

# **SIX YEARS IN HAMMOCK LAND**

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Six Years in Hammock Land by Ralph J. White

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**RALPH J. WHITE**

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HAMMOCK LAND INDIANS

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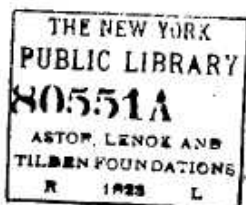
**SIX YEARS  
IN  
HAMMOCK LAND**

An historical sketch of the Lutheran  
Church in British Guiana, with  
observations and experiences of the  
Missionary of the United Lutheran  
Church in that land.

BY  
REV. RALPH J. WHITE



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## FOREWORD

Six years in Hammock Land is an attempt on the part of the author to give to the Church an historical sketch of a Lutheran Congregation that has endured for one hundred and seventy-eight years in our sister continent, in the midst of difficulties and discouragements that would surely have overwhelmed it had not God had some purpose in its preservation.

Six Years in Hammock Land also contains a sketch of the Ituni Lutheran Mission, which has the distinction of being the only mission of The United Lutheran Church to the aboriginal Indians of the Western Hemisphere.

Six Years in Hammock Land also contains such incidents and observations connected with the work of your missionary as have seemed of interest to those with whom he has come in contact during his furlough periods. These are now put forth in this form so that they may be available to a



larger number in our beloved Zion.

We have chosen to call British Guiana "Hammock Land" because it is the home of the hammock. The hammock is a comfortable bed and one that can be utilized by traveler and explorer, by balata bleeder and timber worker. A man of great experience once said to me: "The hammock is the curse of the River," meaning that it was so handy and comfortable that much valuable time was wasted lounging in it that should be more profitably employed. While this may be true, nevertheless, the hammock is one of the great blessings to people in these parts. It makes a cool bed for a needed siesta and a comfortable resting place after a day's hard work. I consider it one of the notable inventions of the aboriginal Indian.

We trust that Six Years in Hammock Land may prove informing to our Lutheran people and help in some degree to direct the attention of our Church to the great continent to the southeast that has so long been neglected by the Churches of the United States.

That our attention is needed in that direc-

tion is evident when you consider that the United Lutheran Church in America has only two missions and two ordained missionaries in a continent five thousand miles in length and three thousand and five hundred miles in width,—one in the Argentine and one in British Guiana.

Our Mission in British Guiana is our oldest and largest mission in South America, and probably the least known among our constituency. All of which is an argument for such a study of our Mission Field as I have here attempted to give.

It is estimated that there are forty-seven millions of aboriginal Indians in South America and ours is one of the few efforts to reach those lovable people with the Gospel.

That this sketch may be blessed of God to the quickening of our interest in the South American Field is the one prayer of your missionary to British Guiana, the Land of the Hammock.

RALPH J. WHITE.



