

# **Meet Lidia Lorena Cortes Manuel**

## **PAG Scholarship Recipient Letter**

My main educational goal is to continue my studies so that I can become an accountant. However, the conditions in which we live leave me unsure as to whether I will be able to realize my dream.

My name is: Lidia Lorena Cortes Manuel

I was born: on the 14th of September, 1999. I am about to turn 15.

Place of origin: the village of Ceiba Rabinal, Baja Verapaz, Guatemala

Now I am studying: the third basic year offered by the national institute of high school distance learning (by computer is my guess, JA).

My favorite sport is soccer, but also I spend a lot of time reading.

I have a bit of difficulty with the English class. English is the third language that we are taught at school.

I have three sisters and one brother.

My father's name is Baudilio Cortez Osorio. My mother is Silveria Manuel Sical. Unfortunately, my parents separated four years ago. My siblings and I live with our mother. She sells roasted peanuts to pay for household and educational expenses. She has told us about her past, and she is struggling to make sure that her children do not suffer the way that she is suffering.

I qualified for a ADIVIMA scholarship because my grandfather, Pedro Cortez López, was assassinated by the Guatemalan army on the 28th of September, 1982. It seems that because of this trauma my father has not been able to succeed in life. However, we children along with our mother are struggling and working to keep going.

Our biggest problem is economic. In these times we must buy corn. What we actually harvest ourselves does not suffice for a whole year. During the past few growing seasons we have been suffering from drought. The rain stops when the corn is ripening and we lose the crop.

Our main hope is based upon your support for us and your solidarity with us. A thousand thanks for all that you have given us. It has been of great use to me.

Warm greetings to all the members of your church; and may you all be well.