

Casilla 5201 C.C. I. I., Quito, Ecuador, SOUTH AMERICA February 29, 1984

Esteemed Friends,

That's how our warm-hearted Latin friends would say it! It means that each one of you are very special to me and the Waodani Auca tribesmen. Amazing the way something you have said, written, done, given or prayed has encouraged our hearts, as you have joined us in watching the Lord complete that good work which He has begun in this once despised tribe of jungle Indians.

A recent highlight was the visit to Toñampade and 'Palm Beach' of Barbara Youderian with her two brothers and their wives. It was her first visit to the gravesight of her husband who fell to Auca spears some 28 years ago. All of us old-timers ploughed thru the muddy jungle trail and the five minute dugout ride with Komi and Dayuma on the Curaray River - just like veterans. Moi, a Ridge Auca who has not yet accepted the Lord helped Komi pole the canoe. At the grave-sight he traced the engraved names of the five men - his children go to school- and began to ask questions. Dayuma and Komi told them what happened at the time that "we had not heard the Gospel", while I interpreted into English. Komi made it clear that the whole incident contributed greatly to their present life of peace. Then he walked into the forest where the old tree-house tree lies, plucked a gorgeous red flowering branch and quietly gave it to Barbara - he the son of the lead killer on that fateful day was expressing his sympathy and gratitude. MAF's pilot Don Donaldson prayed a triumphant prayer, which I interpreted into 'Waodani tededo' and the Ridge Aucas were sure that Barbara and her family had only love and forgiveness for those who had speared the five missionaries. The visit was a mutual blessing for all.

Kimo and Dawa came to Quito with me for dental and medical work. Kimo fills and pulls teeth in the tribe, but he can't do his own! The HCJB Vozandes doctors dug the imbedded live worm out of his arm and treated his staph infection. Dr. Ron Guderian gave him a generous supply of new equipment for the tribal dentists. He also briefed us on new strains of malaria reaching the tribe, and how to treat them. And gave us a run-down on 'river-blindness' affecting our Cayapa Indian friends on the coastal jungle area. Pray his research, watered with our prayers, will enable him to find a cure for this dread disease found only here and in a part of Africa.

In between times Kimo and Dawa are helping check some of our first drafts of some New Testament books. That is hard work. But the best part is listening to Dayuma's verse by verse translation of 13 chapters of Exodus - a vibrant rendering in Auca. A new cassette copier allows me to share it with them, and give them a copy to take back to their Tsapino clearing - even before I have had time to type off a copy. Tulsa Baptist Temple provided the copier, a tremendous help.

I'm so grateful for this home in which to live and work when I have to be in Quito. In many ways it is ideal. Abe's daughter Lois and her family live upstairs, care for the place while I am in the jungle and care for me while I am here, if I need help. But so far only one quarter of the promised funds to buy the downstairs duplex have been provided. Marj (Saint) Van Der Puy and Dr. Abe insist that I stay on, even though it means a great sacrifice to them and delays them in buying a home of their own in the USA as they work internationally now. Pray that as we all put our trust in the Lord He will some way work out the problem for the good of all. In Him 'whose we are and whom we serve,

Rachel Saint