

Mahon Memo

July 2010

“What else did you get to do when you were growing up”, asked a little friend twisting her blond hair with her index finger.

“Well...” I answered. Lots of things.”

“Like what?”

“Like...well... if you’ll sit really still on my lap I’ll tell you and everyone else can listen too.”

My mind wandered back to a very different world as I talked. Sometimes we laughed so hard tears tumbled down our cheeks. Other times the pain washed over me like a crashing wave. But when I was done, when we each went home to bed, I thought all over again how fortunate I’d been. *

Thus begins Book 2 of “The Rani Adventures”, a three-book account of Ron Snell’s life growing up in the jungles of Peru in the 1950’s and 60’s with the Machiguenga Indians. Ron’s parents, Wayne and Betty, were translators with Wycliffe Bible Institute.

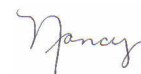
In 2003, SAMAIR PERU officially began flying for the Wycliffe Bible translators who were finishing remaining New Testament translations for several tribal groups. Recently, SAMAIR PERU pilots returned Ron’s mother, Betty, Ron’s sister Sandy and her family, and Ron himself to some of the villages where the Snells had lived and worked. Along with these flights, our pilots also brought in/took out several indigenous translators who are finishing or in the process of revising the Old or New Testament in their own tribal language. After her family’s trip to the villages, Betty stayed on at FIENAP, a base for indigenous translators near the SAMAIR base to help with translation and revision projects.

I can only echo Ron’s final sentence above as I think about our years in Peru since late 1991. Mike and I lived for a year and a half at the Wycliffe jungle base in the beginning of our first term. During that time, we had the privilege of meeting pioneer translator families from SAM, Wycliffe, and other missions. And of course, our family has its own stories of life in the jungle.

I am sure the Snell family’s visit to the Machiguenga was a great encouragement to them. Now, as well as in the 1950’s, threats to the Machis and other indigenous tribal groups still exist, though they may take different forms. It is vitally important that tribal groups that embraced Christ in the 1940’s, 50’s and 60’s and were freed from the powers of darkness, remain so today. But now many are being encouraged to return to old ways of witchcraft and a dependence and slavery to the spirit world. The temptation to depart from the Truth of the Word of God is very great. The work of SAMAIR PERU is vital in this struggle. Please pray for our indigenous brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our return to Peru has officially been delayed until late August pending a satisfactory support level. Praise the Lord, since our last letter, several new supporters have come on board. We currently have 73% of needed monthly support. We are still open to sharing with churches, individuals, and groups. Please continue to pray with us that we might return soon, and THANK YOU to all who have responded.

In His Service,



Nancy for Mike, Annette, and Daniel

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* From the book, *Life Is A Jungle*, by Ron Snell, copyright 1997, Hannibal Books, Inc.



LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD.
Renew them in our day, in our time make them known... Hab 3:2



South America Mission

June 26, 2010

Dear friends of Mike & Nancy Mahon,

As Director of International Ministries for South America Mission (SAM), I recently had the privilege of attending the Amazon Consultation 2010. Around 110 of us gathered at the Wycliffe Center in Florida. We represented churches and organizations, both North American and South American, which have a burden for the indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin.

It was thrilling to meet seven tribal leaders from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru and to hear what's being done to evangelize, disciple and empower the peoples of the Amazon.

During the first conference, a missionary spoke to me to express their gratitude for SAMAIR. Imagine my excitement when one brother who serves with Pioneers told me, "SAMAIR is the most strategic ministry in eastern Peru." He said that for virtually everyone who works in the jungle, including himself, SAMAIR makes their work possible. They fly people from the Swiss Mission of Peru, Pioneers, Amazon Focus, Living Water, Baptist mission, Wycliffe, the government, teachers, and national Peruvian missionaries. They also make emergency flights for situations such as snake bite, burns and childbirth complications. What a great example of partnership! One organization facilitates the work of many.

Another missionary told me how much he appreciates the careful, safety-conscious way in which SAMAIR operates and the godly character of the folks at SAMAIR. He has observed that every pilot, mechanic and administrator has a real heart for the ministries they enable. This isn't a hobby for them; their desire is to advance the gospel!

I'll tell you why these comments warmed my heart. I'm new to SAM. People at the consultation didn't know me. Yet, when they saw my SAM name tag, they wanted to convey their thanks.

This week, I passed along these words of appreciation to Mike and Nancy. They were encouraged. They have such a strategic role in SAMAIR Peru. As you know, they are being delayed in their return to Peru due to a lack of funding. I would like to thank those of you who are faithfully supporting them. May God bless you for it. I would also like to ask you to intercede earnestly for them. Please pray that the Lord will work in a mighty way to bring in the needed support so they can get back to the field where their heart and ministry are. We would love to see them back in Peru by the end of August. Will you trust God with us and them to make that happen?

Sincerely in Christ,

David Broucek
Director of International Ministries
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Tel. 803-802-8580

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