

## Help / Amparo

Country of Origin: Brazil / USA

### Background to the Song

Tom Avery

When my wife and I lived in Brazil it was disappointing to us that the popular hymnal that was used by the church we attended was almost totally translated hymns. This led me to think about using the resource of the texts of the hymns and put them into a musical form that might be a little more Brazilian.

This hymn text was set to the tune for the popular Gospel song, "Let the Lower Lights be Burning." To me, the near desperation of the words in Portuguese was not adequately expressed in the tranquil music of that classic melody. I set out to compose something with more energy and with a less complacent tone.

At the Global Consultation on Music and Missions in 2006 we had the pleasure of presenting this song with the help of renowned Brazilian evangelical composer, Atilano Muradas. Atilano played the *cavaquinho*, a small guitar which is typical of musical ensembles that accompany many kinds of samba. Its distinctive high-pitched strumming added an authentic coloration and rhythmic texture for the performance at GCOMM.

Words to Amparo ('Help' or 'Shelter')  
Portuguese Words by William Edwin Entzminger  
English Adaptation by Tom Avery  
Music by Tom Avery

### Amparo Performed by Izibongo & Friends © 2006 All Rights Reserved

#### Words as Sung

Break: Ai iá la... etc.

1.) Nas agruras desta vida, No descanso e no labor, Dá-me força na fadiga, E protege-me, Senhor!

#### *Refrain:*

Ó Jesus, vem proteger-me, Guarda-me por compaixão! Ó Jesus, vem defender-me, Sê Tu minha salvação!

*Break:* Ai iá la... etc.

2.) Quando o mal vier na vida Forte e rijo me assaltar, Meu Jesus na minha lida, Certo me há de sustentar.

#### *Refrain:*

Ó Jesus, vem proteger-me, Guarda-me por compaixão! Ó Jesus, vem defender-me, Sê Tu minha salvação!

*Break:* Ai iá la... etc.

#### Translation from Portuguese

Ay ya la... etc.

In the difficult times of this life, At rest and at work, Give me strength when I am tired, And protect me, Lord!  
Oh Jesus, come protect me, Guard me, by your compassion! Oh Jesus, come defend me, Be Thou my salvation!  
Ay ya la... etc.

When evil comes in life Strong and strident to attack me, My Jesus, in my daily life, Certainly will sustain me.  
Oh Jesus, come protect me, Guard me, by your compassion! Oh Jesus, come defend me, Be Thou my salvation!  
Ay ya la... etc.

3) When the storms of life are howling, Thunder crashes, falls the hail, Jesus never will forsake me, By His presence we prevail.

*Refrain:* Jesus Savior, come protect me! Guard me with Thy perfect love! Jesus Savior, come defend me By Thy power from above!  
Ay ya la... etc.

4) If the Enemy attacks me I can never, ever flee! Even if exhaustion wracks me Jesus stands to strengthen me.

*Refrain:* Jesus Savior, come protect me! Guard me with Thy perfect love! Jesus Savior, come defend me By Thy power from above!  
*Break:* Ai íá la... etc.

5) When an evil presence threatens Jesus is my guard and stay. He will always be the victor, Jesus' might will win the day.

*Refrain:* Jesus Savior, come protect me! Guard me with Thy perfect love! Jesus Savior, come defend me By Thy power from above!  
Ai íá la... etc. Ay ya la... etc.