

## REGGAE SINGLE REPORT



We began to realise a vision recently. After almost five years of trying to persuade Christian record companies to try the idea of a "have it for what you can afford" single, I encountered Andy and Linda James of Big Feet Music. They granted me free studio time to record a reggae single called "Does HE Know Your Name". Tony Cummings of Buzz Magazine produced it assisted by Tim Cochram, lecturer in recording technology at Manchester University. Musicians made themselves available and the recording was a huge success and a real good time on top of it all. Then came the job of turning the tape into a disc. Seeing as there are no Christian companies who have a record press it's a foregone conclusion that - no money equals no records. Despite approaches to Christian businessmen, no finance was forthcoming so we approached our bank manager with a proposal that, logically thinking, could only result in bankruptcy. He agreed to lend us £500 of the £675 needed. When a Christian builder refused to loan me the remaining £175, I began to wonder if I had simply engineered things so far and came to the conclusion that I was prepared to postpone things even though in my heart I still felt strongly about the whole venture. Then a miracle happened. On the same day that I had received the phone call telling me that the builder would not help, a gentleman whom I had known previously arrived in Birmingham. I was lunching at my local church. He asked how I was and naturally I told him everything that had happened re the record. He replied, "Oh, it must be for you then, how much do you need?". When I told him he counted the money into my hand. I cried. He told me that he had planned to come to Birmingham that day, drawing out from the bank only enough money for his petrol. On the way he heard the LORD say to draw out a further £200, but HE didn't tell him why. I wonder what I would have done in that situation. He was going to the bank at roughly the same time as I had the phone call refusing help (within minutes).

The disc was pressed in time to coincide with Spring Harvest, then another miracle happened. Seeing GOD move as HE had, the bank manager asked me, "How do you get Faith?". He agreed to pray with me and that is all we asked GOD for on his behalf. He became a Christian within a fortnight. Gifts began to arrive and within 6 months the whole overdraft was cleared, not as a result of sales but mainly by way of unsolicited gifts. Then something great happened, we were getting enquiries for the record from all over England and from Spain, Australia and from New Zealand. Gradually pink cards began to return- these are included with every single so that anyone who has their faith in JESUS stimulated can write, postpaid, for some free Gospel literature. Who knows how many people have found the LORD from these responses. Furthermore, because there is a non-restrictive copyright, people are

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at liberty to copy the disc as much as they want, so who knows how many copies exist? One of the greatest blessings this venture has produced was to hear my house group leader tell me that he heard a Rastafrian playing it on a portable tape machine one day. None of us knows where he taped it from, but who cares- he is hearing the WORD of GOD and that is all we want to achieve - anything else is a bonus.

As a further testimony to the venture, in 1988 I took a friend to Germany. He was moving out there permanently. Having a free boat ticket for the return journey and having the desire to see people at Y.W.A.M. in Holland I called into Amsterdam making a sort of round trip. There I picked up a young guy who had been working with Jackie Pullinger and the Triad heroin addicts in the Walled City; his summer of service was finished, and he was bound for Basingstoke. I picked him up and he apologised in advance saying that he probably could not talk to us because he had said approximately one word every fifteen minutes on average for the last six months. (He then proceeded to talk non-stop for the next one and a half hours telling us of the fantastic miracles he had seen GOD perform in Hong Kong). When he slowed down, we asked him questions about other aspects of life including TV radio and music that was available. He told us about all the English and American stuff that was avidly watched and listened to - "just the same as home" he said, "All apart from one record done by a guy called Roly, a reggae record that they use at Jackie Pullinger's place to play to the brothers, as we call them, called "Does HE Know Your Name". He proceeded to explain to me how it was no fixed price and copyright free. When I told him that was me, after a 10 second burst of incredulity he shut up and fell asleep. I tell you that there isn't a royalties cheque in the world that could buy the pleasure I experienced at that moment.

I think GOD is amazing.