

olic Church is allied with local elites against Indian interests the evangelicals sometimes provide welcome support. The following articles describe relations between evangelicals and Indian communities in various areas of South and Central America.

Ayoreo Deaths In Paraguayan Chaco

Late last year in Paraguay missionary activities of the New Tribes Mission caused conflict between Indians which resulted in five deaths and four injuries. According to *Hoy*, a major Paraguayan newspaper, a group of Ayoreo Indians who are a part of the New Tribes Faro Moro mission went into the forest in search of Totoviegosode, other Ayoreo Indians who have refused to abandon their traditional lifestyle. The Totoviegosode ambushed the New Tribes converts, resulting in deaths and injuries. News of the incident was first reported on the Mennonite radio station ZP30, which led other media in Paraguay to suspect that the Mennonites, large landowners with a history of antagonism to Indian people, had distorted the news to protect New Tribes proselytizing.

A Catholic priest in the area, Father José Sanardini, blamed the New Tribes Mission for the deaths of the Ayoreo. He said, "It is possible that there is a relationship between the New Tribes missionaries and large landowners who covet land where the Totoviegosode live."

According to a report by the Ayoreo Project, which is sponsored by the Indigenist Association of Paraguay, missionaries first contacted the Ayoreo Indians in 1967. In addition to bibles, they also supplied rifles and traps, encouraging the Indians to become professional hunters. The missionaries acted as middlemen in charge of the commercialization of skins and administrators of the income generated from the project.

By 1971 Ayoreo people had begun approaching the Mennonite settlements in the Chaco in search of work, marking the transition from independent life to rural workers. By 1974 it was no longer possible to make a living from hunting and more Indians became wage laborers subjected to low pay and subhuman treatment.

Project Ayoreo provided the following description of the area on the periphery of Filadelfia where some Ayoreo live: "The place has no shelter and no bathrooms. During the summer thousands of flies accumulate around the encampment, and during the winter the Indians sit very close to each other by the fire and cough all night long.

"In the mission itself, the missionaries practice a simple plan. They force the Indians to obey a rigid work discipline. They cannot rest before the day ends. They cannot drink *tereré* [a traditional tea] during work hours. The routine is reinforced with biblical readings about sobriety, hard work, family, and property in order to make them work harder for the bosses."

