

August 14, 1958

Limon Cocha

Dear Carol:

Thanks so much for your letter of June 9. To straighten you out on the Indian women: Dayuma is an Auca who escaped over 12 years ago. She is here in Limon Cocha, which is the Wycliffe base, with Rachel Saint. The five of us are working on the Auca language together: Mintaka and Mankamu are my two, whom I met on the Curaray last November. Eugenia is a Quichua girl who helps me in the house. Pray for all of them – and Rachel and me as we study the language.

No, progress is anything but “rapid.” Imagine the difficulties when the informants insist that you hear every word they say, and understand thoroughly. They get very put out with me for asking them to repeat. They just don’t do it. So checking my own pronunciation is practically impossible, and this is a problem, where the language has about 25 vowels, which may be nasalized, lengthened, reiterated, glottalized, etc.!

Glad to hear of the joy your children are to you. Val is a great comfort and joy to me, as you can imagine. At present she is half bald – a lovely case of ringworm. The baldness may become permanent, according to the books. Happy thought. I’d appreciate prayer for this, too. You have had some experience in skin troubles, with Howard, if I remember correctly and know how trying they can be.

M & M talk constantly of going back. In fact, tonight Mintaka came in and packed up her things, saying she was leaving tomorrow! I’m of course willing to let them go anytime they get desperate, but I am hoping the Lord will keep them here a little longer, as every day is gain for me on the language. His timing will be exactly right, I know. They have asked me to accompany them. I am praying about that, and need God’s clear guidance.

Much love,

Betty

[Handwritten postscript] Jim’s biography just arrived – it will be available in stores on September 3.