

Peru Workshop, Week 4, February 9, 2019

### EARLY THIS MORNING DANIEL'S SON DIED



Daniel with sister Rittma consulting on the Grade 1 primer

This shocking event has dominated our day...and, in fact, a large part of our week. You will remember that last week Clever, the 29-year-old son of textbook author Daniel Urquía was ill. Hundreds of dollars of tests, two harrowing mid-night trips to the emergency room and visits to two specialists revealed nothing wrong!! Clever was discharged, whereupon Daniel and his wife took up round-the-clock vigil. They thought he was improving yesterday afternoon when he finally could talk a bit and felt well enough to return to his painting. But at 3:00 a.m. the vicious headache returned, and at 4:00 a.m. he ceased to breathe. We are shocked and devastated. Clever was a university graduate who courageously supervised teachers on the difficult, dangerous, and remote rivers of Amazonia. He leaves a wife and small child.

This afternoon Arnel, the ARIAP administrator, and I joined the scores of friends and family who were visiting the grieving family. It is the custom here, where for health reasons funerals must take place within 48 hours of death, to hold a wake at the deceased's home from the time the death is made known until the time of burial. People bring contributions of food (for the lunch which will be served during the night) and chat, or just sit in silence, keeping the coffin and the family company. We spent a couple of hours, and left words of encouragement with our prayers. There is little else one can do, but if you think of them, pray for Daniel and his family.

The week was also characterized by an intense push to finish two books. This afternoon I finished printing out the Asháninka Grade One primer. By Tuesday we should have a fairly decent draft of the Kakataibo Grade One book. I never cease to marvel at the errors which crop up with novice book makers: The numbers in the Asháninka book were in three different fonts and three different sizes—it took two days to standardize them. Then the frames around syllable drills turned out to have different 'weights—some so dark and thick they screamed at you from the page, others discreetly narrow. It took a couple of hours to standardize them. The official document recognizing the Kakataibo alphabet ordered the letters incorrectly...with **x** and **u** somewhere in the middle and **r** as the last letter. I normally follow official documents, but as I drafted an alphabet page for the primer, this one looked so strange I took it to the teacher, who assured me that in their schools they follow the traditional sequence. Whew! I am glad to have caught this one on time.

Monday or Wednesday, the Shipibo and Asháninka books should be presented to the Mayor of a southern district to be considered for printing. Since the Mayor is a Shipibo himself, he recognizes the value of children studying in their own language. We pray that he will like our books and be able to find the funds to place them in the schools under his jurisdiction. Meantime, we are pressing on, hoping soon to see other books ready to print.

Thank you for being our support and encouragement. I pray all is well with you.

With gratitude from us all,

*Pat Davis*

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