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VENEZUELA
Yanoamö Tribe, Dan and Diana Shaylor

"Two of us, plus three Yanoamö Christian leaders from Parima, made our way from our base here at Parima to the village of Momoiteli—one of our targets in an aerial survey. We flew in the little red and white airplane to a tiny 'postage stamp' airstrip about two thirds of the way and walked the rest of the way. The Momoiteli villagers were frightened almost out of their senses by our appearance. As we made our way into the village, the one man with courage enough to greet us, babbled in such a manner we thought he wasn't quite all there. It turned out he was all there but nearly frightened to death.

"We, of course, lost no time in assuring them of our friendly intentions. After half an hour or so, they became convinced we weren't there to kill them and that we were indeed flesh and blood people as they were. Our three Yanoamö Christian friends soon found many people their fathers had known. In fact, perhaps 50 years ago their fathers had all lived in the same area where our Mission base is now located in the Parima mountains. We spent a day and a half in their village, sharing with them the Good News of Jesus. They were receptive to the message as much as they comprehended. A respected man had died a short time before our arrival and they were trying to decide on which of two villages they should lay the blame for his death. They were waiting for a group of hunters to come back from their hunt with game, with which they would hold a feast and then proceed to ambush, trying to kill whoever they suspected had killed their loved one. It is quite likely whoever they blame isn't guilty at all.

"Pray that the Yanoamö people can be liberated from the heavy chains of suspicion, hatred and killing that bind them so cruelly."