

# Spiritually Strangled to Death

by John & Kathy Wile 12-1-99

We took the picture in the center below when Bill (one of the missionaries at the Wycliffe center) said, "Come with me, I've got something that will give you a great story to tell the people back home." At first look, you see a palm tree in the background and a leafless deciduous tree in the foreground. Actually the palm tree is right in the center of the leafless one. Up close it appears that somehow the Palm has grown up right through the middle of the other tree.

Actually it's the other little parasitic vine crept some in their early harmless indeed). But by a second. Together unshakeable grip on the begin their aggressive

A year passes, then time (so slowly, in fact, capable of conscious sense any change), the diameter. They no hold them up. In the Palm, is literally What's left is only the huge multi-branched jungle. The palm tree



way around. A skinny up the side of the palm enough (in fact, we saw stages ... and they looked the first vine is followed they establish an host (the Palm Tree) and growth.

another, and a third. In that if the Palm were thought, it would scarcely vines grow to tree trunk longer need the Palm to final stage, the host, the squeezed to death. parasitic vine ... now a tree towering over the in the picture is doomed.

This is an illustration that needs nary a preacher to make the analogy!

Little creepers in our hearts ... looking harmless ... surely not capable of bringing down someone as mature as me! All the time I'm scarcely conscious of being spiritually strangled.