

"Hitherto Hath The Lord Helped Us"

Elsa Ramirez - Abril - June 2004 Prayer Letter

Beloved Financial and Prayerful Supporters—

36th ANNIVERSARY

Pastor David Cortés, on this special day gave us a message on Missions. I learned that the pastors prior to him ministered here for periods of two years or less. So I am very grateful to God for the 23 visionary years of Pastor Cortés in this beloved Church. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Please pray for the leadership of the next generation!

PRESENTING EACH MISSION

Pastor Cortés had the idea of presenting on Sunday nights each one of his Church's missions to his people that they may know the heartbeat of these small congregations. He asked me to prepare the first presentation of the "Living Word" Mission where I am presently serving. My pupil JOSE ANGEL at the piano, accompanied the congregational singing, the special numbers for children and adults, and played the offertory with Sarita at the cello in a very God-honoring manner! The children, with beautiful silver bells sang "I Am the Lord's Little Bell." SARITA a twelve year-old girl recited John chapter 9 with a different voice for each one of the characters mentioned in it. Nobody had ever seen this done. JOAQUIN told us how he was gloriously saved from masonry, and clearly depicted his prideful life and thinking process. The Lord was glorified with his testimony! ISMAEL—José Angel's stepfather read the history of our wonderful ten years of existence: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

A MUSICAL BREAKFAST BUFFET

Mrs. Cortés invited all my piano students to participate in a Musical Breakfast Buffet to raise money for the Church building. The food was in abundance and very delicious and, in spite of the fact that most of my students played three and more pieces under all the pressure of such an event, they did very well. The Lord greatly blessed us. Six hundred dollars were raised; my students gained much in experience, and were invited to participate in a formal concert in the near future. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

LAURA

LORENA BARRIOS' Roman Catholic aunt also prayed the sinner's prayer this week. She prayed: "Lord I am confused, I used to believe that by being good I could go to heaven. Now I only trust your sacrifice on the Cross for me. I repent of all my sin and want to receive you as my Saviour and Lord." Please pray much for her. She lives in Las Vegas with her family.

PALOMA

A young engaged lady came to our Church for the second time and I had the privilege of hearing her ask our Father for salvation. Please, pray for her. Her boyfriend is a new believer and both need much attention.

LETICIA

A precious family had been witnessing to her for a long time. I only showed her with the Bible her spiritual condition and she was ready to receive the Lord as her Savior and Lord. She needs so much maturity. Will you pray for her?

VERONICA

Is a Dentist who came to hear the Cantata. She also had been witnessed much before and was gloriously saved. She even prayed a second time to thank God for the salvation she had received. Will you pray for her?

JEWS FOR THE LORD

I met JERRY JEREMIAH, a Jewish gentleman who lost his wife to cancer seven months ago, and confesses to be angry against God. He knew I was trained to be a surgeon, but now I am a missionary, so, he asked me: "Why did you leave the medical field?" "Because I became a true Christian," I said. "How did you become a true Christian? He asked. "I quoted much of Isaiah 53, as many of you know that was the passage God used to open my blind eyes and show me His Great Salvation! At the end, I promised that many people would pray for his becoming a true Christian. He answered: "I am not closed to that possibility." Will you pray for Mr. Jerry Jeremiah? Claim Jeremiah 33:3.

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

"PITILLO" AND CARMEN

Sarita and Dante invited HUGO—"Pitillo" and CARMEN to the musical breakfast. As soon as I met them, my heart went after them. "Pitillo" is a professional and very elegant clown from Perú. He reminded me much of Charles Chaplin. Indeed, he has mastered his act, the people respond to him beautifully. During his act, he plays well many different instruments. That is what attracted Dante and Sarita to him. But he and CARMEN—his wife are not saved and have serious problems as a couple. When he learned that I was a missionary, he said: "We need help, we have serious problems." Publically, Carmen puts him constantly down. He looks for the "love" of other women. May God use Dante, Sarita or me to share with them God's great salvation! Will you pray for them?

"BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD"

Is the name of a Cantata I wrote for our service on Good Friday. Someone read Bible passages that spoke of man's eternal need of being covered, thus the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world that we might be holy. The main theme was God's atonement providing salvation for the sinner and sanctification for the Christian. Several souls prayed the sinner's prayer and a few understood the sanctification message. Realizing my unworthiness and inabilities for this kind of ministry, my grateful heart cries out: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped [me]." Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. Thank you Dr. Robert Wilson at Foundations Bible College in Dunn, North Carolina for being SO patient to teach me music composition and choir arranging.

JOSE ANGEL

My piano student had a sharp pain on his upper back. The X Rays showed a scoliosis, so he needed a hard bed and swimming, and the Lord provided both for him. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

THE DEATH OF A VISION?

Just at the time God had given a vision and was opening doors to accomplish it, Missionary David Burrows learned he had bone cancer. In the States doctors gave him the option to go to the Hospice. His wife Carol brought him to Tijuana, Mexico where very slowly his red blood count is increasing. Will you pray?

LOVING AND DISCIPLINING

The wife of a Mission's Pastor told me that one of my piano students had a terrible attitude problem against Pastor and his preaching! In his next lesson I told him he could not have piano lessons for three months! Have you ever heard about disciplining someone by not giving him piano lessons? Glory to God! He worked in this precious life. He started going to Church with a suit and tie; his attitude changed completely towards God, His House and His Preacher, even his mother saw a beautiful change at home. God used this time and testing to call him to become a minister of music. After a month and a half, I presented him with one of the pianos I was given. Please pray for my pupils' spiritual growth! The Lord is at work!

YOUNG CHRISTIANS—GOOD TARGETS FOR THE SOUL'S DESTRUCTOR

One of my pupils came to his lesson with a young lady—interested in music? No, she was making her web around my pupil. Some time ago she was very worried because she thought herself pregnant by another fellow. How easy it is for my naïve Christian pupils to become the Philistine young ladies' easy prey. When I exposed the devils devices through these "innocent friendships" with lost girls, he said: "Why nobody had told me about this before.?" I said: "Perhaps it is because you have not reacted properly to some past corrections, so people could not talk to you about serious matters anymore?" He was most grateful and it was a precious blessing to my heart to see his reaction. When I talked to his mother, she thanked me much. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

MOM HENLEY

Mrs. Shirley Henley my college art teacher, went to be with the Lord in a very peaceful way. Years ago, I "adopted" her as my Mom and her husband as my Dad. "Elsa, we pray for you every morning as we pray for each one of our children." they used to tell me. Now I am at a GREAT LOSS! They were some of my most faithful and loving supporters

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Thanking God for faithfully helping me through you,

Elsa A. Ramirez

Your missionary to Tijuana, Mexico

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