

[Music Intro]

00:12 Robert Savage: This is May 14, 1959. Gathered here in the World Radio Chapel of radio station HCJB are Barbara Youderian, Marilou McCully, Betty Elliott and Marj Saint. I. First of all, we should know the field of service for each of you at the present time as we make this recording in this spring month of 1959. Barbara, it's mighty good to have you here on HCJB compound these days. Tell us just a bit of your present work and activity, will you?

00:52 Barbara Youderian: Well, thank you very much, Bob. For the past year, I've been on furlough in the States. Just a week ago, I have returned and I'm hoping in about a month to return to our station at Macuma amongst the Jivaro Indians.

01:06 Robert Savage: Fine. That's in the southern jungle section of Ecuador, isn't it?

01:10 Barbara Youderian: Yes, that's right.

01:11 Robert Savage: Good. And Marj Saint, could you give us a word about Olive Fleming and her current plans?

01:18 Marjorie Saint: For the past year, Olive has been working as secretary at the...Shelton College. I almost forgot the name of it for a minute thinking about the place where it's located, Ringwood, New Jersey. While there, Olive met a young man who was once a student at Shelton by the name of Walter Liefeld. And though she's going to finish this year working there at the college, this summer she plans to be married to this young man from Long Island, New York.

01:45 Robert Savage: Well, we all wish for Olive Fleming a very happy future with this one that God has brought into her life to establish a new home. And let's see. Betty Elliot, would you tell us what your present field of service is? I think we all know, but we'd just like to hear you say, I've.

02:09 Elisabeth Elliot: I've been working among the Aucas in the Oriente, the eastern jungle.

02:12 Robert Savage: We'll be hearing from Betty Elliot in detail about the latest report from the Aucas in just a few moments. Marj Saint, we praise God for you and what you're doing here in our midst. But I want you to identify the field of service in which God has led you.

02:28 Marjorie Saint: Right here at HCJB with you and all the other staff members, Bob.

02:33 Robert Savage: And certainly, there are many who sing the praises of Maj Saint for the way that she has occupied such a very vital ministry here at the Voice of the Andes. Marilou McCully, give us your word as to information about the field and ministry that God has laid upon your heart.

02:52 Marilou McCully: I have a home for missionaries' children right here in Quito, Bob.

02:55 Robert Savage: And my, what a happy home it is. Just this week, so many parents have come to me and told me how delighted they are to have their children in the care of Marilou McCully, because in her efficient, happy way, she gives them a home during their months of education here at the Alliance Academy. That truly is a most ideal home in every way. Now, I know that everyone is interested in your

children, so how old are they? And of course, we'd like to know the names of each one. Barbara, would you answer this question first of all?

03:32 Barbara Youderian: I have a little girl by the name of Bethy. She is six years old. And my little boy Jerry will be.... Well, he just did turn five years.

03:39 Robert Savage: Fine. Six and five years old. The two children of Barbara Youderian. And Betty, give us the age of this little jewel that the Lord has given to you.

03:52 Elisabeth Elliot: Valerie is four years old.

03:54 Robert Savage: Fine. And what a delightful little girl she is. Marilou, tell us about yours.

04:00 Marilou McCully: My oldest one, Steve, is seven, and then Mike, who is four, and Matt is three.

04:06 Robert Savage: In Spanish, we have a word called "picaro," which means a little rascal. And we use it in a very lovely sense and in a sense of real esteem. But I would say that your three boys are real picaros. Marilou [both laugh]. Fine. And Marge, give us a word about your children.

04:27 Marjorie Saint: I have a girl, 10, Kathy, and a boy, Stevie, 8, and a boy, Philip, 4.

04:36 Robert Savage: Fine. I wish you all could have heard Kathy play at the recital last Saturday. She's a beautiful girl, and she played the piano in a beautiful way. Betty Elliot, since you are working in the tribe of Aucas just now with Rachel Saint, we'd like to ask you a question or two. I know that in these days you are beginning to build a foundation for faith in God on the part of the Aucas. How do you intend to do this with people who are so ignorant as far as scriptural truths and ignorant as far as what we generally call civilized plans and civilized methods are concerned?

05:16 Elisabeth Elliot: Well, Rachel Saint and I are still struggling with the language. I feel that it'll be years before I'll be able to speak the language effectively. But as many of you know, Dayuma, a believer, Auca woman, is there with us, and she's able to teach the Aucas in their own language. Your question as to how we hope to show them about Christ, I can only answer by saying that we pray that their faith may be set firmly on Christ himself and not on anything which we may think He can do for us. I think this is a lesson that all of us as Christians need to learn. We talk about faith in God, but many times it's faith in what we hope He'll do.

06:02 Robert Savage: Thank you so much, Betty. And I certainly feel we should all underscore that very procedure and that policy that you've mentioned in all missionary work and especially as it applies to the Aucas. By the way, Betty, how many people are there in the tribe of the Auca Indians?

06:20 Elisabeth Elliot:

In the group with which we're working there were 56 when I left. I think there'll be 57 when I get back. But there is another group several days away, probably as much as a week by trail away. They are bitter enemies of the group with which we work. And from what I've been able to learn from the men, there are about twice as many men in that group. So, I would imagine if the ratio is the same, the group would be at least twice as large as ours. As far as we know, those are the only Aucas in existence.

06:53 Robert Savage: I see. Well, there have been various estimates as to the number of Aucas down through the years, but certainly this evaluation of Betty Elliot is the most exact that anyone has reported

thus far. Betty, yesterday you gave us an incident of how you explained to little four-year-old Valerie, your daughter, what you believed is meant by God giving us protection. I wonder if you'd pass that on to all of us at this time.

07:26 Elisabeth Elliot: There have been a number of things lately which have thrown me back on the bedrock of the principles of our faith and what we mean by protection. One of them, of course, was the death of the five men. When we asked for protection, the Lord answered in a different way than we expected. The other day when we were coming up the Curaray on our way out of the jungle -- it's three days from Auca territory to the nearest airstrip. We spent the night on one of the beaches and it began to rain about 11 o'clock and by midnight we could see that the water was coming up. The Quichuas, who were with us, told us that they were going to move their house and wanted to know if they should move mine. I said, well, we'll wait till we see if the river really comes up. Since Valerie was sound asleep, I'd rather not wake her up.

08:15 Robert Savage: What do you mean by a house in such a case?

08:19 Elisabeth Elliot: [laughs] A little shelter of palm leaves, two poles, kind of a lean-to. So, we waited. And as the thunder crashed and the lightning flashed, we could see with each flash of lightning that the water was coming up closer. And it was a very wide, flat beach, the kind that would be flooded suddenly as soon as the water reached the right level. And Valerie finally woke up and realized that that was happening. Since the Aucas were talking about it and the Quichuas. And she kept saying to me, "But the Lord won't let the water come up here where we are, will He?" And I said, "I don't know." And she said, "Well, I know he won't". She said, "All we have to do is pray. Why are you afraid?" I said, "I'm not afraid." And she said, "But the Quichuas are afraid. They're afraid we're going to be carried away in the water." And I said, "Well, we know one thing, and that is that the Lord will do the right thing for us." And she said, "But you said the Lord will take care of us." And I said, "He will." And she says, "Well, then the water won't come up." And I said, "We know that whatever the Lord does, that'll be the very best thing that can happen to us." I'm not sure that she understood that. Or that it was really a sufficient answer to her question. But I felt it was the only answer that would be a true answer. Because sure enough, by 3 o'clock, the water had flooded where we were. In fact, it flooded us so fast that Valerie was lying in a few inches of water before we got her out of there.

09:40 Robert Savage: Well, thanks so much, Betty Elliot, for this definition of what is meant by God's protection. That is, what is best for us. Finally, let me ask you this question. Do you really feel encouraged about your work among the Aucas?

09:59 Elisabeth Elliot: Well, the language is a great discouragement to me. I wouldn't say that I find any great progress in the language. I'm thankful for some progress. I can see that I can understand a little bit more now than when I first went in there last October. But there have been signs which, as far as I understand the Indian mind, indicate that they are open and friendly. And I've often thought of the verse. "Who so receiveth you, receiveth me." The other day when we spent the night in a Quichua house, one of the men who killed the five fellows, a man by the name of Nimonga, who up until this time has been especially shy and reticent, asked me three times to please tell the Quichuas in that house that there was nothing left to fear. That they were no longer living like animals. That they thought about God. He said, "We come to your house, you give us chicha [?]. You let us sleep in your house. Now you come to our house, we'll give you chicha, you can sleep in our house. We're all brothers. We don't want to kill anyone anymore."

11:01 Robert Savage: What is the word that you are currently employing for “believe” in the sense of believing in the Lord Jesus?

11:08 Elisabeth Elliot: Well, it's a word if you say I believe, you'd say, [speaks Wao] and it simply means to think of, to believe, to have in mind, possibly to love. I'm not sure of the area of the meaning.

11:22 Robert Savage: That's the closest you can come to employing a verb for believing in the Lord Jesus. Now, as the Christian family around the world pray for you and the Auca tribe, would you have a hint or a suggestion as to how we might pray more intelligently and more definitely for the work there?

11:43 Elisabeth Elliot: Pray that their faith may be set on Christ himself and that in these days, before we know the language, we may be able to express to them in the way that we live the life of Jesus.

11:57 Robert Savage: Well, thank you so much, Betty Elliot, and we certainly appreciate this recent report from the Auca tribe. Thus, friends, we bring to a conclusion the interview that we've had on this afternoon of May 14, 1959, at radio station HCJB with Barbara Youderian, Marilou McCully, Marj Saint, and Betty Elliott.

12:23 Unknown Speaker: Thus, we bring to a close the Auca story, when more progress is to be reported from among the Aucas. It will be added to the chapters now on tape recording and again brought to the public by way of radio. Continue to pray for missionaries Betty Elliot and Rachel Saint as they work among this primitive tribe. If you're interested in hearing the Auca story again on another release from HCJB, just write to the AUCA Story, radio station HCJB.