

CEDI - P. I. B.
DATA 31, 12, 86
COD YAD 116

WE HAD JUST BEEN IN PARIMA about 10 days when it all happened. We had finished spending one year as dorm parents at our school in TamaTama and had been appointed to work at Parima with the Yanoamo.

SNAKE



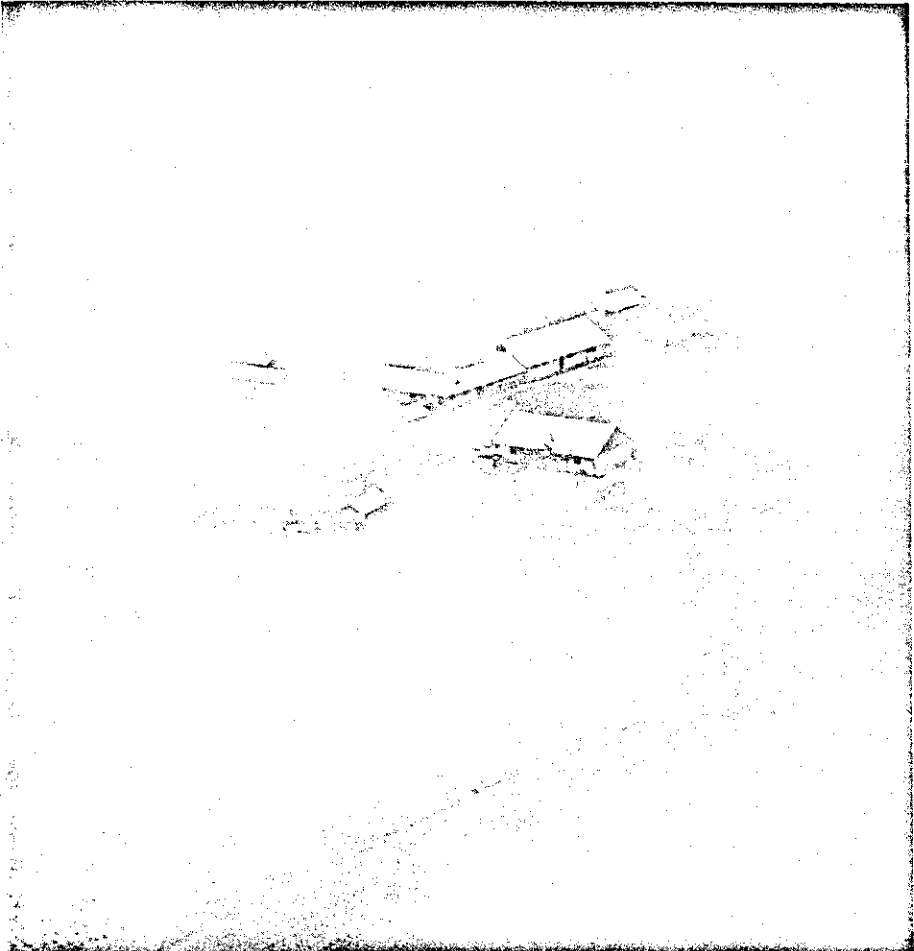
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stopped and looked back and there was his toe in the chain. He had put his foot right on the chain for a rest and when I started out it drew his toe in. I couldn't believe what I was seeing, his toe was almost completely off and still in the chain. I yelled for Simin up ahead and because of the tone of my voice, he could tell we had trouble and came rushing back. After some work, we finally got his toe out and set him on the ground. Next question... what should we do now???

Simin went to get the boy's father up ahead. His father wouldn't even help. He was mad at his son for wanting to ride to begin with and so he wouldn't help at all. He wasn't mad at us, for which we were thankful. We decided to rush the boy back home on the back of Simin's bike. I took off my shirt and wrapped his foot and toe together as good as possible and we took off.

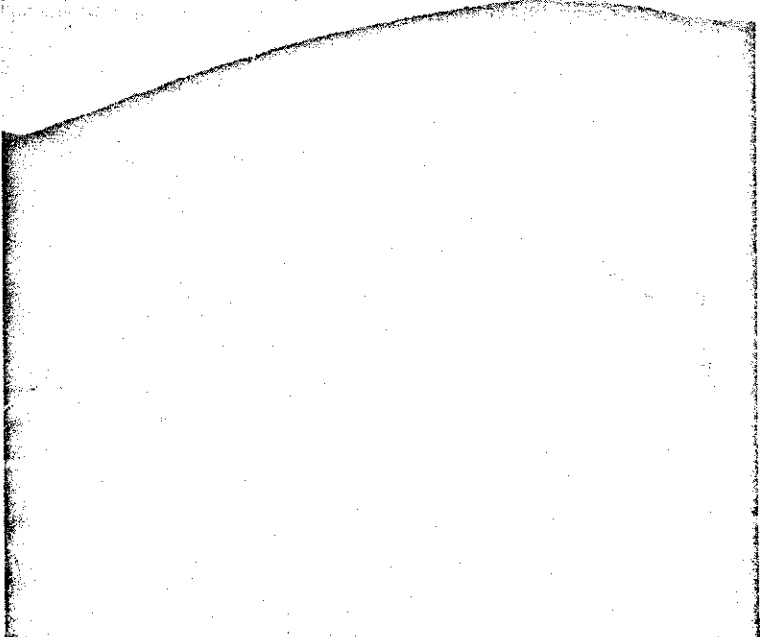
About an hour and a half later we finally got home. Our Maquiritare Indian medic, Antonio, immediately went to work. We wanted to stay and help, but we had to get to the snakebite victim. We helped Antonio a little, grabbed a bite to eat for lunch and took off again. To say the least, I still felt as though I was in shock.

Finally, that night around 7 p.m. we arrived at the village of the snakebite victim. We quickly



It all started one morning when word came of a snakebite victim in a village about 6-7 hours' hike from here. Simin i Tuni and I quickly gathered all the medicine, bedding, etc., that we would need and took off on our motorbikes. Simin had cut a trail through the jungle to this area so that we could ride our bikes there. This was my first trip and, of course, I was expecting a trail like one would find back in the States. I soon learned otherwise. We traveled first through savannah (grassland), then into the jungle, through rivers, down steep, muddy hills, and pushing back up the other steep, muddy side; stopping now and then to cut fallen trees out of the trail.

We hadn't gone far when we ran into some Yanoamo. One young boy decided to try and run along with us and help us with the fallen trees in the trail. He had run with us for about an hour, constantly asking us for a ride. Finally, Simin suggested I give him a ride. I had not given rides before because of their complete lack of understanding of the dangers of a motorbike, but decided I'd give this boy a lift since he was helping us so much. He climbed on and I started off. I went about 2 feet and he let out a yell that scared me half to death. I

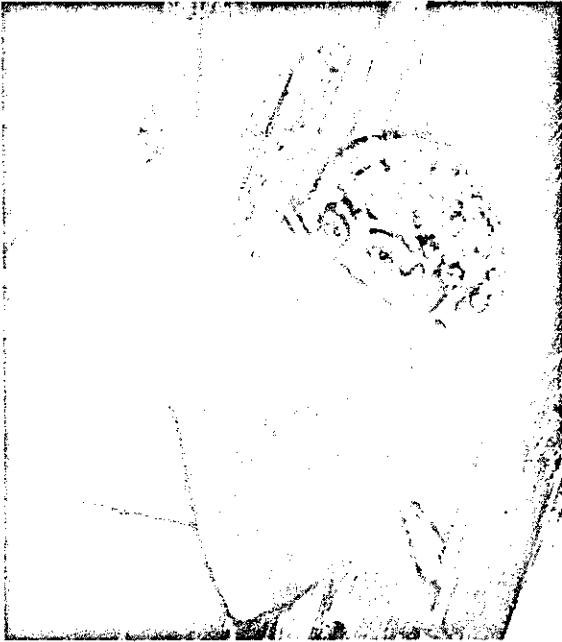


BITES

ID OTHER THINGS

Greg Sanford

Venezuela



unloaded our bikes and got over to the young man with the bite. He definitely didn't look good. Everybody was crying and very sad. As we started to administer medicine, they calmed down as they thought we would, of course make the boy well again. We gave everything we knew to give and then set our hammocks up for the night.

A few minutes later they came over to our part of the village and said the sick boy was acting funny. Simin went over to check him and came back in a little while and wanted me to look, too. The boy was having slight convulsions. What a helpless feeling...out in the middle of the jungle with no professional medical advice for our situation. We put all the knowledge we had together and came up with just about nothing. We prayed and asked the Lord for wisdom in the situation and gave some more medicine that we thought might pull him out of the convulsions. About 10 minutes later he seemed to calm down and get better. We were very glad for that.

Simin said that he was going to sleep by the boy and for me to sleep by our belongings. I went back to bed, but couldn't sleep very well because three or four men sat right by my hammock talking all night and another man just a few yards away, was up chanting and hollering all night, too.

I had just started to doze off when the crying and chanting got much louder. Simin came over and said he thought the boy had died. I went over and looked and checked for a pulse and he was dead.

It was quite a night to say the least. From then until dawn, the people cried and chanted the whole time. We finally got up around 6 a.m. and by then all the people were out in the middle of the village, dancing and chanting. We decided to leave right away as they would soon be burning the boy's body there in the middle of the village, as is their custom.

As we left, we both were very sad that we could not have done more. Simin didn't know if the young man had known the Lord or not. Many in that village claim to know the Lord, but they lack so much teaching. It's a sobering feeling to see a man die like that and not know for sure if he knows the Lord!

Three days later, word came again of another snakebite in the same village. It was supertime when we took off and had to travel most of the trip by the light of our headlights, making it even that much more difficult to see. Praise the Lord, we were able to help this man and he pulled through fine.

When we arrived in the village, we could see the burned spot in the middle. My mind went back to the night the boy had died and again I wondered how many of these people know the Lord and really understand the Gospel.

Pray that God will enable us to present the Gospel clearly to these people so that many will come to know and that we'll be able to teach them the many truths of His Word. Many times it seems like an uphill battle, but we know that God is able. Be faithful to pray for the Yanoamo people and for us as we seek to give them the Gospel.

Author's Note: The boy who had the accident with the bike is healing very well. His toe is going to grow back together all right and he will be able to use it. Also, the other day another snakebite victim died from the same village. Two people dead in 1 month! This could cause war to break out as usually they blame death like this on witchcraft of other villages. Pray that no trouble will come from this.

