

Our Home Studio Testimony!

From Esther

To Jeremy, Simon Peter & MM

18 July, 1981

Dearest Family,

GIJPM! WLY! Recently while making a tape & report of the work we have been doing here for MM, we were inspired to write a testimony of the Lord's faithfulness to encourage other seemingly impossible endeavours, as long as we step out by faith. So far we have been able to record about a dozen good quality recordings (please tell us if they're OK!) in our simple home studio. We really will appreciate so much if you have the time to let us know if there are suggestions as to quality & methods, as we have plans to do a lot more, as this area is really budding with talent, & we have scores of songs yet to go! Thanks to the miracles & inspiration of the Lord He has helped us to put together a studio which we want to use to the greatest possible capacity. Perhaps some of this can encourage others who may have the burden & vision to set up their home studios. It has been such a tremendous blessing to this area, as there are so many musicians here, some of whom have the time & material to record full-time. We have found by taking the step & pooling our resources that the Lord has added His blessing & help beyond our expectations. GB Dad for the Encouragement & the Call, & for the Fellowship Revolution which has blended our area together in the needed vision & cooperation. We want to share the testimony, & perhaps you might have advice & suggestions to offer that can help us & others.

Dad's call to the musicians ignited the burden for a few of us musicians, & we met together to share our songs & vision. GB Ho for his faith & fore-sight! He is a regular visitor of Hi-Fi & related shops & when he found a small, portable four-track cassette recorder for sale on easy time payments he took it up by faith. We had already learned by experience the snags & difficulties of recording in professional studios when having a lot of material to record through our experiences of recording two professional cassette albums. We didn't rule out the possibility of using professional studios, but for many reasons of convenience, cost, travel & the greatest "freedom of expression" we wanted to see if it would be possible for us to have our own home studio. The results have been fantastic & fully used for God's glory!

We certainly are in an impossible situation here, which makes us all the more ridiculous yet God has blessed & used it, an encouraging miracle! We are a large family of 10 living in two small flats, one of which isn't even ours now, as we're awaiting the owner's possession. Yet this very thing made a vacant room possible, & the Lord has helped us to hold on to this very temporary situation long enough to really get rolling. TTL!

Taking a very tentative step, Joey hung a clothes line around the walls of the room, & hung up blankets on each wall. Carpeting, with thick under-carpeting, cut out the apartment noises from below. At first we put a mattress in the outside door & window of the room, but we needed the mattress for a bed, so took that down, as we have from time to time some of the blanketing, & miraculously haven't noticed it to cause any problems. Though we realise it is perhaps not the ideal situation, we really thought it would be encouraging to others that the lack of ideal conditions needn't hinder their faith! The Lord has done the extra & helped! As we are in a very congested, prolific neighborhood, there is also a constant hammering, sawing, drilling & pounding day & night, yet the Lord has helped it not to hinder, & we haven't picked it up in our recordings, almost as if it is being intercepted!

With the room set up to begin, we were at last face-to-face with the technical unknowns. TTL I had enough bad experience with system producers & technicians trying to take our voices & produce sounds & music that were not of the Lord or representative of our spirits, so I really believed it was necessary to learn the basics of this art for the sake of our future recordings. With only that machine between us & the finished product, we really prayed for the Lord to give us the understanding & ability to use it for His glory. The operating manual was very concise, but I was a bit lost at first. I'm not a technician by any means, but as the Lord hadn't yet raised up another one, I think He used it to help me gain some very useful experience, & it was an answer to prayer, previous experience had helped us to see that we needed a working knowledge in this field. When there's a need the Lord can certainly use anything to fill it, Ha! Maybe that can encourage other beginners! The Lord really blessed our feeble first efforts, though, & eventually made it possible for a brother with the [redacted] ability & calling to work with us, named John.

His Delays Aren't Denials!

From John, Judy & Maria;

S. America:

"HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?" (Romans 8:32) Maria & Judy went into town to provision funds & air passage for a trip to another city, but after a whole morning of refusals, they were ready to go home empty-handed.

THEN THEY PASSED A MUSIC SHOP & DECIDED TO GO IN & ASK FOR A DONATION. Once inside, they saw guitars, one of the needs for our Church of Love & to reach children, so they decided to ask for a guitar on the spur of the moment. Well, it turned out that the Lord provided us with a much-needed guitar free & the shop owner even drove us home. TTL!

WE ALSO FOUND A PRINTING

CONTACT WHO DID 10,000 LETTERS FOR US, supplying paper, plates, & all, completely free! He was very nice & a cheerful giver, although extremely busy.

WHILE GOING DTD, WE MET A SWEET WOMAN WHO OWNS A SMALL GROCERY SHOP. She lets us come in as often as we like to take all the food we need! She said that since she doesn't belong to any church & doesn't pay a percentage anywhere, she can give to us instead!

SHE HAS STARTED WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES AT HER HOUSE, & we have been going, teaching everyone family songs which they love.

WE ALSO GAVE HER SEVERAL COPIES OF THE COMIC "INVITATION TO HAPPINESS", & she will hand them out to her customers as she invites them to Bible study!

ANOTHER TIME WE WERE PROVISIONING FUNDS IN OFFICES

BECAUSE OUR RENT WAS DUE THE NEXT DAY & we were very short of funds. It was really hard & after several hours we had less than 10% of what we needed. Well, since it was getting late & we had to go, we decided to pay a quick visit to a friend who could help out with canned fish.

ONCE IN HIS OFFICE WE DECIDED TO ASK FOR A DONATION INSTEAD, & he promised to pay the rest of the money due for the rent! Then he took us out to dinner, drove us home, & a few days later Maria had the chance to really show him our appreciation by FF-ing him--another victory out of seeming defeat!

IT SEEMS THAT SO OFTEN JUST AS WE'RE ABOUT TO QUIT & GO HOME, just as we are ready to give up hope, that's when the Lord does a miracle to show it's only Him & He's still in control! PHN(Amen!)

Souls Won Within China!

MORE NEWS FROM THE PEKING PIONEERS!

From our family in Peking: WE HAVE BEEN HERE NOW FOR OVER SIX MONTHS & THINK THAT WE HAVE A PRETTY GOOD PICTURE OF THE POSSIBILITIES & outreach you can have here. We are very glad we came & could have a first-hand experience of life in a totalitarian society. Even though there is a considerable relaxation now -- some years ago even the little we can do now would have been impossible -- you are still very limited in your approach to the Chinese.

THAT STARTS ALREADY IN THE PHYSICAL ASPECT, as the old Chinese tradition of separating foreigners is still in effect. Many people are still afraid of close contacts with foreigners, as those who had contacts before were accused being spys, etc. during the

cultural revolution, & there is always the possibility of a new political winter in this society that is ruled mainly by fear.

NEVERTHELESS, A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MORE BOLD NOW IN THEIR APPROACH TO FOREIGNERS. They have no positions or privileges to lose & therefore they don't care so much. It's among these that we have the best response. Two of them, two girls, got saved recently after we had witnessed to them quite a lot & they had visited us often.

ONE OF THEM IS A 27-YEAR-OLD ENGLISH SCHOOL TEACHER, & the other works in publishing & also speaks some English. Both of them have become quite close to us, are coming over regularly for

classes, & started some witnessing among their friends.

AS THE OFFICIAL CHURCH HERE IS REALLY LIKE THE "OLD CHURCH", full of rituals etc., we really had to emphasise the spiritual & what church really means. Our two other more recent converts include a dancer, the latter even being our first one FF'ed. However, we stopped that because of the risk involved for the guy, as a physical relationship with a foreigner, if discovered, would result in great trouble & maybe even punishment for the Chinese offender, while nothing would happen to the foreigner.

MUCH LOVE & PRAYERS.

From Esther

18/7/81

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The main thing we definitely needed knowledgeable help with, however, was the setting up of the equipment & its electrical connections. We were blessed to have counsel from some in the family who could help, but I would suggest if you're not sure, try to get help somehow, through a friend at the shop, studio, etc. & don't take the chance on ruining an expensive machine if in doubt. I don't fully understand that side of things, so we were blessed to have help & lessons from people who know.

So our little home studio was born, with the simplest of preparations, & I might add, people to work with! We probably were so funny it touched the Lord's heart, because He began really helping us out then in so many ways... He surely knew we needed it. Our dear brother John was soon freed from his system work to join us part-time, & then full-time, & he brought with him not only technical expertise but a good deal of valuable & helpful equipment as well. The Lord blessed in many ways by providing the funds & equipment, thanks to the faith of John, Joey & Maria, & Ho & others. Since then we have used the studio daily for musical recordings & video work, & it has helped to raise up many of the brethren to come record their songs. We're really so thankful for the blessing it is to the work here, & we hope, more & more, to MM & all.

Now that we've begun rolling, & others are coming to visit to do their songs, we're finding it necessary to book the studio time for more even distribution of time & opportunity. We're also needing to remind musicians to come for recording with their songs as nearly completed & planned as possible. Another help has been if the main musicians have a working knowledge of the mechanics of recording, so all recording needn't be totally dependent on our over-worked technician!

We're certainly a green bunch here, but we're finding we learn a lot from experimenting & experience, & listening! We listen to the MM music carefully for precious clues to technical problems, & would really appreciate so much your advice & counsel. Would you mind if we primed the pump a bit with another more technical report? We hope if we're concise enough you will be able to quickly spot what's wrong or right or could-be-better! We love you so much & appreciate your behind-the-scenes labours of love that make the music possible! (Amen! GBY! I know you could do it! PTL! KGPG! WLY!)

Love in Jesus,

Esther



Ho Family camp out last winter! (l-r) Ruthie, Ho, Josh, Esther, Caleb, Hocho & Aaron. Photo by Nene.



Ho in the office busy at work on the photo story of how the Mo Books were made. Photo by Ruthie.

T.V. Shows Hungry For Local KP!

KIDS BOOKED ON T.V. SHOWS WITHOUT EVEN AN AUDITION!

From Marc & Lydia; S. E. Asia:

PTL! WELL, THIS MONTH HAS BEEN AN EXCITING ONE FOR OUR HOME. The main reason for this of course being the children. The Lord has opened some real "doors that no man can shut." (Rev. 3:8) AFTER MOVING OUT OF THE BIG CITY here to a smaller town, we were mainly witnessing & witnessing with the children in surrounding towns & singing in schools & hospitals, which kept their spirits alive & working for the Lord.

BUT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WE FELT THAT POSSIBLY THE LORD HAD SOMETHING MORE FOR THEM & a greater opportunity to reach people. So after having new costumes made & some serious rehearsing, Shalam(8) & I went to the big city to talk to program directors of several T.V. shows, asking if the kids could perform. We picked 2 afternoon shows that we knew were very popular & had a big viewing audience. WELL, BOTH DIRECTORS REALLY LIKED THE IDEA & said the kids could get on the show. One of them even booked the kids on another show also, all this without even an audition! TTL.

SO AFTER REHEARSING EVERY DAY FOR 2 WEEKS, the kids & I(Marc) went on, & it really went well. PG! It not only inspired the local homes & families, but after the show a lot of people we met on the streets & friends commented that they really liked it.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SAY HERE THAT THESE ARE VARIETY SHOWS, & you just get to sing 1 or 2 songs with a short interview, so the songs really have to be chosen well. We had Psalm 19 translated into the local language, to the tune it's



On the set before filming: The daughter of a popular 3rd World singer(centre) appears with(l-r) Timothy(11), Deborah(10), Shalam(8) & Daniel(12).

sung to on the WW tape, & it turned out to really be a rocker. TY! We also did "Rockin Robin" with dance steps.

EVEN THOUGH THE PEOPLE HERE SPEAK GOOD ENGLISH, they really appreciate & listen much closer if the songs are done in their native tongue. We are also having translated for future shows "Everybody Can Be Happy", "The Hardest Thing", & "Why Couldn't There Be More Love".

AFTER THAT FIRST SHOW, WE FOUND THAT THE ENEMY REALLY OPENED UP WITH HIS GUNS ALSO, bringing in doubts, murmurs, etc., & the kids' practices were not as good as before. I got the illustration that Grandmother used about WW trench warfare & also the quote, "It's the witness the Devil fears!" So, after sharing this with the kids & praying & rebuking the Enemy, things went better than ever.

THANK THE LORD FOR HIS PRECIOUS LESSONS FOR ALL OF US about the warfare we are engaged in. It really helps the kids to see it too, especially now that they're older & the Lord is expecting them to personally fight the battles & not lean so much on the older people. WELL, OUR SECOND SHOW WAS

EVEN BETTER THAN THE FIRST & drew an even greater response from everyone who saw it! TY! We have 3 more shows coming up & possibly more D.V.(I know He is!)

ONE THING I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT MIGHT ENCOURAGE OTHER FAMILIES with children is that T.V. seems to be a wide open door in Third World countries, & they're really happy to have something new & inspiring. Like Dad said, Third World countries are very hungry & needy when it comes to the entertainment field.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO SAY THAT ALL THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE thru the Lord using many different people, fish & fiends, & especially Micaiah & Liz who have been so faithful in continuing to help support our work here thru escort work & FF'ing in Hong Kong & Japan. GBT!

AND ALSO, GB ALL THE MM STAFF & MUSICIANS who have laboured & inspired everyone around the world to use the media for our outreach. (We also have MM on 2 stations & hope to put it on more) AND MOST OF ALL, THANK YOU DAD for the vision that has given us the faith, courage & initiative to pioneer & make progress. We love you so much & pray always for your health & safety. (T&I GBY! WLAPFY2!-D.J)