

Videos-Potential and Future!

END OF YEAR VIDEO REPORT for 1980

Thaddeus

HO FIRST INVOLVED ME IN VIDEO 9 YEARS AGO with the black and white portapak machine, sending me all around Europe to make films. Now I have been involved with the VHS machine for one year and have seen its development explode over that year.

THE FAMILY'S COMMITMENT TO VIDEO has been greater over the past year and over the past month in particular than probably at any time in our history. To match it, technology has been developing to such an extent that by the end of Jan. 81, high quality portable recorders and cameras with hitherto unheard of features such as remote control, slow motion and cue and review facilities will be freely available.

THE PRICES OF TODAY'S EQUIPMENT ARE TUMBLING as new micro-chip technology cuts the weight, complexity and cost of production. The price of one Sony camera was cut in half overnight. Only a few years ago, it would have been considered out of the question to sell a camera for under £1,000 to produce a colour programme. Today it is possible to buy a complete outfit for less than that. Colour cameras are selling for under £400 and their quality is increasing all the time.

THE BATTLE OVER THE DIFFERENT TAPE FORMATS CONTINUES but we have standardised on the JVC system called the VHS. As the tapes are totally incompatible, this is an important step. The VHS system has approx. two-thirds of the video market. (And *beat*!-D)

DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFERENT BROADCASTING SYSTEMS to further complicate matters. They are PAL, SECAM, and NTSC. At the moment, most of our equipment is PAL. Whilst PAL and SECAM are just about compatible, neither is compatible with the American system, NTSC (otherwise known as Never Twice the Same Colour)!

RECORDING TIMES HAVE NOW INCREASED TO 4 HOURS on one tape - as compared to 30 minutes on the old Portapak reel-to-reel machine. Tape prices have dropped, too. The equivalent recording time now costs a quarter of the price of the old tapes and both weighs half as much and takes up half as much space.

Compared to SUPER 8mm, the initial outlay for the equipment is considerably higher with video but its running cost are very much lower. Quality of video is much better and the fact that mistakes can be immediately erased and corrected for no cost is a considerable bonus. The same equipment can be used to play back films - and there is much less risk of damage to the film than with Super 8. Making a long film is much easier with video. The latest cameras to hit the video market are aimed directly at the Super 8 field. They are identical in size and facility. Their price is still higher at the moment. Whilst both systems are directed at the Home Movie market, a higher standard and greater versatility is possible with video. (And much cheaper! \$20V = \$500 film!)

TO MOVE UP FROM THE "HOME MOVIE" STANDARD with either system requires considerably more investment of time, money and equipment. Here again, therefore, video scores over Super 8 with its lower running costs and higher quality. Whilst it is possible to do home movies with video, a little planning and some additional equipment can raise the standards of the production enormously.

the different companies about their plans, it looks as if the VHS system will continue for several years to come. Whilst its development to date has been very rapid, most think that it is nearing the end of its major development and the future will only bring increased refinement - reduction of cost, weight, size and components. Dramatic improvements in cameras are to be expected - with the introduction of a portable combined camera and recorder the size of a cine camera due in about four years according to present plans. This would still need to be interfaced with a more conventional recorder since the tape length would of necessity be quite short. (A Japanese company is producing one *this year*!)

BECAUSE THE VHS SYSTEM HAS SOLD SO WELL THERE SHOULD BE A NUMBER OF SECOND-HAND MACHINES becoming available. These are perfectly adequate for most Homes as playback machines but the recording heads could be worn - and replacement is expensive. Renting is a fairly expensive proposition and you don't own the machine in the long run. However, buying on time is an attractive method of buying, often costing less than renting. It is well worth ensuring that a Service Contract is available and insuring all the equipment on a "New for Old" Policy is also worthwhile.

IT IS WORTH BUYING THE BEST POSSIBLE EQUIPMENT first time. Cheap equipment usually works out to be very expensive in the long run. (Amen! We've already had to trade in some at a loss!)

WHAT THEN, IS THE FUTURE FOR VIDEO IN THE FAMILY? Firstly, who will use it the most? It appears to me that the VS's will gain the greatest benefit from it. As Paul wrote, they are "the eyes and ears of the King and Queen". If they were equipped with portable cameras and recorders, not only could they film the Homes in their area, but they could also film any Home that had designed a programme. This could be edited at a later date. They could also show selections from the library of films both of other Homes and of the System. Others whose faith and vision led them to buy or get funds from fish to buy similar equipment could be greatly used in the production of films for all aspects of our work. Thirdly, there will be those who may not have the faith for a filming ministry but who would like to be able to show videos for Family, Fish and Friends. This could then complement their witness - and they wouldn't even need to go to the expense of buying or even renting a machine themselves if one of their contacts had one. With the type of people most of our Family are dealing with, it is very likely that they would have a machine. Here the main restrictions would be the standard (PAL-VHS).

AS THIS MINISTRY GROWS, THE WHOLE FAMILY SHOULD BENEFIT most of all as our precious King and Queen are inspired by an ever-increasing flow of films from their children worldwide. The fruits of this would be the new wine - powerful new Letters to lead, guide and inspire us all. That is what makes it worth it all, knowing that it is bringing joy and happiness to them and new Letters to the world! (AMEN! Thank! We love'm 'cause we love you! KBARKY!)

(God is Love!), letting the inhabitants here know specifically who & what is this God they try to worship, & with the children's other songs & skits we've been letting the whole world know that Jesus is the only way to God!

SO CATCHY ARE THESE TUNES, that now when we sing in public we always find people who've heard it before & sing along with us! What a way to plant the seeds of the ultimate church!

DESPITE OUR "UNORTHODOX" METHODS, we have made friends with some of the local Greek Orthodox Church! - Those with a true interest in the lost, & the Lord has raised up some new friends, with much credit due to our children's witnessing sample, PTL!

KID POWER VIDEO! This week we completed a momentous task - a 1/2-hour MWM Children's Special - KID POWER! The actual filming took less than 5 hours in our Video Studio! Special thanks to Peruvian Manuel who initiated the project & whose determination helped see it thru!

THE REAL SURPRISE OF THE SHOW WAS "LITTLE THINGS", a children's group composed of 7 of our 2 to 4-yr-olds! What a bomb! And it's only the beginning! Dicon Spencer, age 12, served as MC, quite a feat to memorize over 70 "call cards", GBH!

THE SHOW WAS COMPLETELY OF & BY THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES - a full half hour of songs, skits, dance, poetry etc., with not one adult on stage, save for the appearance of "Mo Lion" during the catchy Kid Power theme song & the final good-bye! Please pray for the Visiting Video Ministry as it starts rolling, so we can feed all our worldwide children with these Shows!

IN THE COMING MONTHS,



Dicon, MC of KID POWER Video Show, receives excellent training in carpentry from our carpenters John Cloud, Chris & Tiras. Photo by Tiras.

besides continuing to work on our KP Shows, we hope to follow more of the Apostle Paul's paths with trips to Thessalonica & Corinth, visiting our local families there & bringing new life to the inhabitants of those old cities!

WE WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS TO DAVIDITO whose memorization sample has sparked a Memory Revolution here! From 12-yr-old Dicon's boldly quoting of Hebrews 11 to 2-yr-old Regina quoting Psalm 23, all of our children have been pressing in & hiding whole chapters in their hearts! It's also been an excellent occasion for the adults to sharpen our swords as we review Chapters with our kids, TTL!

AND OF COURSE, THANKS ALWAYS TO DAD whose continual messages help us to keep improving this whole MWM op-

eration! Quite a few new children's songs have been written & now "out of the mouths of babes & sucklings" we are truly "perfecting praise", not politics or economics etc.

DAD REMINDED US HOW "THE WORLD LOOKS TO CHILDREN FOR HOPE," so Lord help us to mold these lives in our hands into useful tools bringing peace & joy to the hearts of man. If you can help us & our children in this loving effort to reach the lost "to heal their souls & wounded spirits & to perform the music miracles that attract so many to our message about the Man," please do send your donation today to: MWM, CPO 220, Athens, Greece designated for "Kid Power".

We love you & are praying for you & are in this war together. Love, Abel Seaman. (Amen! Hal-lelujah! GBY! ILY! -Dad.)

WHILST LOOKING AT PRODUCTION, WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE VHS SYSTEM AND OUR OWN RESOURCES. In order to produce an epic like Ben Hur, you need a budget like that, too. There are shortcuts and savings that can be made, but nevertheless, it is not practical to consider making big productions on VHS. Even if all the other resources were available, it would be a waste to put it onto VHS as the standard and quality, whilst being reasonably good, are by no means up to broadcast standard.

BEFORE GETTING INTO ANY BIG PRODUCTION, THEREFORE, IT IS NECESSARY TO SIT DOWN AND COUNT THE COST. Is the end result worthy of all the time and manpower that would be needed to bring it about? Is the equipment of a sufficiently high standard to make a good quality result? What is the purpose of the production?

THE END RESULT OF A PRODUCTION IS THE SMALLEST PART. To make it requires a great deal of preplanning, practise, and probably a lot of post-production editing. All of this is not difficult and with the equipment now becoming available, is definitely possible but it is time-consuming. (Such as MWM Video Show)

GIVEN THESE LIMITATIONS, probably the largest production we could envisage at present with our equipment, is a powerful MWM Show. However, there is a great deal of pioneering to be done in filming individual Homes, building up films for PR, Children, Col, Witnessing, Education and Inspiration. One advantage of the video system is that these can be compiled in any order onto one tape and copied many times from one master. The quality does fall off after a 2nd generation copy, but, using the latest equipment, the disturbing interference between different shots can be almost totally eliminated. (Especially if you use "PAUSE" instead of "STOP" button!)

DISTRIBUTION OF THE FILMS means that a very much wider audience would benefit from the individual Home's witness and work. This could be made world-wide to benefit the whole Family. There are one or two drawbacks, however, to take into consideration. Firstly, Customs: Only by making it clear that the tapes are used personal tapes can we avoid tax. Secondly, the cost of the tape and the shipping is not that cheap - approx. £10 per tape. Thus, either the tape distribution is restricted to VS's and those who will give maximum usage to the tape or they are either returned or passed around like a Chain Letter. Alternatively, we could have a subscription list. The third point is that of copying time. As there is at present no high-speed copier, it would tie up two recorders for up to 3 or 4 hours to produce one copy. The easiest solution for this would be to do the copying overnight and in the early morning. This could yield up to 14 copies per week.

BY COMPILING FILMS FROM ALL OVER onto one tape, we could assemble a great diversity of material, in an edited and powerful form. Not many people would record 3 hours of material in a short period of time, but as they shoot a film, the VS's and film-makers could send their contributions in regularly for a Video Magazine.

LOOKING AT THE FUTURE OF THE EQUIPMENT, as the video world is developing so very fast, will equipment bought this year be outdated by next year? Having talked to the representatives of