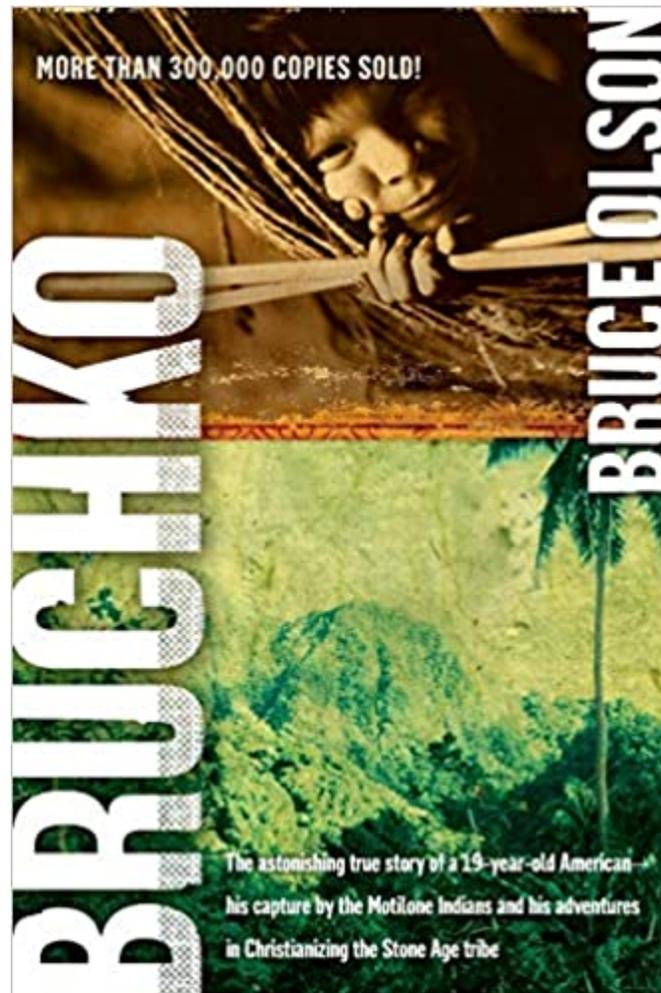


Literature and Composition 7

Summer Reading Assignment



Book: *Bruchko* by Bruce Olson; a missionary biography

Purpose of assignment: The purpose is to develop comprehension and critical reading/writing skills while analyzing a story and evaluating an author's written word. The packet material and book content will be used as the basis of our first unit.

Grading: Packet writing assignment will be assessed and graded. Upon return to school, there may be an additional assessment which could count as a test grade.

Introduction

Bruce Olson bought a one-way ticket to South America when he was only nineteen. People thought he was crazy—or foolish—but God was calling him, and he had to go.

Bruce Olson, known as Bruchko, lived among the Motilone Indians for over forty years. Loneliness, disease, torture, and death were close companions. Yet joy overflowed as Bruchko walked alongside thousands of Motilones who became his brothers and sisters.

The once murderous Motilone tribes have tied their lives into Jesus Christ. They follow the God who has walked their trails and revealed Himself through the banana stalk—His Word. They sing of new life in Jesus and carry their songs to other tribes as they spread the Gospel message.

Assignment

Your assignment has two parts: 1) Read *Bruchko* and 2) answer the questions found below. **Your answers to these questions are due on the first full day of class.**

When you begin *Bruchko*, you will notice there is a Foreword written by Robert Walker. You do not need to read this, but you do need to read the Prologue. One word of caution, the Prologue and Chapter 1 are about events which take place at the end of the story. Chapter 2 begins with Bruce Olson's early life, and the rest of the book follows chronologically until it catches up with events that were written about in the Prologue and Chapter 1.

Our goal is to see how God works in peoples' lives to prepare others to come to know Him. To that end, you will not be answering questions for each chapter but after sections of this book. Then, in class we will put all this information together to write an essay.

Chapters 1-9

1. How did Bruce become a Christian?
2. How did Bruce's family respond to the Good News?
3. Why did Bruce choose God over his family?
4. Why was Bruce traveling to South American with so little resources? What does this show about his trust in God?
5. Once Bruce made it to South America, he still had no clear plan. God did not give Bruce a specific calling right away. How long did Bruce live in South America until something happened? What could have been God's purpose in waiting so long?

6. To whom was God sending Bruce? How do you think Bruce felt, being called to serve such dangerous people?

Chapters 10-16

1. In Bruce's first encounter with the Motilones, he is shot with an arrow and becomes horribly ill for a month. Had God abandoned Bruce? How do we know?

2. What was the first way Bruce was able to "communicate" with the Motilone children that led him to realize he could use this opportunity to learn their language?

3. How much time passed before Bruce was able to communicate effectively in words with the Motilone people?

Chapters 17-20

1. After being with the Motilones for five years, Bruce finally has the words to communicate God's truth of Jesus to them. Explain how he does this.

2. The "ant" story is what missiologists call a "redemptive analogy"—something that helps people understand about God and His salvation. How is the "ant" story a redemptive analogy?

3. Who was the first Motilone to put their trust in Jesus?

4. How did Bobby tell his fellow Motilones about Jesus?

5. What evidence did the Motilones show that Jesus had changed their lives?

Chapters 21-Epilogue

1. What does Bobby's adopted son pray?

2. How was Jesus glorified through Bobby's death?

3. Bruce had not had an easy life. His family rejected him. The Motilones had attacked him. And now guerillas had captured him. What had he seen in his life that showed him God was good?

4. At the end of the book, we see that the changes among the Motilones were noticed by everyone—even the president of Colombia! To whom did the Motilone chief give the credit? Why not to Bruce Olson? What does this show about the Motilone people?