

# Church Planting in Uganda

## Labor Day: The Harvest Continues

We have just received a report from our associate, church planter and evangelist Raphael:

"Hi Dr. Paul. We managed to launch the church in Kawiti Village of Northern Uganda. Unfortunately by the time we reached the village all our phones were off because we had exhausted all our power banks. We could not take any pictures. Kawiti is in the eastern side of Karuma, 1 km from the River NILE. We had a meeting with approximately 30 people to launch this fellowship. God was so gracious and we are received with songs of jubilation. We were blessed to see the love of Christ in this simple people. We encouraged them to continue with the Word. We were blessed with a goat and some four pumpkins in our mission! They begged us for the opportunity to share with us."



In addition to launching the new church in Kawiti, Raphael and his team visited another church in Timakisa to strengthen it. Here Raphael did share a couple of photos:



## Baptism in the River Nile

From the National Geographic:

*The Nile crocodile has a somewhat deserved reputation as a vicious man-eater. The proximity of much of its habitat to people means run-ins are frequent. And its virtually indiscriminate diet means a villager washing clothes by a riverbank might look just as tasty as a migrating wildebeest.*

### National Geographic Article on Nile Crocodiles

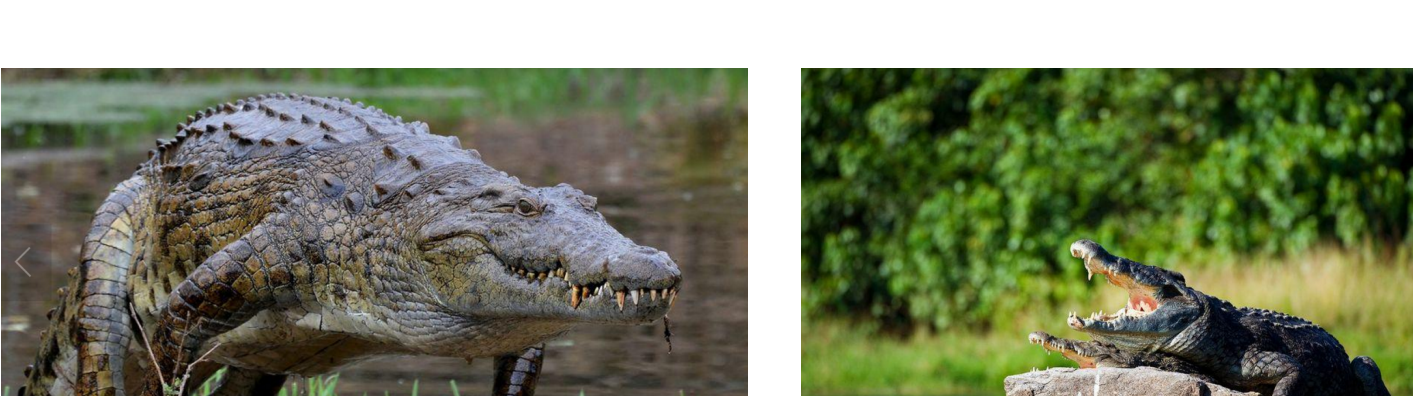
On my last trip to Uganda I had the privilege of participating in a baptism service. As a group, the congregation walked from the church in Karuma 2 or 3 miles to the Nile River. I was told of the ferocious crocodiles that lie along the banks of the Nile River, and with confidence I was told by many of the church members and leaders, "God will protect us!"



As we walked toward the river I was theologically dissecting the merits of faith versus the folly of presumption. As we drew closer to the river there was high grass along both sides of the path where I was certain there must be crocodiles listening to us walk and smelling the presence of humans. I tried to banish these thoughts!



When we approached the banks of the Nile River I could see several areas where the mud had recently been packed down. Until a few minutes ago this area had obviously been a place where crocodiles were relaxing along the river.



Graciously I was asked to participate in the baptism. Seeing that there were a number of pastors present I saw no need to actually step in the water and baptize people. I elected to be the photographer!



My mood of trepidation was soon overcome by joy. The Spirit of God was present. As people emerged from the water after baptism there was a joyful and unmistakable sense that burdens were lifted and bonds were broken. There

were many utterances of *Hallelujah!* – which is a universal term of victory among Christians around the world!



In the same river where baby Moses was rescued from death, these new Christians were rescued from the consequences of sin by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!



This was a fond memory which I wanted to share with you.

Oh, and by the way, Raphael and other leaders have decided to temper wisdom with faith. In the future they will choose a different location for baptism. Somewhere not infested with crocodiles!

## Please Pray

Please pray for Raphael and his team as they diligently proclaim the gospel in unreached villages, planting new churches along the way.

When you lift them up in prayer, you become part of the team as well. Your consistent support means that you are participating in this vital ministry.

Thank you.

Paul Rains

It is very effective for us to help native Christians proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ. They do not have to learn a new language. They already know the culture. Concepts like furlough and culture shock are unknown to them! We can often support 20 pastors or evangelists who are native to the country for the same price as one missionary from outside their country.

Currently we are assisting our associates in West Africa, East Africa and India.

We need your help!



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