHITE-WATER RAFTING ON THE NILE

We decided to take Water head on by rafting the Nile at its source in Jinja. With a reputation of probably the best rafting in the world, 12 major rapids including 5 class-five (out of 5) rapids,

rapid names like *The Bad Place* and *The Dead Dutchman*, a company that has a questionable logo, and a sighting of crocodiles in the Nile on our way to our raft (it was the only time we have seen crocs in the Nile so far), we knew it was going to be a good day. We flipped four times, swam without fear of bilharzias (a parasite in most African waters), and enjoyed the amazing beauty of the river and its birdlife (Uganda has more species and numbers of birds than any other country). What's more, I was able to get a thorough ear, nose, throat and sinus cleaning. In the end, we had the satisfaction of



Dad Beute Tim Josh

knowing that we had conquered Water's worst with a smile on our faces... or so we thought...

#### TESO FLOODS

On our way home we were faced with the serious effects of water in the floods that have invaded Teso, the region where we live. The main road back into Soroti was closed, so we had to take the old, rough route which adds an extra 1.5 hrs to our trip. The first bridge we approached on this route was 8 inches under water and the road immediately before and after was just about totally washed away, even after they added a number of dump-trucks of dirt and rocks. Following the bridge, we drove on what seemed to be a dam. Water was right up to the level of the raised road on the right, even flowing over the road at some places to the left side of the road, in which the water level was 2 to 3 feet lower. Both sides were normally plains of pastureland for many cow herds. Now there is water for as far as you can see. Many have taken up fishing with make-shift nets among the half-submerged acacia trees. Herds of cows have to



Main Road into Soroti (now closed)



Mandy, Josh, Grace, Grandpa, Grandma, Lydia, Tim, Avalien, Angle & Moses

For 2 weeks in Sept we were blessed to have Angie's parents visit our home in Soroti and to show them our lives and ministry. They were able to experience the joys and frustrations of daily life here, what's more, the wonderful fellowship we have with our new friends and neighbors! Avalien and Moses loved the one-on-one time with grandma and grandpa! They spent hours reading books and playing together. Moses quickly fell in love with his new grandparents and enjoyed the hours spent in their arms! With tears in her eyes, Avalien said good-bye to them at the airport... so hard for her little 2-year-old mind to understand where grandma and grandpa went. We cherish the memories that were made!

# YOU NAME IT

## cont'd...

choose between grazing in water up to their backs and causing traffic jams on the road-dam, the only dry ground for miles. Compounds of round thatched-roofed mud-brick houses sit half-submerged in water...

John & Barb Buteyn, short-termers from Michigan who spent 8 weeks with us this past summer, had just finished giving the gospel presentation to seventy wide-eyed, open-eared children after a week-and-a-half of children's outreach leading up to this point. Of course, it was on this day, at the worst of

tight with thin string that tangled around its wings and cut into its flesh. He regularly beat it to get it, and thus the children, riled up. I couldn't take the abuse and chaos much longer, so I offered to buy the eagle from the man.



Tim & Eek the Eagle

Bargaining down from 500,000 Ugandan shillings (\$285), I was able to, within minutes, get it for 2,000 Ugandan shillings (\$1.15).

times, that Satan chose to effectively, but not totally, distract the children and bring about utter chaos. While the children were decorating crosses, reflecting on what they had just heard, a crazed man brought in an eagle. He had it tied

I cut it loose hoping to set it free; however, it could not fly. The only option I had was to bring it home... and so began the unofficial Soroti "zoo." However, it is more than just a zoo. It's a zoo that I pray will become a place where people can come to know Jesus and more about God. What Satan meant for evil, God is turning to good by birthing an idea for ministry through animal interaction. Already, relationships are being built through this "zoo," particularly with my chicken-head provider and the eagle-feeding program I set up. I put a sign up outside our gate that for every fat frog a child under 12 brings in I will pay that child 50 Ugandan shillings. Once people understood that the frogs were for the eagle and not for us to eat, we received over 30 on the first day!



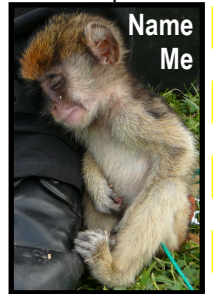
Angie's Parents Looking at the Road Home

This is the most rain the Teso region has ever seen in a season... and it's dry season! We have already and will definitely continue to personally experience the flood's effects. Electricity poles are being knocked down causing increased power outages. Bridges are collapsing and roads are washing away causing us to be unable to drive out of Soroti and thus feel trapped. Prices of fuel, food and pretty much everything else will rise as access roads become inaccessible. However, these inconveniences are really nothing compared to what the local people in the lower lands have to face.

Just a couple weeks ago, Museveni declared a state of emergency, the first time he has ever done so in his 20+ year reign as president... and since then the floods have grown much worse. More than 25 people have drowned so far. Hundreds of thousands are displaced (again). People who have lived in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps for years due to the Lord's Resistance Army rebels and the violent Karamojong tribe were able to return home, take out loans and rebuild their lives and land only to lose everything again and return to the IDP camps. Thousands of acres of crops are ruined and whatever people have stored is rotting away leaving them without food for the coming year. The UN World Food Program, Red Cross and World Vision, all based here in Soroti are seen constantly driving in and out of the flood areas. All day long we hear airplanes and helicopters flying overhead in and out of Soroti into the flood areas to pick up stranded people and drop food in inaccessible areas. Over 170 schools are closed due to damaged buildings, buildings being used to house displaced people, and pit-latrines overflow, leaving over 100,000 students out of school. Since most everyone uses pit latrines and the flood waters are stagnating, safe drinking water is hard to find. After the six-week point of such contaminated flood water (which is this week) cholera and other epidemics break out, increasing the death-toll exponentially. Already, malaria, the number one killer in the world, has more than doubled in the flood zones. The rising malnutrition and contaminated drinking water is not helping the people fight these and other diseases... right now, we just ask that you pray...



We have also recently added two baby monkeys – a vervet monkey, named Miss Chief, and a patas monkey that has yet to be named, along with the "zoo"... **BY YOU!** We need YOU to log onto our webpage and enter a name or to email us a name for the monkey. Once we have a lengthy list of names, we'll choose five from which you can then vote on your favorite. The name



Name Me

with the most votes will be the name of the monkey and the person who submitted the name will receive a reward (yet to be determined). You can submit as many names as you like. The same process goes for the naming of the zoo (a Christian-related name for the zoo is preferred). So log on, **NAME THAT MONKEY** and **NAME THAT ZOO!** (address below)



Avaiien Kissing Monkeys

## Moses' Visa to the USA

We are thrilled to announce that the US Embassy in Kampala has granted Moses a two year multi-entry visa to the US! Considering the fact that we were told it is next to impossible to get a US visa for a Ugandan orphan, we know it was only because of God. We are now able to travel with Moses whenever we want to the States for the next 2 years. God is so good and so faithful! We have booked our tickets home for December. We are so excited to be able to take Moses home for Angie's sister's wedding and for our friends and family to meet Moses! **Thank you for your prayers!**

