



Yesterday was a GREAT DAY! Fr. Daniel Hinc, C.R., the pastor of our parish in Butiama, took me to the Serengeti National Park yesterday. I will be leaving here for my return trip to Morogoro next week, and this will probably be the only opportunity I have to see the park. The parish is about 1 ½ hours from the Serengeti. We left at 5:45 a.m. and arrived at the gate at about 7:15 a.m., just after sunrise. Since I am a resident of Tanzania—I have a two-year missionary visa—I paid \$25 to enter. Fr. Daniel drove, but we hired a guide to travel with us in the car. I paid for his entrance fee to the park (\$6) and his fee for accompanying us (\$25). The first animals we saw near the gate were zebras and wildebeests. It is not a surprise that we would see these animals; there are 250,000 zebras and 1.5 million wildebeests in the park.



In no time, we were in the park and driving along the great African plains.



There are roads like this all through the park, which is 14,750 square kilometers (5,700 square miles) large. We drove on some roads slowly, but on others we were driving about 60 km/hour (40 miles/hour). All told, we drove for about 10 hours in the park yesterday. Next up were giraffes and ostriches!







*This hippopotamus wanted to join his buddies in the water!*





*Careful, Jim, don't fall into that water...there is also a crocodile there!*







There were many antelope, gazelle, and impalas on the plains. Sometimes you don't know who is looking at whom!







We had a four-wheel drive vehicle to manage the rough roads and the mud that formed from the previous night's rain storm. Although a bit hard to see, these are hyenas and water buffalo (the most dangerous animal!) in the next photos.







There were many wildebeests. In fact, when we left the park, we saw countless numbers of them.







And, of course, there were plenty of zebras everywhere. You usually see the zebras and the wildebeests together because one eats high grass and the other eats short grass and one has better seeing and the other has better hearing.







Next blog: lions and elephants and baboons and more hippopotami...oh my!

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