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The Witch Doctors (Shaman) were chanting and rattling their long necklaces. I witnessed a ritual that only a few outside the Kuna culture have ever seen. This was a six day purification ceremony for a 9 year old and a 12 year old girl. The Shaman practiced their magic, shuffling out a dance while blowing smoke from their long flute-style pipes. They generate an enormous amount of secondhand smoke in this temporary shelter that was later torn down and burned. The belief is that the Shaman possesses the power to release the soul and spirit to dwell in a spiritual paradise. By sending the spirit and soul ahead they can live a happy, healthy and harmonious lives back here on "Mother Earth". If in the future they begin to experience health issues, they believe it is because their soul and spirit are trying to return to this life. At some point in the ceremony the Shaman disrobe each young girl and do an intimate examination. One of the last acts of the purification ritual is that all their hair is cut off their heads.

The Kuna Indians look for any excuse to make a big batch of "Chicha", home brewed liquor. Religious ceremonies wouldn't be complete without large numbers of people getting wasted. The father of each daughter gave a thousand dollars each, (About a years wage) to make the brew which is usually made from corn or sugar cane. They mix in a little coffee powder, bring it to a boil, then dip it into clay jars and allow it to cool. The clay jars are then buried for approximately 10 days to ferment. Pastor Nicolas Adames is a Kuna Indian and lives on the Island of Nalunega. He expressed strong feelings as to the destructive nature of these on going drunken festivals. He said, "Drunkenness causes major problems for the Kuna families and leads to all kinds of sexual sins such as adultery and fornication which further results in bitter jealousy, hatred, fighting and all kinds of evil."

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20 years ago, Allan Sappington felt called to reach out to the Kuna people. God has blessed his missionary efforts and has used him to reach, two Islands for Christ. Two Churches now exist from his ministry. They are predominately packed with children and youth.



I ministered noon and night and was well received. One evening about 24 children were moved and prayed to accept Christ. At an Earlier service, 4 young men and a young lady committed themselves to the Savior. Every service, somebody made Jesus their Chief. I meet individually with different leaders for one on one disciple-

ship, and when we presented our Bible School-Vida Internacional, you may have thought we were offering them a chance in a life time. To them, we were! I heard several testimonies from young adults that were planning to leave the island and go to the mainland in order to get trained in something to give purpose to their lives, but now they want to be trained in the Bible so that they can win their Indian Nation to the Lord, Island by Island.

Together We Touch the World!

Lee & Carol

All contributions are tax deductible
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(Lee Short Ministries International)

Without Christ

It Ain't Paradise

San Blas Islands, Panama



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