

Starting With Small Beginnings!

MORE TIPS ON SINGING WITH KIDS; GETTING A RELUCTANT SINGER TO PERFORM!

From Job & Charran; Athens: **WE'VE BEEN HERE IN GREECE FOR 7 MONTHS NOW** & our whole family has had the huge blessing & privilege of being close to MMW, even living there for more than 3 weeks when we first came. It was life-changing! The whole unit is such a powerhouse of David's spirit! **IT WAS AN EXTRA SPECIAL ENCOURAGEMENT** to our family as a little singing team to see a first-hand example of other family singing teams. I believe the girls gained a lot of conviction & stamina from the experience & sample of other older children, & an important sense of really belonging to this beautiful & miraculous work of God's Spirit—not just MMW, but our entire worldwide family. We've all learned so much.

SOMETHING ON MY HEART JUST NOW THAT MIGHT ENCOURAGE OTHER FAMILIES is that although we have had this extra blessing of being here, we are far from being the gifted musicians at MMW. The Lord has brought us a long way in our little musical outreach, but we sure have come from small beginnings & have a long way to go. The folks here at MMW are exceptional in their field, but it is not at all necessary for either you or the children to be so gifted to do what our little family does.

OUR MOST FRUITFUL TIMES SINGING are when we are out as an entire family of 7, which isn't always possible because we do not usually take the youngest if singing at night. Our big family is such an eye-opener & door-opener too. While Daddy is busy singing with the girls, Mommy is busy on the sidelines. Actually, my job is watching & witnessing. Much like PFFing, I watch for the



Charity(10), oldest daughter of Job & Charran.

worthy & wait for the witness, & then try to really witness to those people most receptive, gather addresses etc. People are usually eager to meet me out of curiosity, to find out if I am really the mother of all 5.

PEOPLE ARE AMAZED AT THE SAMPLE OF OUR FAMILY, how we look so young & fit, our children so beautiful, how we manage to keep them so clean, how I manage to wash all of their long hair, & on & on. And these questions are our open door to really give them the answers & message, not only of the Lord's love & salvation, but of His way of life. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth & the Life." (Jn 14:6)

OFTEN WHEN PEOPLE ASK ME HOW I COULD HAVE SO MANY CHILDREN & "still look the way you do", I answer, "Why

it's a miracle!—a miracle of love!" It so arouses their curiosity, & I go on to share that it's God's love & that His joy & way of life not only heals, soothes & strengthens our spirits, but our bodies too. Of course it's all in the Bible & Letters, & we are the richest people in the world with so much to share! **SO IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A MINISTRY SUCH AS THIS** & you're a little nervous—maybe feeling you are all more like a pack of crows than a nest of nightingales, & the kids "seem sometimes more like goats than sheep," maybe this will help you to persevere a little longer. It is worth it! The rewards are tremendous & worth the effort, so don't be discouraged if it doesn't happen overnight.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS AFTERNOON

WE WERE SINGING DURING OUR WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP MEETING, & our camp neighbours, an Austrian family, returned from an outing. We decided it was a good time for the children to sing some German songs for them. It made them so happy, even moving their teenage daughter to tears. While watching them I was kind of pondering in my heart the miracle the Lord had done to make all this possible, & especially at how He had miraculously changed Lara, our 4th daughter who just turned 5.

AT FIRST LARA WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SINGING WITH US. Just about this time Job had to go away for a few weeks. While he was away I kept praying about Lara & how to encourage her. The Lord told me just to sing casually with her alone & to invite her to sing just with Mommy.

SOMEHOW THIS VERY SIMPLE LITTLE CHALLENGE SEEMED TO BE A KEY, & it turned her on. It was a tiny beginning, but a beginning nevertheless. Within 4 days she was singing right along with her sisters, but only at home, not in front of others. That alone was a miracle! She was so anxious to share the news with Daddy when he returned.

SHE WAS STILL SO SHY & sensitive, especially if she felt she wasn't doing well enough. We would praise her & encourage her, but somehow she had created a very high standard for herself which she felt she must reach. Again it required so much patience & prayer. She would sometimes say she wanted to come along & sing with us, but then back down at the last minute. We could see how much she wanted to sing with them; she just had difficulty in overcoming her shyness.

ONE DAY WHILE OUT SINGING I FELT LED TO OFFER HER A



At play on the beach: Christia(8), Dina(7), Lara(5) & Angie(3 1/2).

SPECIAL REWARD if she would sing. It worked! She joined her sisters & was thrilled to see the Lord could use her too! It was a major victory. In the end the reward she received was not very important to her. Her victory & the excitement of witnessing was reward enough! Little by little she gained confidence & only backed down on certain occasions. Then she went thru a stage where she would sing each time, but wouldn't last throughout the entire little "show".

THE CHANGE IN HER & the progress of our little team came in steps & stages. It wasn't an overnight miracle. We're still learning & improving. Not only the children, but Mommy & Daddy have also had to gain more faith as we've gone along, to try new things, new places & so on. The Lord is so faithful to use our little experiences & singing adventures to bring out important spiritual lessons for the chil-

dren. They are really growing up & gaining more spiritual depth & understanding. **OUR TEAM NOW INCLUDES ANGIE(3 1/2)**. She is definitely the "star", as I think the youngest almost always is. She still has a lot of faithfulness & responsibility to learn about her little ministry, but she is learning. TYJ! We are so thankful for this opportunity to work & witness as a family.

IT IS DEFINITELY "ON-THE-JOB TRAINING" for the children & such a powerful sample to the world. TTL for His Word & for the beautiful teachers He has given us, for Dad's honest & encouraging examples thru the letters! We just want to encourage other families to share their wealth with the world. We hope they'll read "What Is That In Thy Hand" & then do it, & watch it be fulfilled in their family. It is thrilling! TYJ!! (Amen! Look at mine!—A U! It's His miracle of Love!)

Harnessing Kid Power!

TIPS ON TEACHING & INSPIRING KIDS TO SING!

From Rebecca Caravan; Brazil:

PGI WYSLI GBY! I have a burden to do what several people in the family have already suggested & asked that we do, & that is to write out a specific testimony of our experiences & helpful lessons learned in our singing with our two beautiful kids, Katrina(7) & Michael(5 1/2).

OUR MAIN MINISTRY FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS has been singing with our children. We've used this means of witnessing in 7 different countries throughout Europe & the U.S., & now are being able to pour out thru music here in South America.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE BASIC THINGS WHICH HAVE HELPED US in training the children, as well as making it possible for us to reach many souls with the Lord's love:

1. **TO BEGIN WITH**, K. & M. had no trouble in learning the songs we sing, as they had heard them so many times before on tapes & from John singing them every day. This way the music was really natural for them.

2. **NEXT, IT WAS VITAL THAT THEY HAD A REAL VISION** which would set them on fire! This was inspired by the Word, & also by our sharing with them about the importance of the Lord's music to win souls & feed the hungry crowds. We also emphasised the blessing of being able to work together as a strong unit & family.

3. **IN TEACHING THEM HAND MOTIONS** we tried to find ones that really related to the words of the songs (a kind of international language), & which were inspiring but not too difficult for both children to do in unity. Yet we always remind them that it is the

Spirit that is most important—a look of love from the heart. We also made up little exercises to do which would help them get a feel for the motions, such as pointing with straight arms & fingers, etc.

4. **PRACTISING**—Always pray together first. We try to keep it orderly but fun & always happy. You can't expect them to pour out, full of life & love & joy, if you're not pouring into them! You've got to give them as much inspiration & spirit during practice as you want them to give to the people. We also teach them to line up in a straight, evenly-spaced line on their own, & to stay in that position, just as if they were on stage.

5. **TAKING THEM OUT ON THE STREET**—Since our outreach in each place we've been has been primarily on the street our appearance at all times must be very good, i.e. shoes well-polished, hair trimmed & neat, clothes clean & fitted properly etc. Whether singing, shopping or just taking a walk, we are on stage in the public eye & must continuously be a good sample. We have received numerous compliments on how clean & well-kept we & the children have been, & I know this sample alone has helped open many doors for us.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH WHERE WE BEGAN A 3-MONTH INVASION of the churches told us that when he saw our clean neat sample he knew we weren't just street-singing hippies, but Christians.

6. **THE SHOW—WITH THE CHILDREN IN THE CENTER**, & John & I on each side of them playing flute & guitar (& now Paul of trumpet!),

we line up after praying & explode. This is when all the preparation really counts. The children love to imitate & feed off of our happy spirits. We all share the joy of pouring out together & really burning free.

WE USUALLY DO A SET OF 5-6 SONGS, including solos for each child. We try to just concentrate on giving it our all & not worrying about little mistakes, but we've found that if we sense something really wrong with one or both of the children, it is better to stop between songs sometimes (depending on the circumstances & where), & talk to the kids.

THEN WE FIND OUT IF SOMETHING IS BOTHERING THEM, or if there is really a problem we work it out lovingly, & then continue on—rather than continuing in a bad spirit. (This can seem pretty hard when you've got an audience watching you the whole time, but can be a real testimony if done in real love & encouragement).

YOU'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT ON THE STREET CHILDREN ARE BEING FLOODED WITH ALL SORTS OF NEW THINGS, & they are so sensitive to it all; so if they don't understand something it could be really difficult for them. When actually on stage, or T.V. or inside a church etc., it is different & they should be helped to understand that they need to keep going & can talk about whatever they need to talk about after the show is over. There is usually no problem during a show however, if you all pray & are in real unity before you begin.

WE TEACH THEM TO GET THEIR HEARTS ON THE SONGS, & most of all, on the people—to really love & look at them, & even to find one special person to give an extra look of love to—& they usually do! Hallelujah! (PTL! GBY! WYU!)

Singing Is Shining!

MORE HOW-TO TIPS ON SINGING WITH CHILDREN!

From Phillip & Sharon Watchman; Latin America: **GBY! WE LOVE YOU & JUST WANTED TO SEND IN A LITTLE TESTIMONY** of our children's singing. We hope that it will be a blessing & encouragement to others with kids learning to sing for the Lord & others.

ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO, OUR SON PHILLIP(then 8) began learning chords on the guitar from various brothers in the family. He quickly wanted to learn more & learned some very simple songs of 2 to 3 chords, which obviously encouraged him.

MOMMY THEN BEGAN HELPING HIM & TAMALA(then 5) to sing them together. One Saturday, just to pioneer, we all went to a nearby town where the children "launched out by faith". Well, the response was a little slow but really encouraging, despite any lack of perfection, M.C., or even long repertoire.

AFTER SEVERAL MORE MONTHS (JUST A LITTLE HOME REHEARSAL), we taught Tamala how to get up & announce herself, giving her age, nationality, & the reason for playing. She would also invite people to receive lit & help our work.

WE ALWAYS HAD A PRETTY KNITTED BAG IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN with some "starting change" (or bills, depending on the audience) to give people the hint. Soon we had songs in several languages also to add spice & interest. **SO, GRADUALLY WE BUILT UP FROM THIS & BECAME MORE AWARE WHAT SONGS TO PLAY** & where & with whom. Some songs were strictly about Jesus, while others were beautiful love songs which would often move people to tears. And others were just lively ones to start things up & keep them rolling along. PTL!

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF



PIONEERING IN THE CARIBBEAN, it became apparent that the children's singing ministry is our main witness & door opener to get out the Word as well as the financial help we needed along with our mail ministry.

WE SOON GOT TO SING OVER THE RADIO, with the children giving interviews, & we even dramatised Mo Letters like "Don Quixote" & "Rock in the Road". We also were going DTD & provisioning in shops & factories, & we sang for visitors, in hotels & at lunch-time in restaurants.

WE EVEN STOLE THE WHOLE SHOW AT THE Hilton Hotel in Trinidad, with people standing up to applaud, & as a result we were offered a contract there & a T.V. interview. TYJ! "A little child shall lead them!"

THERE WERE SOME TIMES WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE REALLY OFF & no one got turned on. But we tried to always encourage them in the Spirit with quotes & specific Komik like "Glamour or Glory", "Sock it to Me" & other appropriate rewards.

WE WERE ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO GIVE THEM OR HELP THEM CHOOSE A SHINER PRIZE AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY after they did well & sang from their hearts. We don't necessarily believe that they have the best voices, but as long as they are doing their best for Jesus we are all happy about it, & the Lord of course really blesses it. TYJ!

PRAYER POWER IS A REAL

KEY. One night we all got together after reading the Komik "Ghosts", & the kids each prayed for spirit helpers to help them in their singing ministry. Immediately after this we saw a real change in them with more boldness & conviction as well as fruit among the people for whom we sang.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT THING IS THAT SOMETIMES THE LORD SEEMS TO TEST OUR FAITH by having us sing for someone who may request a song but just seems like "nobody from nowhere", but we have always found that as long as we were willing to try to love everyone along the way, then the Lord really gave us greater victories.

BECAUSE IT BECAME THEIR MINISTRY, we started to feed the kids from different letters such as "Shrick" and "Greater Victories" to show them their responsibility to the Lord & souls. At the same time we tried to never push them when they were too tired, & also to make sure that they had sufficient breaks, & Word & recreation each time we went out. This helped their singing stay fresh & more happy.

IF ONE OF THEM DIDN'T WANT TO SING WE TRIED TO LOVINGLY PERSUADE THEM, but they missed some days & found out later that they no longer want to "lose their crowns" & the blessings of "forsaking all for Jesus & others!"

ALSO, WHILE GOING DTD, we have a neatly written card with their photo on it, covered with laminated paper. It introduces them, saying that they would like to sing for the person & are trying to change the world for Jesus, & it requests a gift to help with our work. They present this at the door along with a Mo Letter.

IT REALLY ADDS A PROFESSIONAL TOUCH, & going DTD has resulted in 23 souls led to the Lord this month. TYJ!