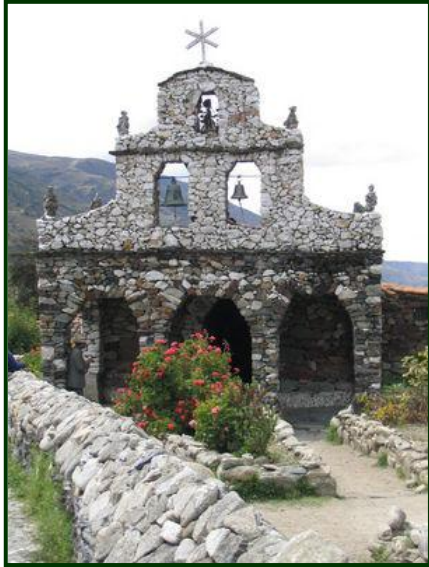


Guerrillas Stormed the Chapel

It was a Sunday morning in South America, in a little chapel on the border of Venezuela and Colombia.



As Mass was beginning, a not-uncommon occurrence took place. A band of guerrillas armed with machine guns came out of the jungle and crashed and banged their way into the chapel. The priest and the congregation were totally horrified and afraid.

The men dragged the priest outside to be executed. Then the leader of the guerrillas came back into the chapel and demanded, "Anyone who believes in this God stuff, come forward!"

Everyone was petrified. They stood frozen. There was a long silence.

Finally, one man came forward and stood in front of the guerrilla chief and said simply, "I love Jesus." He was roughly tossed to the soldiers and also taken out to be executed. Several other Christians came forward, saying the same thing; they, too, were driven outside. Then, came the sound of machine gun fire.

When there were no more people left willing to identify themselves as Christians, the guerrilla chief returned to the inside of the chapel and told the remaining congregation to get out.

"You have no right to be here!" he shouted. And with that, he herded them out of the chapel, where they were astonished to see their pastor and the others standing there unharmed.

The priest and those people were ordered to go back into the chapel to continue the service while the others were angrily warned to stay out "until," said the guerrilla chief, "you have the courage to stand up for your beliefs!"

And with that, the guerrillas disappeared into the jungle.

The question begs to be asked: What would you do under those circumstances? What would I do?

It has become obvious, even in the United States, that our faith will be tested more and more – oftentimes, with serious consequences.

Whatever the challenge, I pray that I will have the courage to stand up for my Lord.

– Beecher Hunter