

"IMMENSELY PRIVILEGED"

Elva Ramirez - February 2005 Prayer Letter

Beloved Financial and Prayerful Supporters—

TO BE IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND

When I first arrived in Tijuana I visited several missions with Pastor Cortés and my brother, and, as I saw the wild driving, I prayed "Please Lord, do not give me a car, I will be killed here!" But He did not answer my prayer. Pretty soon I was driving even four nights per week, through heavy traffic, from the main church to the farthest mission in town which is about 12 miles away. After almost eight years in Tijuana, there is no doubt in my mind that God has me in the Palm of His protecting Hand. Tijuana is not exactly the safest place to drive, so every day I thank God for His protection and care. Last week, the Lord saved me from what it could have been a fatal car accident. *Immensely privileged* to have my heavenly Father watching over me. Your prayers avail much!

TO BE SURE HE IS AT WORK IN ME

Since last Summer, I have become very interested in the lives of our best hymn writers and, I have been edified, inspired, rebuked, and encouraged. Down in the depths of my heart there is a prayer: "Dear Lord, give me a life that will abide *constantly* in Your "Secret place." The hymnwriters I admire the most, wrote out of the overflow of their hearts, they had learned to cultivate a constant communion with God. I am *immensely privileged* to know He is at work in me, because even the intense desire to cultivate this communion with Him, does not come from me.

TO BEAR HIS PRECIOUS SEED

After experiencing the great joy of being saved, of having the heavy burden lifted from me, I believe there is another great joy, the joy of hearing someone sincerely pray the sinner's prayer. And not only that, but see that person walk its first steps in the Christian life, then mature and start his quest for Christian purity, and as an outflow of Christ's life in him, serve the Savior wholeheartedly. I am *immensely privileged* to bear the Precious Seed! Thank you for praying for fruit, the Lord is answering your faithful prayers.

TO SEE HIM AT WORK IN OTHERS

In the lives of my family, my disciples, my neighbors, and my people. What a joy to hear Lilia my neighbor, telling me that she wants to buy dresses now. We have only had a few Bible studies for new babes in Christ, so I have never spoken to her about my conviction about wearing dresses . . . I am *immensely privileged* to have the Holy spirit Do the work in her!

TO DISCIPLE OTHERS

Unworthily, I received two letters from two disciples, SARA and EUNICE, telling me how much they thank me for my life and Bible studies and counseling. Why should I be thanked if it is the Lord who works both to will and to do for His own good pleasure? Needless to say, I am *immensely privileged!*

TO SEE MY DISCIPLES' DISCIPLES

Yesterday, I was taking a picture of VERO, one of my precious disciples here and told her I wanted to show my supporting churches her picture. She immediately answered: "Why don't you take a picture of LUPITA also?" "Lupita is YOUR disciple! I only gave Lupita three lessons at the most, truly she is YOUR disciple!" I replied. What a joy. . . *immensely privileged!*

Not only in the spiritual realm do I see this reproduction, but my piano students Dario, Luis Fernando, Alvaro and Elizabeth have their own piano students! The need is great in our Hispanic world, and God is supplying that need.

TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Not too long ago, CESAR invited me with two other friends to his birthday supper. We had finished eating, were ready to put our coats and leave the restaurant when he announced he wanted to give us his testimony. He told us that in the morning he had thanked his Mom for birthing him and taking care of him during all these years. Then he thanked me for encouraging him year after year to prepare to serve the Lord. How *immensely privileged* to see how the Lord touches lives like Cesar's and prepares them for a great ministry among us.

TO VISIT MY MOST DIFFICULT MISSION FIELD—MY OWN LOST RELATIVES!

After seven years of not being with my unsaved relatives, I will pay them a visit before I start my long overdue furlough.

My brother IVANÉ, a retired general physician signed his Christmas card: "Proud of being a Methodist." His wife MARTHA has become the teacher of the children's missionary group my mother founded in the Methodist Episcopal Church. MARTHA, their oldest daughter and her husband ALEX claim to have made a profession of faith some years ago, but, I imagine, under the pressure and teachings of my brother IVANÉ, they continue attending the Methodist system. IVAN the second son has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. EDGAR, their youngest son is working and studying. When he attends a church he goes to the Baptist Independent one, because his fiancé and her relatives are faithful there. I am *immensely privileged* to know the Savior and in His wisdom, love and strength visit my lost relatives.

My brother EDGAR, left his family many years ago and lives with another woman. He accuses me of being uncompassionate, and lacking love for calling his sin, sin. His wife MALE lives for the Lord, is faithful to the Church and loves to share the Gospel with as many people as she meets. Their oldest son HERMANN teaches in the Methodist Episcopal school and helps with the music in the Baptist Independent Church. PLEASE PRAY FOR HIM! HUGO, the youngest, and his wife LILIANA work arduously in a Baptist mission where the missionary-Pastor is a Ruckmanite. May God move HUGO and LILIANA to our church and missions in Tijuana! PLEASE PRAY!

AUNT MARÍA and my cousin LINDA, have always been distant when I talk about the Savior. They were raised Roman Catholics. My cousin LUZ married a mormon. They belong to the high hierarchy there, PRAY! Hopefully I will see NELSON my cousin, perhaps a Catholic if he is something. *Immensely privileged* to visit them and carry the Gospel to them once more!

TO FOLLOW UP BABES WHO HAVE MOVED

MIREYA was born in my hometown and four years ago, she came to live in Tijuana with her family. She had just finished a paid Bible

course in a Catholic school, when I met her. Immediately I offered to teach her the Bible. One glorious day, I heard her pray the sinner's prayer! At that time, she was having problems with her very Roman Catholic husband. Thus, not wanting to make things worse between them, she never came to our church. I even doubted her profession of faith. A month and a half ago she came to tell me she had decided to go back to Pachuca to be with her family who was offering to take care of her and her two daughters in every way. My advice, with Bible in hand was, "Do not leave your husband alone, stay with him." Well, she moved back to Pachuca (some 3,000 miles from here) leaving her husband here alone. She called me yesterday; I was most surprised! "You were right Elsa, my husband is first. We are both suffering the absence of each other." I should not have come because of my family. They have failed me in every way possible. Please pray for her and for me as I visit her. *Immensely privileged* to make a trip to Pachuca, my hometown at this time!

TO CRY OUT TO GOD FOR OTHERS

TINA a married young lady with three children, came out of an operation with almost no stomach, and no intestines. We thought she would die in a matter of days or weeks. Pastor organized a prayer chain that has been alive for seven months now. Two months ago, she gave her testimony saying: "Things I took for granted such as drinking a glass of water, I cannot do any longer." She is fed intravenously with a few milligrams per day, and she gets very sick every time she is fed. But, what a joy to see her in Church this last Sunday! She begged me to ask you to pray for her and I promised her that. Will you intercede on her behalf? We are praying for an organ donor. *Immensely privileged* to see our Great Physician's at work!

TO SOON GO ON FURLOUGH

My mailing address in San Diego will not change, though a little late, I will be answering you. Please pray for me as I prepare: 1) God's itinerary for me, 2) prayer cards and 3) a video presentation of what I have seen God do in México. May all be done to His glory.

Immensely privileged to hope to see you in God's time,

Elsa A. Ramirez

Your missionary to Tijuana, México

Sending Church:
Bible Baptist Church
2780 Mt. Carmel Rd.
Hampton, GA 30228

My mailing address:
P.O. Box 435281
San Diego, CA 92143-5281

Working with: World Wide
New Testament Baptist Missions
P.O. Box 725
Kings Mountain, NC 28086