

# **THE MOUNTAIN**

## **by Jim Stovall**

There were two warring tribes in the Andes, one that lived in the lowland and the other high in the mountains. The mountain people invaded the lowlanders one day, and as part of their plundering of people, they kidnapped a baby of one of the lowlander families and took the infant back up into the mountains.

The lowlanders did not know how to climb the mountain, they didn't know any trails that the mountain people used, and they didn't know where to find the mountain people or how to track them in the steep terrain.

Even so they sent out the best party of fighting men to climb the mountain and bring the baby home.

The men tried first one method of climbing and then another. They tried one trail and then another. After several days of effort however, they climbed only several hundred feet. Feeling hopeless and helpless, the lowlander men felt the cause was lost, and they prepared to return to their village.

As they were packing their gear for the descent, they saw the babies mother walking. They realized she was coming DOWN the mountain that they hadn't figured out how to climb.

And then they saw that she had the baby strapped to her back, HOW COULD THAT BE?

One man greeter her and said, "We couldn't climb this mountain. How did you do this when we the strongest most able men in the village couldn't do it?"

She shrugged her shoulder and said " It wasn't your baby"