

"GOD WORKS IN UNUSUAL WAYS"

Elsa Ramirez - August - September 2003 Prayer Letter

Beloved Financial and Prayerful Supporters—

AN UNUSUAL VBS

Imagine a 400-street-children VBS in one of our Missions! Also think of 15 mothers bringing their children and staying for the whole time. I volunteered to teach these ladies. The theme was: "Jesus The Best Friend Ever." For my first day, I chose the verse "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" and emphasized the fact that we were His enemies! At the invitation time all the ladies raised their hands and prayed the sinner's prayer. I was surprised when immediately after, two ladies PATI and YOLI asked me permission to leave the class for five minutes. As they saw me undecided, one of them said: "We are going to bring my husband, he needs to hear this also." In five minutes or less, DAVID the husband, with tears in his eyes prayed the sinner's prayer. He and his family have been very faithful to church since! From the 15 ladies who raised their hand, six have also been faithful to Church. Please pray for their growth in Christ. **THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!**

TWO UNUSUAL SISTERS

SOLE and OFELIA gave me the impression of truly understanding what salvation meant. Immediately, as soon as they prayed the sinners' prayer, they went home to share with their elderly mother the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But this poor lady has been blinded by the fallacies of Romanism for so many years. . . Pray for her! The sisters were so discouraged. Pray for them as they seek to share this great salvation with their Mom. **THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!**

A VERY UNUSUAL DISCIPLINE

The second day of our VBS, I taught the ladies how to pray and read their Bible every day—how to cultivate a personal time with God. They had to fill a devotional diary and bring it to class each day. Would you believe that the fifteen of them did their homework for the rest of the week? I had never had this happened to me before. **THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!**

SEVERAL UNUSUAL TESTIMONIES

How precious it was to hear these babes reading their devotional diaries and sharing how the Lord had impressed their hearts with a specific verse or passage. One of them read "For as many as receive Him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God..." then, she said: "The Lord impressed upon my heart that I should not scream at my husband"(!!!) At the end of the week they were begging to extend our VBS for two more weeks, and I would have loved to do that, but the Ministerial Congress was next week and there was much to do. The only thing I offered was a Ladies Class that following Saturday. The Lord blessed and I believe I received the greatest blessing of them all. YOLANDA, PATI, CAROL, GEORGINA, ALEJANDRA, PETRA, MARIA ELENA, LAURA, OFELIA, SOLE, ROSARIO, YOLANDA, FATIMA, MINERVA and LUCIA heard a little of the Gospel, they did not need too much to be saved. **THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR THEM!** Now they must KNOW the rest of the Gospel! Will you pray fervently for them?

AN UNUSUAL SACRIFICE

Along with Pastor David Cortés, our whole congregation stood in awe watching God performing miracle after miracle in preparation for the Ministerial Congress. Hosting over a thousand people is not an easy task. First of all, thanks to the tremendous difference the "Builders For Christ" from Foundations Bible Collegiate Church and Ministries in Dunn, North Carolina made in our school building, Pastor was very encouraged to finish the building. **THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!**

AN UNUSUAL DECISION

Pastor explained to us—the Ministerial Congress Committee, the cost of renting a building to host this congress, and how much would it cost us to finish our own building and host the event there. There was no money in our treasury, but all of us decided that with God's help, we would finish our building. Every

"And of some have compassion, making a difference" - Jude 22

part of the Body prayed and God answered! We are very encouraged to continue working and expecting great things from God as we keep faithful to Him until He comes! As I am writing this letter, our children and their teachers are enjoying their new building. Thank you "Builders For Christ", THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

UNUSUAL MUSIC SERVICES

During the Congress Pastor Cortés asked for at least four specials before each preaching. Why so many when we needed to move things quickly in order to maintain the attention of over a thousand people? Pastor has visited many a church in Mexico and in the States and he knows the very poor conditions, the sacrilege and blasphemy creeping in even in our precious fundamental churches where the doctrine is still sound, but the music is so devilish! He only wanted to teach the visitors that there is a better kind of music with which we can worship the Most High. May the Lord accomplish His will in so many hearts, and may this change result in the use of good music in our fundamental churches! THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

SOME UNUSUAL STUDIES

Pastor Cortés asked me to study for 12 very fruitful days this summer with my music composition teacher, Dr. Robert Wilson. The Lord graciously gave me 18 new hymns for His glory! He has also given me the words for three of those hymns requested by Pastor Cortés. Pray that He might be the Center of this new found gift. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS

Do you remember PEDRO TORRES and his wife CHARO from Spain, studying at Foundations Bible College in Dunn, North Carolina? Well, pray for Pastor PEDRO, he fell from a ladder and fractured three of the four ribs he had broken before in Spain. May all of his pain be used of God not only in the lives of his family, but in mine also. How precious it is to know that all of these incidents never take God by surprise! Please pray for the Torres family's spiritual and physical needs. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

AN UNUSUAL BURDEN

Imagine a 16-year-old fellow bearing the burden of his parents' upcoming divorce and the

domestic fights that accompany it, the verbal abuse of his stepfather along with his criticism of our school, especially when José Angel asks him for books, etc. Also, José Angel's 14-year-old sister was involved in a shooting and is in the "jail" for teens. She left the home several months ago with a 28 year-old "boyfriend" and the parents have not done anything about it. José Angel has been called into full time Christian service and I can see God has a very special Mission for this young fellow entering now his High school. He is an "A" student, plays the piano for all the activities and services in his Church and excels in everything for His glory. He has a scholarship in our school and so far he is refusing to backslide with some of his "Christian" classmates. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING! Please remember him daily!

UNUSUAL PIANO STUDENTS

Four Pastors and five Pastor's wives are among my 20 piano students. I pray that at least, the Pastor's wives will be able to teach others in their Churches. Imagine having several pianists in each church where there was none before. Three of my students are now teaching. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY

SARA our cello player and her husband DANTE went to Peru, her land. The Lord blessed, and they played hymns for an hour in a far reaching TV program and answered many questions about music. DANTE quoted much of Dr. H.T. Spence's book *Confronting Contemporary Christian Music* during the interview. Pray that this seed may bring much fruit to His glory. THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

GOD'S USUAL

My dear neighbor IMELDA has avoided me for several months now. But, for the last three days she is without a car and humbly has asked me to take her to work and leave her daughter at her school on the way. PLEASE PRAY FOR THEIR SALVATION!

YOUR UNUSUAL LOVING CARE

Is something I cannot thank you enough for!

Thanking God for each one of you,

Elsa A. Ramirez

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