

# Thurston Report September 2000

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## I killed the missionaries



*Mincaye, the Auca Indian, who killed Nick Saint standing with Jim.*

The world was stunned in 1956, when five missionaries were speared to death in Ecuador by the Auca ( now called Waodani) Indians. Movies, dramas , and books have kept the story alive. Over the years many of the tribe became Christians. Mincaye, a man called “grandfather,” one of only two men in the Auca tribe who has ever left Ecuador, and was actually one of the Indians who speared the missionaries to death was in Amsterdam giving his testimony of what happened. I was moved by this story while in college and you probably were too. I was finally able to meet him and sit down to talk with him for about twenty minutes. *What a story that shows Christ's power to change a life!*

As I told you in the last news letter, I had been chosen as one of the Chilean delegates to attend the Billy Graham Evangelism Congress in Holland. Twenty-eight thousand applied to attend, but just over 10,000 were given the green light. According to the BGA, Amsterdam 2000, is the most internationally representative gathering, secular or religious, in history, and attracted 10,287 participants from 209 countries and territories. The conference featured 900 plenary and teaching sessions conducted by some of the world's top Christian leaders. It united people of different cultures and backgrounds in one simple purpose: to prepare them to use new and more effective ways to present the Gospel. As a delegate they paid 85% of our expenses including food, lodging and plane fare. It was a wonderful time and I was able to meet old friends from all over the world. It was a transition time as Billy Graham put on his last international event, Bill Bright retired, and one of the leading evangelists in Latin America, Paul Finkenbinder also retired. It will be interesting to see whom the Lord will begin to mightily use as the torch is being passed on.

Lina is continuing to prepare her international women's conference Sept. 27-29. Women will be coming from the USA, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, and Paraguay and of course Chile. She asks for your prayer for this event.

In my last report, I told you about a similar event, but it happened again. Just before leaving to Europe, I talked to a girl on our website from Panama, who at that very moment had a knife in her hand ready to commit suicide. Her dad started to molest her when she was six and she now was in her teens. That afternoon, she found out that she was pregnant. She said if her father found out about her present condition he would kill her. So she said it would be easier for her to take her own life. After talking to her she changed her mind and went to seek local help. Praise the Lord for the Internet ministry. Your love and gifts saved another life.

The later part of October, a team made up of people from Bellingham and Sequim will be coming to Chile and help remodel our home. This is a great blessing as our house is getting old and very run down. With so many meetings and people coming through our home, it takes a beating. We will also have a single girl coming down in October, Teresa Spicer, from the Auburn area to help in the office. It is exciting to see how the Lord is moving.

The Lord has given the needed money for Mary Jane to attend the evangelistic Olympic out reach in Australia. She left Sept 6. We would appreciate your prayers for her safety and out reach. She thanks all those who helped make her trip a reality.

The churches are alive in Chile and God is greatly blessing. To give you an example our yesterday Sunday service lasted four hours and still the people didn't want to go home. A few weeks ago it was four and a half hours long. Both times it could have easily lasted another two hours. The people are excited about Jesus. Latin America will soon be the major missionary sending force.

***Truly, our Father is on the throne. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: He is to be feared above all gods. Psalm 96:4*** Thank you for your love and prayers.

Blessings.

Jim and Lina Thurston