

Official Visit To China!

An invitation for the Ho family to sing in China!

they had come for, leaving us with the mayor & cultural minister of the province.

From Ho: Hong Kong: PTLI—WE JUST RETURNED FROM AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA as guests of the "mayor" of a chief city of a nearby province. We were taken to visit the largest city in the province in which most of the people are engaged in farming or related industries. The "mayor" invited us for the purpose of discussing arrangements to bring the children to their town to sing in some live shows which they want to prepare. The government officials we met were extremely warm & friendly & open & looking forward very much to the children coming to sing.

THIS DOOR TO CHINA WAS OPENED BY A MIRACULOUS SERIES OF EVENTS. Michael & Deborah Christian gave a cassette of the children's music to their Chinese landlady who liked it & passed it on to her father who makes weekly visits to China on business to this particular city where he knows all the government officials & has many relatives.

THIS MAN PASSED OUR CASSETTE ON TO THE MAYOR of the town & talked to him about the children coming to sing in their town. The mayor readily agreed & they made arrangements for us to make this preliminary visit to meet with them & discuss the details. Those going included Esther, Ruthie, myself & Hannah, our Chinese disciple & translator. With the help of this businessman we were able to obtain all the necessary visas in only one day. Then he made arrangements for us to accompany him on his next business trip.

AFTER CROSSING THE BORDER WE FOUND 2 CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN CARS

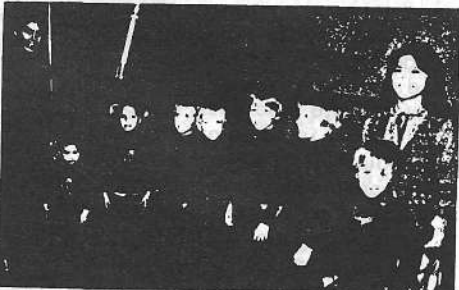
waiting to drive us to the city, over an hour away. After so many years living in the small enclaves on the border of China, it was a real joy to be driving mile after mile thru' the countryside of China!

ARRIVING AT THE TOWN IN FRONT OF A SMALL GOVERNMENT BUILDING, we were met by the mayor & some other officials. Inside after warm & friendly introductions & cups of Chinese tea, our business friends excused themselves to go take care of the business

OVER MANY MORE CUPS OF CHINESE TEA we showed them photo albums of the children's shows in Hong Kong over the Christmas period. We were pleasantly surprised by their very warm friendly attitude & the informal humble manner as we spoke together. The mayor's face beamed as we talked about the children, their ages, their songs etc. He said he'd like to arrange for some of their children's performing groups to sing with us on the same show, & he hoped that we would be able to give their children some



Esther & Chinese friends enjoy a luncheon feast provided by their hosts during their one-day visit inside Communist China!



Ruthie & Hannah with the "stars" of the show, the 7 children of Ho, Esther & Ruthie.

pointers on performing in this way. They said some of their children have learned some songs in English, & we said we were looking forward to learning some Chinese songs from them to sing. They said they would like our children to meet theirs so they can share songs together. The mayor said he had listened to the songs on the cassette & that he liked the children's music.

THE NEWLY IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. & CHINA & the fact that we are Americans with whom they are wanting to develop good & friendly relations were definitely points in our favor, & we felt that their bringing our children to sing in China in this small rural community was giving them the opportunity to experience on a small scale locally what is happening in the major cities with important American delegations.

THIS WAS ALL CLEAR EVIDENCE TO US THAT GOD IS USING THESE changing political circumstances to open the door for His children to bring in the love of Jesus in a way that the officials would welcome it & the people would have a chance to hear it.

WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT WHEN TO COME they humbly explained that the accommodations they have were very simple & nothing fancy & due to the fact that there is very little if any heating in the buildings & houses there they felt it would be best for us to wait until the weather warms up & is clear & sunny. They said they would like the children to be able to spend some days there & to be able to go swimming in the town's swimming pool & get to know their children.

AFTERWARDS WE WERE DRIVEN TO A LARGE RESTAURANT catering mainly to

foreign visitors where we rejoined our businessmen friends around a large round table to enjoy a delicious Chinese meal of many courses. At the conclusion of our large & lengthy lunch, our businessmen friends again excused themselves to continue their business, & the mayor accompanied us by car on a little tour of the city, then on a lengthy drive in the countryside to visit a farm where they were growing some special miniature orange trees which are so popular with the Chinese as an omen of good luck during the Chinese New Year celebrations. He presented us with a couple of these trees to take back with us & showed us around the farm to see the many varieties of flowers which they were growing, milk cows & even a fish pond where they were raising fish.

WE NOTICED MANY SMALL FARMS which seemed to be pretty much self-sufficient. They spoke humbly of their primitive simple methods, but which we could see were not a disadvantage. During the whole of our visit we could see that the coming crisis & oil shortage would have little effect on the lives of these simple farming people whose farms are almost self-sufficient, using oxen to plow their fields & bicycles as

the main form of transportation. WE BEGAN TO ENVISION WHAT A FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE FOR THE CHILDREN it would be to be able this summer to take them camping out on a farm in China! How wonderful it would be for the children to be able to escape the closed-in restricting situations of the city & to experience the simple life in the country with the farming animals & all that we enjoyed so much as children while on the Ranch! The people at the farm were very warm & friendly & especially interested in the photos of the children, as Hannah explained to them we were all one big singing family.

BACK IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE we finished discussing a few other details of the coming visit of the children. In parting we gave the mayor a gift of some more of the cassettes & photos of the children as we said our good-byes. The special way they treated us & showed us around, taking care of our every need, & the warm & friendly hospitable manner with which we were treated has inspired us with a new vision for the open door God has prepared for us.

BEGINNING IN THIS RURAL AREA OF CHINA with the more simple people will be a



Expectant faces of little children during one of the Ho children's benefit shows in Hong Kong.

very good learning experience for us, & God's blessing & prospering this beginning there is no limit to how far He could use this open door for us to travel & sing even further inside China, DV! PTLI (Amen) We have Chinese children too!—Dad. See No. 273.)

Caravaning News!

How one VS family does it!

From Zachue & Lamb & family, VSs in Europe:

Dear Peter, Emmanuel & Hannah, Paul & Marianne & all! GBY! WLY SOOO MUCH, think of you many times & miss you as we remember the nice times we had together. We wanted to write you & share some practical lessons we have been learning while living on the road & having this new ministry of VS'ing.

WE'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD NOW FOR ABOUT 8 MOS. & can't begin to count the blessings & victories the Lord's given us. He has really blessed us every step of the way, so we have nothing to glory in but Him, TYLI! LIVING IN A SMALL SPACE HAS CHANGED THE CHILDREN'S LIFE & OURS for the better, & has helped us to become more organized & scheduled, also because travelling involves quite a bit of planning ahead. We keep the morning for doing school with the children, giving us a good foundation for the rest of the day either to visit, write, travel or go out singing & witnessing. Having given the children individual attention, we as well as they are a lot happier & fulfilled. It also gives us more faith to correct or discipline them if they need it.

OUR DAY GOES SOME-THING LIKE THIS: The children wake us up around 7 a.m. & we have fun time till about 8. Then we dress & do our duties like folding sleepers, making the beds, getting washed & cooking breakfast which we usually eat around 9. After a short devotion & song, Mummy usually does clean-up while Daddy has

school brochures & materials, GBHI! Around 1 p.m. the children have a little rest, either in the van or caravan depending on whether we are travelling. In the afternoons the children fit into what is going on, whether it be visiting or witnessing. This is our basic schedule, altho' it varies or changes according to



Mommy does reports while the kids enjoy God's great outdoors!



Schooltime on the road for Etollie, Melody & Ivan. Hebron's school kit makes it easy!

the children's needs.

THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN A REAL ASSET in our activities & they love travelling & waking up in new environments, meeting new people & doing new things. We are keeping a merit chart for each one & they are so happy to receive stars. It also really makes them want to do better if they get a "black mark" which erases one of their stars.

OUR BEING MORE AFFECTIONATE WITH THEM has helped them to realise more that we really do love them. This has especially had a very good effect on Ivan's life (age 3), as he has become much more dependable & receptive, TYLI! Altogether, the children have become a lot more aware of our life for the Lord & often remind us to pray for certain people or to write to them. The Dito Letters & Grandpa tapes have been such a great help & living sample.

OUR MINISTRY OF TRAVELLING IS TEACHING US TO OPEN UP OUR LIFE & little family for our bigger Family, for which we are very thankful. We as well as the children love to visit new Homes & get to know the brethren, & it is so encouraging to see how the Lord is working differently in everyone's lives & how we are all learning to become more mature.

USUALLY AFTER 1 OR 2 DAYS OFF to do our reports & the Lord usually blesses us with a good place to camp in the country. While we write in the afternoon, the children mostly have free play, altho' we also give them projects to do, either finding certain kinds of shells, gathering wood for the fire, digging a hole into which Daddy gladly empties the toilets & other things they like to help on.

THEY ARE ALSO LEARN-

ING TO READ ON THEIR OWN the Ladybird readers which keeps them busy. In order to sharpen their mind & discernment we asked them to underline things in pencil that they have questions about, don't understand or think are not true. Afterwards we take time to explain these points to them or look them up in the children's encyclopedia.

A PRACTICAL & HELPFUL TIME-SAVER FOR THE CHILDREN'S LAUNDRY for us has been to have all the children wear little aprons at mealtimes. We have 3 sets of clothes for them at a time—one for play & roughing around, one for visiting, & one for singing & witnessing. This has really cut down our laundry quite a bit, TYLI! —It has also taught the children to take better care of their clothes.

WE'VE MADE A FEW HANDY ADDITIONS TO OUR CARAVAN which makes it more of a Home. We put in a 12 v. battery, as we seldom have 220v, to which we hooked up 3 little neon lights which give sufficient light at night. We can also hook up our TV & tape recorder to this via a simple wall plug. We hooked this battery up with an off & on switch parallel with the van battery so that we can automatically recharge it when we have 220v. Then we have put in our van as well as caravan a 60-liter water container which we can fill up from outside via a hose at gas stations. We usually fill them up all the way when we know we will be somewhere for a few days to a week.

WE FOUND THAT CONDENSATION IS DEFINITELY A CONTINUAL PROBLEM in the damper colder climates & some of our clothes would get moldy with dampness. So we decided to build a 12v. central heating system. This is a simple gadget which sucks the heat from be-

hind the heater & blows it by hoses throughout the caravan. But instead of the heat blowing over the floor we have it blow inside the spaces underneath the seats & beds as this is good storage space but usually very damp with condensation. This helped solve it pretty much if we turn it on for about an hour in the morning with the heater on high. We suggest that people investing in caravans in cold climates might look for one with double glass windows which keeps the windows drier &/or with a heater which has a chimney or floor exhaust, as catalysing heaters give quite a bit of dampness just like using a gas light. Also we found that having linoleum was very practical & easy to keep clean.

USUALLY CARAVANS ARE BUILT FOR WEEKEND LIVING IN SUNNY CLIMATES, but there are a few companies that produce them especially for going on winter holidays or even for living all year 'round. These of course are the best & also the most expensive. But if you shop around, check the newspapers, you can usually find something you like for 1/2 or 1/3 of the new price & still in very good, almost new shape.

IT MIGHT HELP TO CHECK OUT GYPSY CAMPS & CIRCUSES who might have some caravans for sale, altho' you may need to be very prayerful with them. Well, that's about it for now. WLY so much & please if you get the opportunity send our love to Dad & Marie & those there. Love, Zachue & Lamb.

P.S. WE WERE QUITE AMAZED AT THE REACTIONS TO THE DITO LETTERS, as some seem to make a big thing out of finances in order to do things with their children. But there are so many ways to get toys, clothes & other items—from the Salvation Army, DTD & also the church ministry.