

"GOD IS MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS..."

Elsa Ramirez - January - March 2004 Prayer Letter

Beloved Financial and Prayerful Supporters—

GOD IS GRACIOUS TOWARDS THIS MINISTRY

We have been using an old beaten piano to worship our Lord, and have been praying for a new grand piano. Tonight, I just learned that I have been given 5 grand pianos and some electrical pianos also! As I write this letter, Pastor Cortés still does not know this great news, it is midnight, so I can hardly wait to wake him up tomorrow morning! Thank you for praying!

GOD IS GOOD AND HAS A PURPOSE FOR THIS MINISTRY

Pastor Cortés has recently been severely criticized by other Pastors for his stand on music. There are some pastors who refuse to preach in the same conferences where he preaches, for they feel criticized. Well, God has honored again this ministry. I received the gift of 53 pianos, in pretty good condition, which we have joyously placed in the missions and the homes of my piano students. **ONLY GOD KNOWS THE ETERNAL VALUE OF THESE GIFTS!!!** Complete families now are taking piano lessons. I told you all of my piano students are playing in different churches, even those who can play a hymn with only one finger at the time—such is the need in my country! Please, continue praying for my friend LISA [the lady who gives me the pianos], she broke up with her living-in Mexican boyfriend. When I asked her mother: "Is not wonderful that LISA broke up with that man?" She said: "Well, I do not know, I only want her to be happy." Both are ignorant of the fact that true happiness comes only from God! Please pray for them!

GOD BRINGS TO PASS OUR MOST IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS

One of Pastor Cortés dream is to have an orchestra in the Church. For the first time the Children and Intermediate's choirs sang several songs in three parts accompanied by the *camerata*—that is the 13 children group who play cellos violins, flutes, French horn and trumpet. Also four professional adults played their cello, violins and French horn. Needless to say, Pas-

tor Cortés along with all of us were so moved to see this miracle right before our eyes. When I think that many of the parents and children who participated in this event had never heard, nor seen a violin, nor a cello, much less a French horn and to see now that not only Sarita and Dante play those instruments, but several children play them also, I say: God is so good!

NOEMI

I met Noemi in a baby-shower. What a hurt to see her in the depths of desperation and without hope. For almost a year or more she has been living at the expense of her sixteen year-old son who works in a pizza place to support her. She is in such depression that she cannot do a thing! I took her also to the hospital because she needed some medical attention, gave her food and spoke to her about our Wonderful Saviour. She prayed the sinner's prayer and since then she continues coming to Church. But please pray much for her!

JUANITA

One afternoon I was eating in my favorite taco place and started a conversation with the lady next to me. She told me that she suffered much with depression and that she felt alone. I invited her to my home and there I spoke to her about the precious Gospel of the Lord. She bowed her head and prayed the sinner's prayer. Please pray for her growth! She invited me to her beautiful home and told me she does not know how to read nor write. She cannot call me because she does not know even the numbers.

CRISTAL

Is a fourteen years-old girl who seemed to have had understood the Gospel message clearly. She prayed also the sinner's prayer.

BRISTAL

Is a fifteen years-old lady who gave her life to the Lord Jesus, and I only happened to be there at that vital moment. She had been given a New Testament before and had been reading it. May God's perfect plans for her be fulfilled in her and her family's life.

*Thank
You
for all
my
Christmas
gifts!*

HAVE YOU EVER DONE MISSIONARY- WORK ANYWHERE?

It is marvelous! At Living Word Mission, the Lord has allowed me to teach the ladies how to teach Sunday School, the children during Church, and some men, how to direct congregational singing. The congregation is so excited to learn new hymns [they only sung 10 songs all the time]. Now, they stay after the services to learn new ones. God is so good with us!

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH IN RIVERVIEW, FLORIDA

Contacted a Church in San Diego to come and help us. THE JERICO ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH came to our aid and provided materials and handwork to finish two Sunday school classrooms and the washrooms in our Palabra Viva Church. We are so very grateful to them!

OUTING

The Lord gave me the idea of taking my oldest piano students in an outing all the way to the "Bufadora" in Ensenada. You have to come to see what that is. We took a small boat and navigate into the Pacific Ocean for an hour. Jose Angel brought the devotions, and all of them shared their ideals for their future Lord's service. It was such a blessing to hear them encouraging each other. Truly, I believe I was the most blessed. They all behaved beautifully, as if their parents were with them, or even better. I am convinced of the fact that when someone studies and learns how to play the piano, it builds in him much discipline. Therefore, with me, they behaved so much like conscious adults! Please, pray for ELI and DARIO who want to be ministers of music, and for JOSE ANGEL who has been called to be a missionary! Three of them want to go to Foundations Bible College to prepare. They know there is no better school for Theology and Music to equip them for such a time as this! Will you pray for them?

JOSE ANGEL

Thinking that perhaps, he had tuberculosis, I took him to the doctor. He had a sharp pain in his bones and was coughing much. The X Rays showed a significant amount of scoliosis and now I am taking him to the specialist. At New Years Eve, after the service, Conchita, Jose Angel's mom invited me for supper. I was so surprised. They had never wanted me in

their home [they were ashamed they are so poor]. Of course I accepted. But they only let me enter in their first main living—dining room. This week, for the first time Jose Angel allowed me into his bedroom. It was so very humid and dreary. His bed was so uncomfortable even to seat on it. No wonder his back is so crooked. Please pray that God may provide for a new bed for him and a waterproof ceiling. Each one of his teachers at High school esteem him very highly. May God be merciful!

ARACELY

She has not come to Church for some time, so when I called her, her husband answered and told me that they were attending now the Catholic system and that she was with the Catholic sisters at that very moment. I was so sorry I called! But I remembered the time I met Montsecita [at 12 years of age] in the streets of Madrid one morning and she ran to me very proud showing me her dress of her first communion. She was 9 when she had received the Lord at a camp, but her mother have prohibited any communication with us, would not let her have devotions and even took her Bible away from her. Years later mother and daughter became some of our most faithful members. Please pray for Aracely and her family. May we see them in the years to come worshipping the true GOD! .

LETTER WRITING

If you know me, you might remember that I always answered my mail. Well, lately, I have been working even during the night. Besides being involved in the lives of my twenty and more piano students, teaching ladies and children classes in the mission and playing the piano for some services at the large church, I have been writing a cantata for Easter. God truly is gracious. So, please, if you have not received my letters be merciful unto me...I have not forgotten you.

THANK YOU

My thanks go to the Lord, to my Churches and to each one of you dear friends who support my spiritual life in prayer, and my ministry and physical needs with your gifts.

Grateful for His goodness and mercy,

Elsa A. Ramirez

Your missionary to Tijuana, México

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