

Emra Expressions

"Immanuel"

The Gift That Keeps On Giving

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This Christmas Season we have been thinking about God choosing to become flesh and live with us. The original Christmas gift, as a model for us to follow, is amazing, overwhelming and very comforting.

I talked to Serena yesterday and at the end of the conversation she said, "I know I've said this to you before, but I just can't help wondering again what my life would be like if you had not come to East LA."

I wondered why silent tears fell from my eyes as we said to each other "good by" and "I love you." Was it for all the times I dreaded going to the ministry just because I knew she would be there? Was it because of the nights I would go to sleep asking the Lord why she just didn't seem to get it? Or was it because I would wonder time and time again, "Is our being in East LA really making a difference in anyone's life?"

I believe the tears came from what the Lord said to us when we moved to Los Angeles: "I (God) need you to be consistent and show up every day. Let MY love drip on their hearts." It is very humbling to realize that it was never about what we did, the power of our ministry has always been in our willingness to be obedient and to let IMMANUEL be present in their lives.

Watching Immanuel have an impact in Serena's life over the last 25 years has been fantastic. She loves Jesus, her husband, their six kids and is reaching out to those around her.

Just like Serena feels about us, we are thankful for your presence in our lives. The gift of your prayers and support over the past years of ministry has allowed us to be present in the lives of people in East LA and beyond. It is our hope that as we develop leaders in ministry they too will be willing to stay for the "long haul" and eventually hear someone say, "I don't know where I would have been if you hadn't been here."

Merry Christmas,

Sheryl
Sheryl

for John and Sheryl Emra



We have included a report of your 2011 giving with this letter.

If our records are in error, please let us know.

If you made a contribution this year and we did not include a donation report with this letter please let us know.

Your 2011 Tax Statement will be sent in January.

Answered Prayer

Thank you for the prayers on Sheryl's behalf. Scheduling her times with ladies in ministry has gone well.

Prayer Requests

Continue to pray for our travel schedule this next year.

As we travel we will be raising support.

We will also be available to train Churches in the use of Life Is Full Of Choices as it applies to Adult and Youth Ministry.

Pray that as the new book "Parenting From the Top of the Mountain" is released this month it will be used by God to reach many families through the Churches we visit.