An ELEPHANT NEVER FORGETS!



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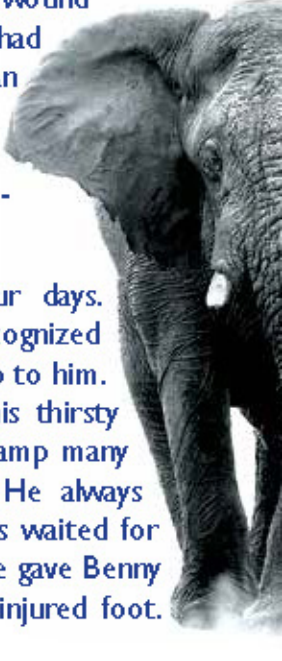
It was a very hot and very dry summer in Botswana, Africa. Many elephants were dying from a lack of water. Hundreds of elephants waited for long hours for a turn at a small water hole.

One day a young elephant arrived at the Elephant Sands water hole. He was trumpeting loudly and coming too close to the campsite. Mike, the manager tried to chase him away. The elephant came back again and again. Mike named the elephant Benny and knew that Benny was after water. Mike kindly filled up a water trough for him and



soon Benny came to drink. He would happily suck up water with his trunk and then squirt it into his mouth. He even let Mike spray him with water. Sometimes Benny would spray him back!

After a few days, something strange happened. Benny pointed to Mike with his trunk. Then he rubbed his foot three times. Mike saw that the foot was injured. When Benny came back a few days later, Mike saw that the wound was infected and that Benny had a fever. He phoned the vet. An operation was performed and the veterinary removed a piece of wood that had become stuck in Benny's foot.



Benny went away for four days. When he came back, he recognized his friend Mike. He walked up to him. Mike gave some water to his thirsty buddy. Benny came to the camp many times in the next months. He always looked for Mike. Mike always waited for Benny to greet him first. Mike gave Benny water and took care of his injured foot.

Benny appreciated what Mike had done. He trusted Mike.

Mike and Benny are still friends. Benny returns every dry season to wait for fresh water and his old friend. Benny protects Mike and keeps him from the danger of other wild elephants. Benny never forgets Mike!



The saying "An elephant never forgets" is close to the truth. Elephants do have amazing memories. They know every member of their herd. They recognize each elephant by sight or smell. They are able to remember the sounds of different elephants. Elephants remember signs that tell them of danger. They remember places and the route they travelled. They remember spots for water and food. Elephants remember the other elephants that have died. They return to visit their burial places. Elephants are very sensitive and caring animals. They show sadness, happiness and sympathy for others.

The BIBLE tells us that God remembers.

God's memory is perfect. Because God remembers, we know that He loves us and cares for us. God will not forget anyone.

God is perfect in every way. God knows everything. He sees us at all times. He knows that we forget about Him. We sin against Him. We think and do things that are wrong. We turn away from Him. God remembers sin. He can't ignore our sin. He must punish it.

God says again and again, "I love you. I want you. I will care for you." He proved His love for us. He gave His Son, Jesus as a gift to us. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment we deserved for our sins. When we confess our sins and believe that Jesus died for us, God forgives us.

God says, "I will not forget you". Will you remember God? "REMEMBER NOW YOUR CREATOR IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH..."

Ecclesiastes 12:1.

ELEPHANT
FACTS

- Elephants can live to be over 70 years old.
- Elephants are the only mammal that cannot jump!
- Elephants purr like cats to communicate.
- Elephants can recognize themselves in a mirror.
- Elephants use their feet to listen. They can pick up sound waves travelling through the ground.

STORY FROM AFRICAGEOGRAPHIC



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