

[Letter is half typewritten with personal additions in handwriting]

Shell Mera, Ecuador  
May 16, 1956

Dear Mom Elliot:

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong” I Cor. 16:13

Six wonderful Conference days full of blessing and inspiration. We were sorry to see them draw to a close. We are ready to go back into Macuma, all but for one thing. Bethy and Jerry have been exposed to the measles during this time. As yet they show no signs of coming down with them, so I will have to remain in Shell Mera until their incubation period has terminated. It would be sheer folly to expose our 54 school boys and 16 girls to the measles, as they have no resistance to white man's disease. The minute they have a high temperature, they dive into the river to cool off. Serious complications following wiping out a high percentage.

Last week I saw Jane Dahlen who is writing for the Miami Tribune and is planning on walking on to the Auca territory with only a few Indian guides. Satan is using every means to keep these Indians for himself. Prayer that the work that is being carried on by the Missionaries will not be hindered by such as Jane & others who are already nearby in a little village, and another expedition that is coming from the States very soon.

Dotty and I plan to go into Cancaimi as soon as we can get back into Macuma. There are a multitude of boys and girls in that area which we hope to have in our school. We have sent word to enlarge the airfield and the A. F. plane is to be here within a couple of weeks, there will be little trouble in setting up. Roge had built the house last June and we have intended to back for short stays. However, the work on the Hospital here in Shell Mera had held us up.

Pray for Dotty as she translates the Gospel of Mark into the Jivaro tongue. Pray for me as I continue with language study. Pray for us both as we set up our school and clinic.

“If in dealing with one who does not response, I weary of the strain, and slip from under the burden, then I know nothing of Calvary love.” By Amy Carmichael

[Handwritten note]

Last week we saw the Auca film of the fellows on Palm Beach. Dear Roge seemed so near I half expected him to speak to me. But nearer still is the presence of the Lord to cheer and to guide. Praise Him. The first nite we heard the final news, several of the wives said it was too bad Roge had to go when he was in on it such a short time. But like I told them, there was nothing he would rather have done. I'm happy that he went down to the beach with them that he might be caught up with the “Five.” Yes, I miss him so much but I've found, as you said, the sufficiency of the everlasting arms! My Mom just wrote saying there is a possibility of her coming to see me next month. Olivia + Hobbie arrived safely in the plane yesterday noon.

Lovingly, Barb, Bethy, + Jerry