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[Handwritten note: Did you receive tape recording of this whole program which I sent you?
Marj]

The Back Home Hour Broadcast at HCJB
Sunday Night, October 5, 1958

For our BACK HOME HOUR broadcast of October 5th, we asked Marj Saint to give a resume of "Operation Auca" including the recent thrilling news. We thought you would like this copy of the transcription. It follows.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to share with our listeners that which God brought about among the Auca Indians here in Ecuador. Those who have been praying should know that just a week and a half ago today, 10 Aucas came walking out of jungles to the mission station known as Arajuno. There were 7 women and 3 boys. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

But before going further, let's go back abit [sic] and see how the Lord has brought this about. I never feel right about telling the Auca story without mentioning the missionaries of Ecuador and their friends started praying for these Indians some 35 or 40 years ago. We are no doubt reaping some of the harvest of those prayers right today. During these many years, no visible progress was made until 1955. There is no need at this time, I'm sure, to repeat the story of the four months of concentrated effort which began with the locating of the Auca houses from the air and ended with the death of five young missionary men – the story that we know as "Operation Auca."

During the next two years, missionaries continued this effort by keeping open the mission station on the edge of Auca territory, Arajuno. [Handwritten note: Chapanja "Waiting"] Gift flights were made to the Auca houses and people around the world continued to ask the Lord for a friendly contact with these Indians that in His time, they might have an opportunity to know of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In November of 1957 the long awaited news came. A Quichua Indian brought the word to Gwen Tidmarsh and Betty Elliot in Arajuno that two Auca women were at the Quichua Indian houses on the Curaray River about 6 hours away by trail. Betty Elliot left with the Quichuas immediately to meet the Auca women and found one of them to be older woman who came to Palm Beach in January, 1956 when the five men were there. These two women have lived with Betty for the past 10 months. In June of this year, they joined Rachel Saint and the Auca girl Dayuma. Dayuma has been living out of the tribe for about 12 years. These two missionary

women with the three Aucas as informants have been giving themselves to the study of the Auca language.

During recent months the two Auca women, Mintaka and Mankamu had been talking much about their return home to their people. Dayuma had said that she would like to go with them but never made up her mind for sure until one month ago yesterday when the other two, M and M, as we call them, decided the day had come for them to return. They had explained to Betty before that they must return during Capoc Season, for they had told their people if they did not return during this season, they would know they were dead. The season was almost over. So early in the morning of September the 3rd, Dayuma left her little boy in Rachel's care and she joined the other two Auca women and Betty as they flew back to Arajuno from the Wycliffe base. Soon after landing, the three Aucas, heavily loaded with gifts for their people, 3 pup dogs, and food for themselves and the dogs set out on the trail for the Auca houses. As the Tidmarshes and Betty walked back to the house Gwen said, "I wonder if we will ever see them again." I guess this thought went through each of our minds as we heard the word that they had gone, but as Betty Elliot wrote us, "We have entrusted them into the Lord's care and that is a pretty secure place to be."

Five days later, Danny Derr, one of the Missionary Aviation pilots, and Betty flew over the Auca houses. Betty thought she saw Mankamu waving vigorously and pointing in one direction, but of course, going over 80 or 90 miles per hour, Betty could not be sure. They flew around and around but saw no signs of the other women. Three days later Betty and Johnny Keenan flew over again, but they saw no signs of anyone...

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...they knew, what happened to the girls? Surely they had had time to arrive as the trip should take about 3 days. They had arranged with Dayuma that they would fly over and let down the telephone on the bucket to her. Where was she, that they couldn't find her? Several more days went by and Dr. Tidmarsh and Dr. Woods made a trip to the Curaray area. One day, they heard a terrible scream across the river. They tried unsuccessfully to get the Indians to take them across the river to investigate. Could it have been Dayuma or one of the other Auca women trying to return to the missionaries and the Aucas were preventing her? Again we wondered just what the outcome of this visit would be. Soon after Dr. Tidmarsh returned to Arajuno and his wife decided they must come out to Quito for dental work but they did not wish to leave Betty and her little daughter along with the Indians so they send a radio message to Quito asking if I would go to the jungles to stay with her. I went. As the airplane rolled to a stop I said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful to see three Auca women coming down the airstrip." Little did I know that in less than 42 hours, I would have that very experience.

It was Thursday morning, September 25th. Betty was hanging out clothes; Valerie was playing, and I was typing a letter to Nate's and my parents, telling them of the Quichua wedding we had attended the day before. Suddenly, I heard Betty calling, "Guess what, the women had returned." A Quichua Indian from the Curaray had come to us with the news. "Good morning," Betty greeted him. "Why have you come?" "For nothing," he replied. "Didn't you bring us any news about the Aucas?" "Oh, yes, they have come and have brought others with them. They have stopped down at the Nushino River to bathe and asked me to come on ahead to tell you." Betty, Valerie, and I changed our shoes immediately and set out to meet them. We hadn't gone far when we heard someone singing in English with an Auca accent, "Jesus Loves Me." It was Dayuma followed by M and M and 7 others. One of them was one of the wives of George, the Auca man who was on the beach with the five fellows. She had brought her baby, George's son. We learned later that at the time George was killed – less than two years ago, she followed tribal custom and strangled her baby daughter with a vine and buried her with her father.

For the next two days Betty poured questions to Dayuma. We learned that they hadn't been seen from the plane because they were so tired that they had stopped at a place a few hours walk short of the Auca houses and had sent Nankamu ahead, perhaps to throw in the proverbial hat. It was she that Betty had seen from the plane. Dayuma saw her mother once again after 12 years. The Aucas told her they would like Betty and Rachel to come in – that they never knew anyone truly wanted to be their friends. One man Dabu told them that he cried when he heard that some had killed the five foreigners. He said he waited a while and then went to the beach and felled a tree so that no more foreigners could come in and be killed. They also told of killing another foreigner just recently, Mr. Trembley from Canada. We also asked about Maruja, the little Quichua girl who had been taken captive when her husband was killed at the time Mankamu and Mintaka came out last November. We were happy to hear that they found her there with the Aucas and brought her back to her people on the Curaray. Betty asked, did M and M tell their people that the foreigners do not eat people? "Yes," they said, "What in the world did you think they would eat anyone for – they think you are the people eaters." Were these 7 new ones afraid to come with you?" "No," Dayuma said, "They came shouting with glee." "Did the Aucas understand the gestures used to make from the plane?" Betty asked. "Yes, they understood and they followed us as far as the Curaray but they said, 'The airplane goes way beyond where the hills look blue. We will never be able to reach there.' So they turned around and went home."

Dayuma said, "I began to teach them right away. When I spoke thus, two of them cried. The next day one woman came to me again and said, 'Tell me more about your God.'

Lets join together in asking Him to make each future step perfectly clear to those whom He is working to reach the Aucas with the Gospel.