

“Follow Me,” I’ve already been through there”

Elsa Ramirez – March-April 2005 Prayer Letter

Beloved Financial and Prayerful Supporters—

MY VISIT TO MY BROTHER IVAN

IVAN is my dearest and the most loving of my three brothers. I have kept very fond memories of him during all my early years. This time, he surprised me with our family and Methodist church history in 30 meticulously organized photo albums which allowed me to remember very important people and events in my life. I also remembered many of you and all the help you have been to me. I will forever be grateful to IVAN for this. He not only made an album for me, but he also made an album for each one of my brothers. In these albums he has compiled not only photos, but our credentials as “Paynaltan Explorers”—a club in our grammar school, our grades, our rewards, etc.

I asked you to pray for IVAN, my brother IVAN’s son and would plead with you to continue interceding for him. Both need the Lord immediately! Will you please pray?

ALEJANDRO, my political nephew told me his own problems and those with MARTHA, my niece. Their situation is pitiful, so unbiblical from their very beginning and seems impossible. They do not attend any church. Will you please pray that they may attend a good church in my hometown and get saved?

EDGAR my youngest nephew is dating a girl, but has decided not to ever marry.(?) The missionaries told me they thought this girl was in danger of becoming pregnant because her mother gave her all kinds of permissions. I talked with her mother about this danger, but she, mocking me, told her daughter and my nephew what I had told her, so my nephew EDGAR does not speak to me. Will you please pray for his salvation?

IVAN my brother, is the one who had signed his last Christmas card with: “Proud to be a Methodist Episcopal,” but, when I got to Pachuca, I found out that he and his family have not attended their own church for ages. Will you please fervently pray for IVAN and his whole FAMILY’S SALVATION?

Praise God, before I took my trip to my hometown, my Lord had been there already, so, it was easy to follow Him.

MY VISIT TO MALE AND FAMILY

MALE is the wife of my third brother named EDGAR. She served as a grammar school teacher for many years and has retired now, but continues active winning souls and discipling them. She is respected as the leader of two different retired teachers’ organizations and that is where she finds many opportunities to witness. So, she is being used of God to bring the Gospel to many retired teachers. Please pray for all her missionary work.

I always stay with her when I visit my hometown. About twenty years ago my brother abandoned her with her two sons. She was saved and became very faithful to God and to a Baptist mission in my hometown. The missionaries helped her raise my two nephews HERMANN and HUGO. For this, I will eternally be grateful to God and to them.

I found my nephew HERMANN very active in the Baptist Church he used to attend when he was a child. He teaches the Adults Sunday S. Class, plays different instruments during the services and enjoys teaching pedagogy at the University and art at a Jr. High school. But as I see him, I think: “It is so easy to deceive ourselves thinking that if we are ‘serving’ the Lord we are right with him.” Please pray much for him and for his inner man.

HUGO, an electrical engineer and his wife LILIANA, a kindergarten teacher, besides their secular jobs, work tirelessly for the Lord in a Baptist mission in my hometown (where I told you the Pastor is a Ruckmanite). They do not see the seriousness of that. Thus, HERMANN, HUGO and LILIANA are serving the Lord, but this aunt is not happy with that. Please pray for God’s perfect will for their lives. There is much more to the Christian life than the despicable and mediocre spiritual life in the midst of “fruitful” appearances of “serving” Him.

EDGAR my third brother and father of Hermann and Hugo, continues living in adultery. His pastor praises him and uses him much in the Church. It seems impossible that in that “church” he will see his sin and repent. Will you fervently pray?

MARCELA

The Lord very graciously gave me again the greatest privilege of all. I had just finished teaching a precious ladies group on Sunday afternoon, when one of the ladies asked me to miss the Sunday night service and go with her to visit her oldest sister. She said that her sister MARCELA was very violent and would throw the Bible away every time she tried to speak about the Savior. So, I responded: "Well, let us see what Pastor will say." I truly was hoping Pastor would say "NO, do not go during the service." But he, with much compassion for the lady asked me: "Please go, this will help us all greatly." What could I say? I went trembling inside and praying. When we arrived, MARCELA started complaining about her physical pains. So very casually, I started telling her that long time ago, doctors would give their patients their medicines wrapped in small pieces of paper with the name of the ailment written on the paper, so the patient would know what to take for his different hurts and pains. "And you know MARCELA, God has many pages in this book where He has wrapped His perfect remedy for each one of your pains." The lady listened very attentively. By this time I had gotten a chair and was very close to her so she could read my large print Bible. I had to explain the whole message of the Gospel twice because she would not seem to understand it clearly. But at the end, it was our joy to hear her asking the Lord to come into her heart!!! Will you please pray that this small seed of the Gospel may find a good soil to grow and mature? When we came out of Marcela's home, was I ever glad my Lord Jesus had gone before me! All I had to do was to follow Him.

FURLOUGH

A little over a week ago I came to the United States with the aim of visiting my supporting churches and raise the percentage I am lacking in my monthly support. I had already the wonderful opportunity of teaching two Ladies Sunday School classes and have visited many of my friends from college days or contact them over the phone. Again, I have cried with some of them and rejoiced with others as they have told me how the Lord has been dealing with them these last 28 years. In everything that has happened to us we can see that the Lord has gone before us!!!

"ALL"

Before coming to the States for furlough, as I already told you, I went to my hometown. Many of you know that when I was growing up I lived in a poor house called "vecindad" where at least seven different families lived and shared two patios where we children played to our heart's content. AMERICA happened to be my neighbor and best friend. She and I used to call our group of neighbors "ALL." That was our key word to refer to all of us poor children. Well, when I was gloriously saved, AMERICA and "ALL" would not have anything to do with me. I remember sharing the Gospel to them, but they did not embrace it. Now, after 41 years I looked them up and see if I could share the gospel with them. After our Baptist Church service, I went to the Methodist Church in my hometown and patiently waited for them. It was such our joy to get together that we did not know what to do, cry or laugh, or what. Well, I told them about my plan of getting together with America my girlfriend and we did. Sadly I found out that they were not saved, and yet, they believed they were. During the meeting, we had also a serious moment of reflection and I had the privilege to pour out my heart about what the Lord had done for me. Lord willing, I will be in contact with them through mail and telephone. But, will you please fervently pray for the conversion of AMERICA, EDUARDO, PEDRO, RENE, THAUSNELDA, BRISEIDA and JULIA? Most of them represent a large family, children and grandchildren. They need to be saved and follow HIM!

A SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Rev. and Mrs. Evertie Moore invited me long time ago to teach their Church's ladies. There, I realized their mission field in the mountains of Kentucky was much harder and required much more efforts and courage than any other mission field I have ever known. PLEASE PRAY for SISTER MOORE who is suffering now with multiple myeloma or cancer of the bone marrow causing her to be constantly anemic, congestive heart failure, stage III kidney failure and much pain. PRAY MUCH for Missionary-Pastor EVERTIE at this crucial time.

Thanking God for always going before me,

Elsa A. Ramirez

Your missionary to Tijuana, Mexico

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