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Auca Indian Dayuma Baptized into Christian Faith at Wheaton Church

Another chapter in Christian history was written Tuesday, Apr. 15, when Auca Indian vengeance upon martyred American missionaries in Curary jungle waters had its counter-part as Baptismal waters welcomed the first Auca Christian convert in a Wheaton church yesterday. The convert is Dayuma, a little South American jungle woman who had requested baptism after embracing the Christian faith due to missionary effort.

Dayuma fled from her tribe of Warani Auca Indians many years ago to escape the brutal killings in her tribe, and is, far as is known, the first member of the Stone Age Aucas to become a Christian. Unusual too, was her request to be baptized by the president of Wheaton college, the school so closely identified with three of the five missionary men who gave their lives in an attempt to take the Gospel to the Auca Indians in Ecuador January 1956.

DAYUMA WAS FLOWN to the United States a year ago to appear on Ralph Edwards' "This Is Your Life" program featuring Rachel Saint, sister of Nate Saint, one of the five slain missionaries. Since then she has been with Miss Saint at the Wycliffe Bible Translator missionary station in Sulphur Springs, Ark.

Here she has been imparting her language to the translators and at the same time witnessing to her newly found Christian faith by making recorded tapes in her own tongue for her people.

Recently she expressed a desire to "go into the water for..."

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... the responsibility of her young son. Her former wild life in the forest is still attested to by her independent spirit and the huge holes in the lobes of her ears in which she wore primitive earsticks for many years. "The road to understanding of the Christian faith by Dayuma has long been very rewarding," states Miss Saint. She conveyed the Gospel to Dayuma by learning from her the Warani Auca legends of a god of the forest.

Dayuma and her son, together with Miss Saint were flown to Wheaton by the Texas industrialist, R. G. LeTourneau and his wife in their plane. They spent Wednesday on the Wheaton campus and fulfilled a wish of Dayuma's to "take a long look at an elephant" with a visit to Brookfield zoo. She and her son will fly with Miss Saint to her new missionary destination on the lower Napo river in Ecuador some time in May.

[Image: Dr. V. Raymond Edman, President of Wheaton College and Dayuma. Caption: HIDDEN CAMERAS, used without flash, record the expression on Dayuma's face immediately after the Stone Age Auca Indian had gone through the waters of baptism symbolizing her conversion to Christianity at the Evangelical Free Church in Wheaton, Tuesday. With her is Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton college, who performed the baptismal rites.]