

00:00 Ben Cummings: “Friendship on Friday” is the story of five missionary families, five Ecuadorian Indians and a team of five Bible translators. [Instrumental music] I’m Ben Cummings. The missionary men were my colleagues. They were Jim Elliot, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully of Christian Missions in Many Lands, Nate Saint of Missionary Aviation Fellowship, Roger Youderian of the Gospel Missionary Union. These men with their wives were missionaries in the jungles of Ecuador, South America. The five missionary wives, the former Marj Saint:

01:15 Marjorie Saint Van der Puy: I remember being happy. Happy to know that the Lord's time had come to contact the Aucas and happy to know that....

01:21 Ben Cummings: The former Betty Elliot.

01:25 Elisabeth Elliot: It is never a vain thing thus to place oneself in the hands of the Lord for the whole execution of his will, whatever it may cost.

01:34 Ben Cummings: Marilou McCully

01:38 Marilou McCully: Most in my mind those particular days when the fellows first went was one of excitement, one of confidence, knowing that God had led. My confidence was that nothing could go wrong.

01:47 Ben Cummings: The youngest was the former Olive Fleming.

01:50 Olive Fleming Liefeld: One of the verses that has meant a lot to me during this time is found in Psalm 16:11. Thou wilt show me the path of life. In thy presence is fullness of joy.

02:01 Ben Cummings: And Barbara Youderrian.

02:04 Barbara Youderian: Yes, there is real joy in serving our Lord.

02:07 Ben Cummings: Later we'll meet the five Auca Indians. Now I want you to know the tribal team of five Wycliffe missionaries. Rachel Saint...

02:16 Rachel Saint: Many people have had a part in the Auca story. You may be one of them. Your prayers may have been used of the Lord to accomplish much.

02:28 Ben Cummings: Catherine Peeke earned her Ph.D. at Indiana University. Her doctoral thesis was the preliminary grammar of Auca in Ecuador.

02:38 Catherine Peeke: In translating to any foreign language, of course, one has problems with some of the abstract concepts, but...

02:47 Ben Cummings: And the schoolteacher.

02:49 Pat Kelly: My name is Pat Kelly. I work with a tribe called the Waorani, more commonly or popularly known as the Aucas. My work among them involves teaching, reading, writing, arithmetic in their own language and oral Spanish.

03:06 Ben Cummings: Our next team member serves as nurse.

03:09 Rosie Jung: Rosa Marie Jung. Rosie Jung. I'm from Germany, in Westphalia, or as we say in Westfalen, I am a midwife by profession.

03:22 Ben Cummings: And James Yost, PhD. We asked him about his academic record.

03:28 James Yost: I have a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Northwestern College in Minneapolis. Got my master's and my doctorate from the University of Colorado. My master's was in general anthropology, and my doctorate was in culture change at the Institute of Behavioral Sciences.

03:49 Ben Cummings: 20 years have gone since Nate, Jim, Pete, Ed and Roj made their friendly contact with Auca Indians at Palm Beach. Many of us will be telling the story. I'll help explain as we go. Where did these people the Aucas come from?

04:11 James Yost: They came from down river, which is what they say in their legends. Now, where that is and on which river is a good question. They are one of those isolated pockets.

04:23 Catherine Peeke: We have found no language which is clearly related to the Auka language. There are very few words which appear to have been loan words from other languages. We do hope to be able to find such a relationship with further studies in the languages of other countries within the Amazon basin.

04:46 Ben Cummings: I remember the first time I heard about the Auca Indians in Ecuador. The story went that no one had contacted them in a friendly way in 400 years. Their territory was a large one, and any outsider was met with a shower of wooden lances. We have called them Aucas. Pat Kelly referred to them as the Waorani. Why was the name changed, Cathy?

05:11 Catherine Peeke: Well, actually, their name was never changed. The outsiders called them "Auca" because they didn't know the name that the people call themselves, which is Waorani. And the outside name means savage or barbarian. So that when the Waorani discovered they were being called this and what it meant, they were not too satisfied with that.

05:36 Ben Cummings: I can appreciate how they feel. However, as we cover the events of 20 years, I trust that our good Indian friends won't be offended if we use both terms Aucas and Waorani.

[End of selection]