

“Is There Not A Cause?”

Mike Moore



A saying, referring to our military, states that, *All gave some, Some gave all.*

This can also describe the service and sacrifices people make for the Cause of Christ. Many give to God. Some give time. Others give talent. Others give financially.

A few are called upon to give their lives.

In 1956, the world was stunned to hear of the deaths of five young men in the jungles of Ecuador. The missionaries were not there for personal gain; they were trying to reach a primitive people for Christ.

The tribe was known as Huaorani, but the people were often called Aucas. The men, Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Peter Fleming, and Roger Youderian, had carefully planned their approach to the Indians. They wanted very much to reach the isolated and violent tribe. The Aucas were divided into three groups and added up to about 600 people. They often made war on outsiders as well as others in their own tribe.

The five young American missionaries knew of the dangers. They went anyway. The patient men made contact with the tribe through the use of Nate Saint's airplane. The plane had been used to transport the missionaries and their supplies to Auca country. A base camp called Palm Beach was established on the banks of the Curaray River.

Team members flew over the native villages and sent down gifts. The Aucas also gave gifts in return, placing them in a basket suspended from the aircraft. A few people from the tribe

visited the camp on the river. It seemed as though there had been good contact and the native people were friendly.

Then suddenly, the Aucas attacked, killing all five men at the beach camp.

The deaths were not in vain. People throughout the world responded to the challenge of missions. The Aucas were reached, and some of those who took up the challenge were the loved ones of the five men.

We do not see the future. God's plans do not always work in the same way as ours do. But we keep on. David said, when offering to fight the giant, "Is there not a cause?"