

“End of the Spear” starring Louie Leonardo, Chad Allen, and Jack Guzman, 2005, PG-13, 108 minutes

Major themes:

- Revenge
- Fear
- Martyrdom
- Forgiveness
- Perseverance
- Sacrificial love
- Redemption

Major characters:

- Mincayani
- Nate Saint
- Steve Saint
- Kimo
- Dayumae
- Gikita
- Gimade

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- This film is based on a true story, set in several times and places, including 1943 in the Amazon Basin, Ecuador, 1956 in Shell Mera, Ecuador (5 families – Elliots, Flemings, McCully's, Saints, Youderians), and 1994 in Waodani Territory.
- The name Waodani (or Waorani) represents a transliteration by English-speaking missionary linguists. The phonetic equivalent in Spanish is Huaorani.
- The word Waodani (plural of Wao "*person*") means "*humans*" or "*men*" in Wao Tiro. The Waodani believe the animals of their forest have a spiritual as well as physical existence. They believe that a person who dies walks a trail to the afterlife which has a large anaconda snake lying in wait. Those among the dead who cannot escape the snake fail to enter the domain of dead spirits and return to Earth to become animals, often termites.
- Around the time of World War II, inter-clan killings greatly increased. At this time, it was estimated that up to 60% of all Waodani deaths were due to murder. Some of the Waodani trace the beginning of the killing to the breakdown of clan relationships around ten generations prior to this time. Prior to this period, large gatherings frequently brought distant clans together from time to time to celebrate and arrange marriages, among other activities. These were organized by informal tribal leaders (although the Waodani had no chiefs or formal leadership in general). When these gatherings became less common, clans became estranged from and offended by one another. Conflicts began to escalate until the Waodani became one of the most violent cultures ever documented.
- The actual location in Ecuador was too remote for a film crew, so the producers were able to locate a remote tribe in Panama that agreed to play the part of the Waodani. Although these people had never even seen a movie before, they understood the concept of the incident, and were willing to help bring the amazing story to a wider audience.

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- Steve Saint (the narrator) is in need of our prayers: here's an excerpt from I-TEC (Indigenous People's Technology and Education Center - <http://www.itecusa.org/>), the ministry he founded – *“Dear friends and supporters of I-TEC, On June 12th at about 10:15 am Steve Saint was involved in an accident. Steve sustained a paralyzing injury while testing an experimental wing mounted to a vehicle. The vehicle was not a Maverick. Right now, Steve has no control of feet or hands, but his mind is clear and he does have some motion and sensation in all four limbs. Steve's ministry theme for the last decade has been "Let God Write Your Story." Shortly after being flown by helicopter to Shands Teaching Hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Steve told his family, "Let's let God write this chapter, too." Steve's career as a stunt pilot (End of the Spear) is past. This may end his career as a test pilot for the Maverick, but Steve says that Troy Townsend's skills already surpassed his. And, it will probably end his career as an RV-10 test pilot, but Steve says son Jesse's skills have surpassed his. And this may severely limit Steve's ability to travel and speak, but son Jaime excels in that category already. Steve says it's too bad that spinal cord surgery doesn't fall under General Surgery or son Shaun could take care of him. This injury will mean that Steve's adoring wife, Ginny, will have to wait on him hand and foot, but everyone knows that she already does. Steve's passion to put indigenous God-followers into the driver's seat of ministry to their own people is shared by a growing 'Team I-TEC.' Steve says 'don't send flowers.' Instead, buy an I-TEC dental system or I-See kit or sponsor an I-Med module or order your Maverick in your choice of color. If none of these fit your budget, or even if they do, Steve asks that you learn to be a LIFE Coach (talk to Jaime!). Let's continue to pray for Steve and his family as they continue to walk HIS trail. -Team I-TEC”*

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Scriptures:

Romans 12:19 (NLT) – *“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD.”*

John 15:13 (NIV) – *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*

Luke 9:23 – 25 (NLT) – *“Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but are yourself lost or destroyed?”*

Luke 1:37 (NLT) – *“For nothing is impossible with God.”*

Romans 10:13 – 15 (NLT) – *“‘Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.’ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, ‘How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!’”*

Matthew 5:43 – 45a (NIV) – *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.”*

1 John 4:16b – 18a (NIV) – *“God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.”*

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Matthew 6:14 – 15 (NLT) – *“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

Discussion points:

1. *“Waengongi” [God] marked his trail with carvings – they say we shouldn’t kill . . . Waengongi has a son who came to earth. He was speared, but did not spear back, so that one day, those who speared him could live well.*
This film is a great example of how we can share the gospel with someone in a way that is culturally relevant. What are some of the ways you have been helped along in your understanding of the Good News of Jesus Christ?
2. *“No one can take the life of one freely given.”* How do lives freely given in the name of Jesus Christ open the way for others to receive eternal life?
3. *“Through the years people could always identify with our loss, but they’d never imagine the way that we’d experience gain!”* Discuss the redemption that God brought about.
4. Do you think you could have extended forgiveness to the Waodani as the missionaries’ wives did? Why is forgiveness so challenging?
5. How can we live in such a way that we are prepared to give everything for God if He requires it?
6. The tagline for this movie is: *“Dare to make contact.”* With whom do you sense that the Lord wants you to dare to make contact?