

A FAITHFUL WOMAN OF PRAYER

--Irma B. Williams

Lidia Mazzucco Pupillo comes from a heritage of Pentecostal Italian missionaries. Her grandfather, Marcos Mazzucco, a Church of God pioneer in Argentina, was known as "the man of camel's knees" because he developed calluses from long hours in prayer. Lidia's grandmothers, Angela Ruffino and Angela Pasquero, and also her mother, Maria Mazzucco spent hours daily on their knees in prayer. As a girl, Lidia prayed beside them for long periods of time.

Lidia grew up and married a Church of God minister. She continued her habit of prayer and taught her daughters, Ely and Sonia, to pray.

With all the devout surroundings, little did Lidia suspect the trauma she would face on Friday, September 8, 1989. That day two carpenters were repairing a room in her house when the doorbell rang. Lidia opened the door. Two robbers walked inside and demanded money.

When they realized Lidia had no money, they became violent. They locked the carpenters in the bathroom and turned their rage onto Lidia. Trying to take her life they smothered her, brutally choked her, beat her severely, and threatened her with death. Then, inexplicably, the cruel men stopped their violence, locked her in the bathroom with the carpenters, took the door knob off, and cut the telephone wires before they left.

In the midst of her excruciating pain, calmness settled over Lidia; the Holy Spirit spoke to her, "There is a pair of pliers in the drawer."

With pliers in hand, the carpenters opened the door and ran for help. By the time Lidia arrived at the hospital, her neck and head were terribly swollen, and she was black and blue with bruises, and still bleeding from her wounds.

Her daughters were contacted and rushed to the hospital. Shocked at their mother's appearance, they began to pray strong prayers. Three days later, when her husband, Dr. Osvaldo Pupillo, returned from his meetings, Lidia was healed with no sign of bruises.

Lidia carries an emotional scar in her heart, but she still proclaims God's mercy for sparing her life. She offers prayers of thanksgiving that neither of her daughters was home at the time of the attack. She is full of faith and faithful in her prayer life.

Lidia visited in my home in Cleveland, Tennessee, telling me her story through our interpreter, Missionary Lorraine Alton. Lidia says, "It's a miracle I lived! The Lord still answers prayer through the power of the Holy Spirit."