

Once singing became more easy for him, he could better concentrate on learning to play rather than sing & play simultaneously. I had singing practise with David & the two girls apart from guitar lessons, but at the same time had to make sure that Richard's guitar lessons always covered songs that were perfectly within David's vocal range & that he was able to sing well. What a victory!

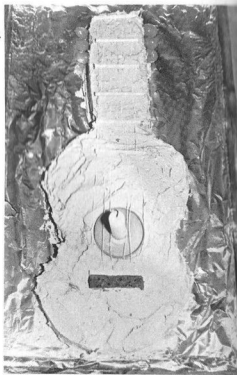
**LEARNING TO PLAY GUITAR**

**60. GOD BLESS DEAR RICHARD, WHO WHEN COMMISSIONED BY MARYA TO BEGIN TEACHING GUITAR LESSONS** in November 1980 when David was nearly six years old, worked out a 30 minute daily teaching time, stuck to the rules as far as Daddy's guidelines in teaching music & vocal range & pitch, & made guitar learning lots & lots of fun for our Little Prince! This should be a good tip for other Homes & parents who perhaps may not be such accomplished musicians themselves & perhaps do not feel competent in teaching guitar or music & singing to their children. --There are many other family members who are certainly capable of teaching & should be happy to share their talents with our budding little prophets!

**61. SO NOW WHEN DAVID PLAYS HIS GUITAR FOR US** or leads us in dinner songs, has a guitar recital etc., he seldom forgets to give Richard his due credit. "You know, Richard really put a lot into all this!" David will say. --As Dad often cheers one of us: "Three cheers for Richard! Hip, hip, hooray!..."

**62. EVEN WHEN RICHARD TOO FOUND IT SOME-TIMES DIFFICULT TO SING ON KEY WHILE TEACHING DAVID GUITAR LESSONS**, he just refrained from singing & simply strummed his guitar too along with David strumming his, & guided him more how to play chords rather than concentrating too much on singing, trying his best not to mislead David as he had been misled in the past! For further practise & just freetime play, David loved to try & follow Peter A. on guitar during our inspiration time, when "us girls" like to sing & dance a little right before dinner. This way David not only had classes & sometimes his own practise time, but free, inspirational playing as well! --All to the glory of God!

**63. WITHIN ABOUT TWO MONTHS, DAVID WAS VERY GOOD AT PLAYING TEN CHORDS** to various family songs, & although classes didn't always work out daily, he was usually anxious to have them & very excited about the fact that he had his own area to excel



Dito's surprise cake on his sixth birthday.

in, his own special talent being developed with the help of an adult male teacher--which Little David has always enjoyed!

**64. IN THE BEGINNING ON A FEW OCCASIONS, HE WAS VERY HESITANT ABOUT HAVING HIS GUITAR LESSONS** because he had his mind set on something else at that time--

another suggestion interjected by us adults, or a change of plans that had come up suddenly. However, if there actually was time for his guitar lesson & if a special activity was not planned & these were the reasons why he was hesitant about his lessons, we simply had to remind him that it was good for him to at least try to practise his guitar & do it for Jesus' sake, as it was a talent the Lord had given him that he needed to develop & use more willingly as a witness & for God's glory. This reminder always spurred David on to go through with it & he grew to be very enthusiastic about his lessons, especially anxious to try the more "fancy" chords that he'd seen Paul Michael or Jeremy play on the MMW videos. Ha!

**65. PERHAPS ONE OF THE GREATEST HELPS IN LEARNING THE GUITAR WAS A REGULAR SCHEDULED HALF-HOUR CLASS TIME**, always reserved directly after lunch for Richard & David to play guitar together. This way there was no interference, & because they didn't have to sing along with great strength & effort, it didn't bother their full tummies either. Davidito was then always prepared for his lesson at the scheduled time & the more regularly he had these short classes, the better he learned & soon encouraged he became to "stick" to it & to use his guitar playing more often for our inspiration times together!

**66. ONE HELPFUL CHILD-REARING BOOK**

is "Most adults remember music training as long hours of tedious practise, yet they wish they had continued. It takes stamina, imagination, & persistence on the part of the parents to keep the ball rolling until the child gets to the point where the music is its own motivation. Start gently with short practise periods, perhaps using token rewards which lead to a new tape, a live concert, a tape recorder or to some other music-related present."

**67. "DO NOT BE WISHY-WASHY ABOUT PRACTISE. CHOOSE A GOOD TIME**, perhaps in the morning before school when your child is fresh & when the music will not interfere with other family activities. Once your child gets in the habit of practising at a certain time, it won't seem to him to be so much of an interference. During the rest of the day, do not talk about practising, do not make him show off for everyone, & do not nag. But do keep interested & supportive. Make sure your child enjoys his teacher; if he doesn't, find another. Unless you get into really extenuating circumstances, do not give up!" (From *Help Me To Learn*, a handbook for teaching children from birth to third grade, by Mary F. Rice & Charles H. Flatter, a Spectrum paperback by Prentice-Hall Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, U.S.A., 07632. More will be covered from this book as well as other music helps in our FC Childcare Handbook Vol. II, "School Days!")

**68. BOTH RICHARD & PETER, WHO ALSO AT A LATER DATE BEGAN TEACHING DAVID THE GUITAR, LAID TO KEEP IN MIND THAT IN ORDER TO MAKE IT LOTS OF FUN & VARIED & NOT TOO MUCH A BORING, MONOTONOUS "CLASS", THEY SHOULD LET DAVID CHOOSE** as much as possible the songs he was interested in learning & that were suited to his vocal range & abilities, & even give him a few fast rockin' numbers



David plays while Techi dances!

such as MMW's "Rockin' Robin"--especially because Techi loves to dance to David's guitar-playing, & this sure kept "class-time" a hoppin' & a poppin'! David also had to be trained to look at the songbook & follow the written chords rather than watching what the other boys were playing & following them in mimic. This helped train his eyes to read the chords & play in time to the words in the song! Since learning new chords came so easy to David, it was practising his strum & reading chords from the FC Songbook (86) that helped improve this playing with regular practise!

**69. AGAIN, WHEN BEGINNING TO SING A GUITAR SONG**, David had to learn to play the opening bar of music so as to be able to pitch his voice to sing to the song properly & on-key. The first songs David learned to play on the guitar were, "I'm In Love With Jesus", "Standing on the Promises", "This Little Light of Mine", "All I Want To Do is Serve Him", "Everyday With Jesus", "The Wise Man", "I Love Him Better Every Day", "Be A Blessing", "Praise Him" & "When the Spirit of God Moves In Me, I Dance Like King David"--a favourite of our little gypsy dancers who always sing & fling their skirts in gypsy-style to this one!

**70. TO COUNTER-BALANCE THE LESSONS DAVID WAS LEARNING ON THE GUITAR, I HAD SINGING PRACTISE WITH THE KIDS AT A DIFFERENT TIME OF THE DAY**, as Dad suggested, to really strengthen & train their voices for singing. A few times a week we also took a little time with the children to practise playing the small organ. Perhaps the practise both David & David had with rhythm instruments & typing have benefited their musical talents with rhythm & organ keyboard, David especially having learned the very basics of touch-typing