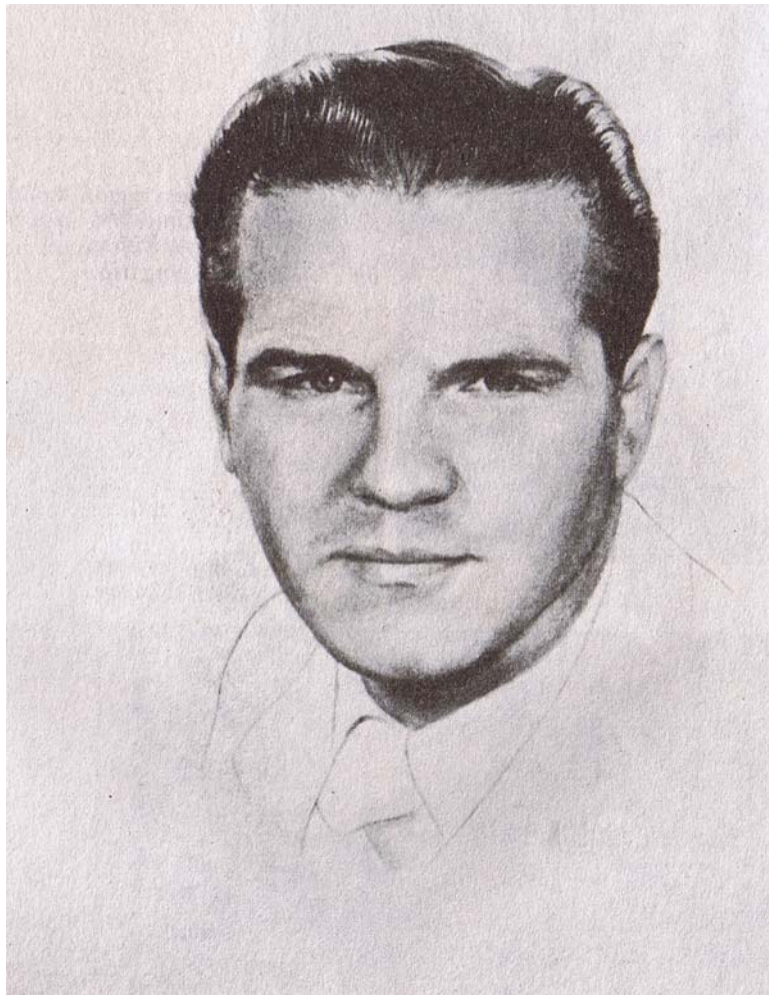


***Jim and Elisabeth Elliot***  
***Missionaries to Unreached Tribal People***



*Jim and Elisabeth Elliot on their wedding day - Oct. 8, 1953*

***“God is God. ... He is worthy of my worship and my service. I will find rest nowhere but in His will, and that will is ... unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to.”***  
*- Elisabeth Elliot*



*Jim Elliot, portrait*  
*Missionary martyr*  
*(Oct. 8, 1927 – Jan. 8, 1956)*

***“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”***

*- Jim Elliot*

***“God, I pray Thee, light these idle sticks of my life and may I burn up for Thee. Consume my life, my God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus.”***

*- Jim Elliot*

## **Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, Missionaries to Ecuador**

Jim Elliot was born on **October 8, 1927** in Portland, Oregon. **His father, Fred Elliot was a preacher and evangelist; his mother, Clara Elliot was a chiropractor.** They often entertained missionaries and raised four children (Bob, Bert, Jane, and Jim) in their godly home. **When Jim was 8 years old, he accepted Jesus Christ into his heart to be his Lord and Savior.** As Jim grew up, he became very committed to serving God and was outspoken about his faith in Jesus. He developed a talent for preaching during high school. As a senior in high school, Jim was **elected senior class president.** He entered **Wheaton College in 1945, majoring in Greek so he would be better equipped as a Bible translator.** The motto of Wheaton College matched Jim’s own life commitment to God: “For Christ and His Kingdom”. He was on the varsity wrestling team in college and continued his pursuit of missions by preaching in youth groups, attending InterVarsity missions conferences, becoming president of the Foreign Mission Fellowship, and going on a mission trip to Mexico. He also studied Spanish with a missionary family in Mexico for 6 weeks. Jim developed a keen interest in Latin America and a missionary calling to South America. While at Wheaton College, Jim met Elisabeth Howard, who was also called to the mission field. After graduating with honors from Wheaton College in 1949, Jim returned home to live with his family and focused on Bible study and deepening his relationship with the Lord. The degree Jim most desired was what he called the A.U.G. degree – Approved Unto God. He continued to write letters to Elisabeth, and they committed their romance to God.

In June, **1950, Jim spent time in Norman, Oklahoma, where he worked with a former missionary to the Quechua Indians of Ecuador and first learned of the savage Auca Indian tribe, who had never heard the Gospel. Jim felt a call of God to take the Gospel to the Quechuas and this unreached tribe and,** after 10 days of prayer, contacted long-term missionaries to Ecuador, **Dr. and Mrs. Wilfred Tidmarsh,** to ask if he could join them in Ecuador. While waiting to go to the mission field, Jim worked with youth in Indiana and Illinois where **Ed McCully helped him to work on a radio broadcast called “The March of Truth”.** Jim convinced Ed McCully to leave law school and to begin missionary training. **Finally, Jim and his former college roommate, Pete Fleming sailed for Ecuador on February 4, 1952. They arrived in Quito, Ecuador,** and stayed with a missionary family for six months so they could quickly learn Spanish. **Elisabeth had also been called to work in Ecuador and arrived later that same year to study Spanish, tropical diseases, and medical work. Jim and Elisabeth agreed that it was God’s will for them to marry, and they were married on October 8, 1953.**

Jim and Elisabeth worked on translating **the New Testament into the Quechua language** and ministering to the Quechua Indians from **their missionary station at Shell Mera and the village of Shandia at the base of the Andes Mountains.** Pete Fleming and his wife Olive ministered with them. **Together they built a mission station, a small medical station, a few houses for the missionaries to live in, and a small airstrip.** This work took them about a year. **A jungle pilot, Nate Saint, flew in supplies to them regularly.** Nate’s wife, Marj, kept in close touch with the missionaries and her husband through radio contact. Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, and their wives soon joined the missionary team. Jim and Elisabeth were happy serving the Lord on the mission field; their only child, Valerie was born on February 27, 1955.

One day, **Nate Saint spotted Auca houses while flying over the jungle. The five men began to pray for a way to reach the savage Auca Indians with the Gospel.** Even other Indian tribes feared the Aucas, who were known to kill outsiders with spears. Knowing that God desired for people from every tribe and nation and language and tongue to know and worship Him, the missionaries devised **a plan called “Operation Auca”** to contact this primitive tribe and tell them about Jesus. **The men flew over the Auca village for 3 – 4 months, shouting Auca words for friendship by loudspeaker and lowering a bucket from the plane filled with gifts**

**for the Aucas, such as beads, cloth, machetes, and photographs of each of the 5 men.** The Aucas responded by putting gifts in the bucket for the missionaries, such as roasted monkey, feathered headdresses, and a parrot. The missionaries found a small sandy beach on the nearby **Curaray River** where they could land Nate's yellow plane. They called this place "**Palm Beach**". After prayer, **the 5 men (Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, and Roger Youderian)** set up camp at Palm Beach and waited to make contact with the Aucas. They built a tree house for defense and carried guns, but they purposed not to use them. **Soon, three Auca Indians came to visit their camp. A man they called "George", a young woman they called "Delilah" and an older woman.** The Indians were friendly, and **Nate took "George", the Auca man, for a ride in the plane.** "George" was delighted and waved happily from the plane to his fellow villagers below. The 5 missionaries **served hamburgers** to the Indians, who left later that day. Encouraged by the friendly visit, the missionaries hoped the Aucas would return the following day to receive more ministry. On **January 8, 1956**, the missionaries radioed their wives that they were waiting for the Aucas at Palm Beach and would radio again at 4:30 PM. The missionary wives prayed for protection for their husbands, but at 4:30 PM there was only **silence on the radio. A group of hostile Aucas had attacked the missionaries that day and speared them to death on Palm Beach.**

*This was not the end, but only the beginning of God's plan to reach the Aucas (called the Waodani people). Here is the rest of the story:*

*The missionaries gave their lives to bring the Gospel to a violent and murderous tribe. Their story and their commitment to God literally went around the world. A great outpouring of prayer went forth for more missionaries and the truth of God's Word to reach the Aucas. Many young people around the world and some Quechua Indians decided to become missionaries after hearing their story. Elisabeth Elliot and her daughter Valerie along with Rachel Saint (Nate Saint's sister) went to live with the savage tribe. With the help of an Auca woman named Dayuma who accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Bible was preached and translated into the Auca language. Now many of the Auca Indians are Christians, including the men who killed the missionaries on Palm Beach many years ago. Nate Saint's son, Steve Saint, also dedicated his life to reaching the Auca tribe with the Gospel, and he and his family also lived with the tribe for many years. Elisabeth Elliot wrote 2 famous missionary books about the experience: Through Gates of Splendor and Shadow of the Almighty. Several movies have been made of this account of missionaries who committed their lives to serving God and reaching the unreached, including a book and movie by Steve Saint – End of the Spear. Their story is not only one of courage and dedication to missionary service, but also one of unconditional love, healing, and forgiveness that will always be remembered.*