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Dear Friends,

Some months ago as I started translating the book of Acts into Auca I asked Kimo how the ancestors would have expressed "unto the uttermost parts of the earth" (Acts 1:8). He laughed and said that when he was young ALL the Aucas believed that the world ended just beyond the Napo River on one side and the Curaray on the other. One of the ancestors had dared to cross the river. He went only a short distance and came to the place where earth and sky met. In fact he reached up and touched the sky! No one had doubted his word, least of all Kimo who heard this story from his grandfathers.

Last fall in Berlin, Kimo the former killer, accompanied by Dayuma's husband Komi, stood before 1200 men from 100 countries of the world and boldly spoke of the wonderful change the Gospel had made in his life. He was an invited delegate to the World Congress on Evangelism, and I was proud to be his interpreter! After the Congress we accompanied Wycliffe's president George Cowan (now in charge of our European work) to our relatively new headquarters in Germany and Switzerland, then on to our British headquarters for a brief visit and meetings.

Everywhere he went Kimo explained that God had sent him first to them to whom he was speaking but that when he returned home he was to take the Gospel to the still savage downriver group. Some people were afraid that his sudden exposure to our so-called "civilization" would spoil him, but when the brief trip was about over Kimo's only request was for a wedding ring such as our pilots wear, a symbol of his faithfulness to his one and only wife, Dawa. He would make a blowgun to pay for it!!

Back in Tiwaeno it took Kimo six weeks to think about all he had seen and heard, and also to straighten out the problems that had arisen in the church in his absence. In a sermonette on the story of Daniel, he said to his people recently,

"That is what we were like. We were just like those lions! When the Quichua Indians came we pounced on them and killed them. When the whites came we pounced on them and killed them. And when Star's (Rachel's) five foreigners came we pounced on them and killed them. But that was before we knew about the Lord Jesus. Now, like those lions, we too have become as gentle as dogs!"

Then he turned his attention to his unsaved downriver relatives. No one knew better than Kimo the risks involved when he went far, far deeper into downriver territory than he had gone for many a year. The last time it had been on a spearing raid; this time it was for the Lord Jesus.

Drawings by Kimo's wife, Dawa, after she saw her downriver relatives from our JAARS airplane. Will you join her in praying that there will soon be a safe contact for Christ with these savage Aucas.

He and the others went with high hopes for a meeting with the downriver people but when they reached the rendezvous spot no one was there. It was quite evident that fear had kept the deception-conscious relatives from accepting the invitation which had been broadcast earlier in their own language from our plane. Kimo radioed on the little transceiver for a food drop and told us, "the two girls want to go on to the houses." Kimo and Mincaye (another of the former killers) dared not add to the danger by going further, but boldly watched and prayed there on "Kimo's Beach" while the women advanced. We encouraged their hearts in the Lord daily via the radio and then lost contact. We learned later that a tapir had charged through the jungle and stepped on the set, ruining the antenna plug!

Those of the Auca church who went out to meet them on the trail were the first ones to know that the girls had lost their way but they had left their gifts at the crossing of two trails where they found footprints. Their food and strength were gone and, disappointed, they sadly returned to join the others.

When we tried again for aerial contact we found the relatives had fled in fear.

Then an oil company, using dynamite to search for minerals and oil, moved into downriver territory with forty soldiers and guns. Once again we watched and prayed as the broad trail, so clearly seen from the air, extended further and deeper into forbidden jungle. To the Aucas this would surely be considered an invasion of territorial rights. The seismographic work went on for weeks; then we heard the company had retreated, at least temporarily. Perhaps now the Lord will give us the contact we long for.

Now once again He has let us find by plane occupied houses in that vast, unmarked green jungle. He has let us broadcast once again to these whom we know are so valuable to God that He is not willing that one of them should perish. This time the women called to them, "Wait until we come to you in kapok season." They have carefully checked the lay of the land from our JAARS plane but they must wait until the food they planted so far away is ready.

Meanwhile the Lord is leading the skilled technicians of Wycliffe and of Radio Station HCJB to join the Aucas in their contact attempt by an expanded electronics approach which we pray will help prepare the way. An "open door is set before us but there are many adversaries." Kimo and his people would want to join me in asking you to pray us through to Victory in Jesus,

"Whose we are and Whom we serve,"

Rachel Saint

(Miss) Rachel Saint

P.S.

A brief word about others of the team.

Ethel Wallis, who made the Auca tribe real to the many readers of The Dayuma Story, has been proofreading the New Testament in the language of the Otomi Indians of Mexico where she has served with Wycliffe many years. We rejoice with her and her fellow workers in the completion of this tremendous undertaking.

Catherine Peeke is still at the University of Indiana where she is completing her thesis on Auca grammar. She will continue as a linguistic consultant helping many tribal workers, but her linguistic research in Auca will make a great contribution to further translation work, especially in the epistles of Paul.

Dayuma and Komi are rejoicing in the birth of a lovely little girl, baby Eva. Eunice, now two years old, is still blind, but God has healed her weak body and given her an alert mind. She is a joy to us all and adored by a tribe who would have thrown her away in the heathen culture. Now they ask God to give her two good eyes! Big sister Nancy, a pretty child of four, helps her mother with the children so Dayuma can help me with the translation (we hope to complete Acts soon). Big brother Sammy, at 17, has taken over the men's adult literacy classes while Toñae teaches children's Bible/literacy program.

Our many friends far and near will rejoice to know that Mintaka, the older Auca woman who came to "Palm Beach," recently asked the Lord to cleanse her heart--a very spontaneous decision following the second communion service in our growing church.

A French book, picking up the Auca story from ten years ago to the present, is to be ready for sale during the Christmas Season in Europe, as well as Africa, Haiti, and the islands of the Pacific--wherever French is spoken. Our Swiss Headquarters reports that it is "written in a gripping way, smoothly combining the different sources in really lovely language, giving the full dramatic impact where needed, and yet not over-dramatizing in any way." "Les Tueurs de la Jungle" by Mme B. Decourvet is one of the series "Le Phare-Junior" written for teenagers. The author has included the challenge of 2,000 tribes who still have no translation of God's Word in their language, and it could be wonderfully used of God to move many French-speaking young people to help complete this global task.

Between the writing and the printing of this letter there has been another lightning Auca attack by the downriver group along the Napo River. It is the second reported killing in the last six weeks. This time one Quichua Indian was killed, and another captured. Join in asking the Lord that our Christian Aucas may reach the killers before it is eternally too late.