

“HEY KIDS, REMEMBER...”

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose" – Jim Elliot



"People who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives ... and when the bubble has burst, they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted." – Nate Saint



Issue 32: Five Martyrs

They Gave Their Lives

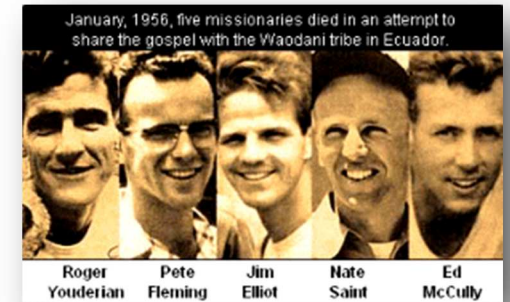
Why would these men risk their lives to take the Gospel to a tribe who had never heard about Jesus? Because they believed. This verse:

“Jesus died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”

2 Corinthians 5:15.



Five Missionary Martyrs



Can you imagine loving and living with the people who killed someone in your family? This is a story of some amazing people who showed Jesus’ love by forgiving the people that killed the ones they loved.

It all began when missionary Jim Elliot and his wife Betty decided to try to contact the tribe that people called Auca Indians in Ecuador, South America. Auca means “savage” or “enemy,” but their own name for themselves was Waodani. Jim and his wife wanted to tell these fierce people about Jesus.

The Waodani were known for killing other people, even their family and friends. They did not know that it is wrong to kill others because they did not have God in

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their lives. The Elliots wanted to help the Indians by teaching them about Jesus. They felt that if the Waodani tribe could learn about Jesus' love and hear about His message of salvation, they would stop killing people.

The main problem was how to approach the Waodani without being killed by them. Jim Elliot and four other missionaries came up with a great idea to show the Waodani that they meant them no harm and wanted to become friends with them. They called their plan Operation Auca.

Nate Saint, a missionary pilot, would fly his plane over a Waodani village and lower a bucket filled with supplies and gifts. At first, the Indians were terrified of the plane. But when they discovered that the bucket held gifts, they became less afraid. Eventually they sent gifts back to the missionaries. They even sent a live parrot!

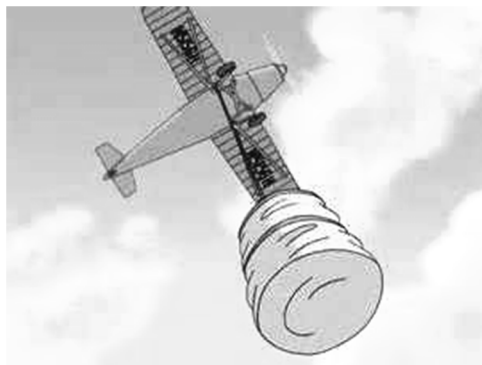
The missionaries kept praying and one day decided it was time to try to meet the Waodani face to face. They spent time planning where they would land and what they would bring with them.

Five missionaries, Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian and Pete Fleming

loved God so much and wanted to tell these Indians about Him. They left their families and flew to a beach near a Waodani village.

Three Waodani Indians, one man and two women, came to see the missionaries. They seemed friendly and the missionaries were so excited to see them. Nate Saint even gave one of the Waodani Indians a ride in his plane.

The missionaries waited two more days and then Nate Saint called his wife on the radio and



told her that more Waodani were coming to visit them. Sadly, Nate Saint's wife never heard from him again.

The Waodani Indians killed all five of the missionaries. The missionaries had guns and could have killed the Indians but they did not want to fight them. The missionaries sacrificed themselves so that the Waodani Indians would have another chance to hear God's word.



Think About It



1. Have you ever done anything for God that you were scared to do?
2. Can you think of dangerous situations some missionaries might face?
3. In what ways did the missionary men try to show love to the Waodani (Aucas)?
4. Why do you think the Waodani were so ferocious at first and refused friendship with the missionaries?
5. Do you think the five men should have defended themselves with their weapons when they were attacked? Why or why not?
6. After the Waodani killed the five men, how do you think the other missionaries had enough courage to go and live among the Waodani people?
7. Have you ever felt God might be calling you to share his love with a person or people who do not know Him? How did you respond to that calling?

Suggested reading:

- *Through Gates of Splendor: The Five Missionary Martyrs of Ecuador* by Elisabeth Elliot

Video resources:

- Scan this code or, on *YouTube*, look up "A Martyr: Nate Saint" for a five minute video that introduces the story and opens with Waodani style singing.
- A great five minute lego style video of the whole story was made by an eleven year old boy. On *YouTube*, "Nate Saint Video Book Report."



The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20 and more

Acts 20:24

I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.



“And people who do not know the Lord ask why in the world we waste our lives as missionaries. They forget that they too are expending their lives... and when the bubble has burst they will have nothing of eternal significance to show for the years they have wasted.”

—Nate Saint



The families of the missionaries were very sad. Their loved ones had wanted to bring God's love to the Waodani but had been killed by them instead.

Though they were so very sad, the families still wanted the Waodani to hear about Jesus. As soon as they could safely, the widow of Jim Elliot, Elisabeth, and the sister of Nate Saint, Rachel, returned to Ecuador as missionaries to live among the Waodani and teach them about Jesus.

The Waodani remembered about how the missionary men had been so kind to them and had not tried to kill them. They also saw the love shown them

by the family members of the missionaries they had killed. They listened to the missionaries and many of them became Christians.

Steve Saint, Nate Saint's son, grew up and his family lived among the Waodani for a year and truly loved them. What an example of Jesus' love.

Ed McCully, Pete Fleming, Roger Youderian, Nate Saint and Jim Elliot died serving God. The story of the sacrifice of the five missionaries was heard around the world and inspired many other young people to become missionaries and tell people about Jesus all around the world. ■

(Written by Michelle McNitt.)



**"We acted badly,
badly
until they brought us
God's carvings.
Now we walk
His trail."**

—Mincaye

(“God's carvings” is the Waodani way of saying “The Bible.”)

Use crayons or colored pencils to color this page. Do not use markers because they will bleed through the paper.



He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.
—Jim Elliot

