

Year of Purpose & Destiny

January - 2011

Thank You!

We would first of all like to thank all our supporters for their generosity both in finances and prayers!

This has been an awesome year and we anticipate 2011 with all that God has planned for Beracah Music and the Thompson Family

Happy Christmas & Happy New Year to all our supporters & friends

Please continue to pray for God's wisdom as we undertake some wonderful new projects – some of which we will share throughout the other pages!



Our sister Ivy Walters went home to be with the Lord

On June 23rd, 2010 Ivy Walters, my dear sister went home to be with the Lord after battling with an illness. She is very missed and her strength was an incredible inspiration right through to her last breath! Her departure prayer being, 'Not my will but yours.' In her final days, she enjoyed listening to 'Saviour Redeemer' from our latest album. When we think about this song, we thank the Lord for her life and the beautiful place she now lives – Heaven! We miss you Ivy!

Save the Date!

Israel

1 – 9 February
Melody of My Heart - Chinese Conference in Israel.

Egypt

3 – 6 March
Annual trip to Egypt with Graham Kendrick and Band

China

April or July (Tbc)
Worship conference in Hong Kong or China





Vel's Box

2010 was a year of favour and blessings for us as a family. What I have enjoyed more than anything was watching my girls grow and develop. Lisha is now in her final year of college and Esther in her final year of junior school, they grow up so fast...lol. Our church family has been a blessing and I can honestly say I love living in the south of England ... (continued on page 3)

Esther's Box

Hi, my name is Esther and I'm 10 years old. In 2010 I received an audition letter for this performing art school called Gable Hall! There were three categories. There was music, drama and dance. My parents picked music because I sing a lot. So on November 13th I went to Gable Hall to do my audition. I was very glad that one of my friends from my school (St. Joseph) was there so I wasn't really lonely but I did make friends there... (continued on page 3)

Thompsons

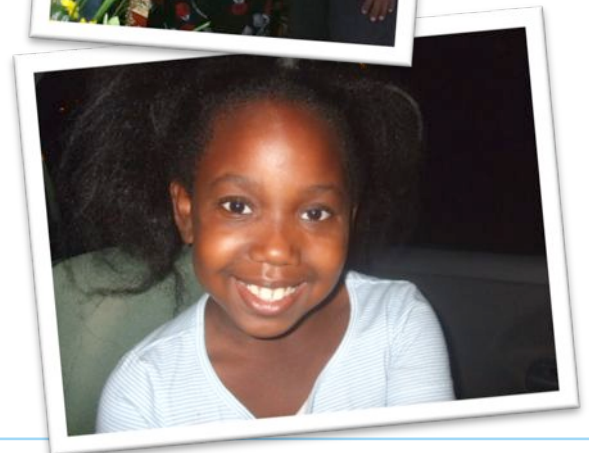
We are thankful that our girls are both doing really well in school and college respectively. They continue to develop in their music as well

Our parents

This season, it has been very important to spend time with our parents (inset: Mum Thompson, Velveta & Esther). There is nothing like good ole home cooking. Velisha & Esther still enjoy the many stories of our upbringing! We thank our parents for the awesome legacy they have passed on to us.

Steve's Box

I continue to balance my time serving my local church, City Gates Christian Centre, travelling via Beracah Music ministry and enjoying as much time with my parents who now reside in the United Kingdom.





2009 we celebrate with our eldest daughter Prom night

Velveta continues

I have been involved in several ministries in our church, which includes Worship leading (my passion). Serving with Julia Derbyshire on the City Woman team has been so fulfilling with several breakthroughs throughout the year. Steve has been my rock more so as my health has suffered challenges. He has supported, encouraged, stood by, upheld, and loved me through our whole marriage and for this I honour and continue to crown him as my king -



In conclusion, I am very happy and fulfilled in this season. I have learned to sit back and completely trust God in all things and I have seen and felt the sweat-less results.

.... Esther continues

I felt really confident. When I got there I was surprised that I wasn't nervous! Oh, sorry I forgot to tell you what song I sang! Well I sang 'Halo' by Beyoncé and my audition went superb!!! I was very proud about it. So the head teacher told my parents that I find out in January if I get into Gable Hall. So please pray for me. Thank you for reading.

God bless.

Esther

Velisha is now in her final year of college and is looking for the right university to pursue her further studies. She also continues to lead worship for the City Gates Youth team!



Worship School in Asia

Kingdom Ministries, Beracah Music & Melody of My Heart joins arms ...

Plans are underway to establish a worship school in Asia – the vision is to encourage the multiple worship teams within China to prepare for the next generation of musicians and singers

Please continue to pray for wisdom, boldness and open doors. There is a hunger to understand other creative ways to worship using the voice and instruments. Also, we believe this is the season for Chinese musicians to explore the usage of ancient Chinese instruments in worship!

Latest activities

Recent trip to China

During a visit to Hong Kong, whilst working with some very special people, Steve was presented with some special rare Olympic medals from China! Only 1000 sets were made! Steve is so 'chuffed' with this gift! Beracah Music continues to enjoy sowing, learning and developing Chinese musicians and singers.



South Africa

Steve and Vel recently made a return trip to South Africa where they led worship at the Global Outreach annual conference. At the end of the conference, they had the privilege of spending an evening with some of their old South African friends from Rhema Church, where they served for a season, producing several of their albums.



Re-kindling friendships

This has been quite a significant year for the Thompsons as they continue to rekindle old friendships (inset: Lara Martin & Velveta). In particular, that of John & Lara Martin. (former worship leaders at Abundant Life Centre, Bradford where Steve & Vel also served for a season). Their friendship spans quite a few years!



Mum & Dad McGregor Anniversary

Velveta's parent celebrates their 50th wedding Anniversary. The entire family met at a restaurant to celebrate this awesome achievement. At the end of the meal, the family presented Mr & Mrs McGregor with a Mediterranean cruise. They had an awesome evening as they did a great holiday.

Future plans for 2011

New Chinese album

We are so thankful for the many friends and partners that have so generously supported Beracah Music International as they continue to provide free music and training to the Chinese Community. Most recently, Steve travelled to Hong Kong to commence a new album for some young Chinese musicians - 'C4' as they are now nicknamed.

As Steve relays, '..... *What an awesome privilege and opportunity to serve these musicians with the experience and resources we have so readily available. We are now in need of a new mac desktop computer to complete the heavy load of projects...*'

The album for 'C4' will be completed in 2011. At present we, along with the other sponsors are raising funds to cover the final mix of the project.

Idea for a New Worship Academy

Beracah Music is presently in the middle of strategic discussions about the possibility of facilitating formal training on Theology, Music & Worship. The basic idea is that several specialized modules will be taught in the Chinese communities in China, USA and possibly the United Kingdom. More information to follow as the project discussion is still very embryonic.

London School of Theology

After teaching as a visiting lecturer at London School of Theology (LST) for the last 15 years, Steve has now accepted the position as staff lecturer on Contemporary worship – part of a

new Theology, Worship & Music BA course.

Residential Music school for Children

CASEx (Creative Art School of Excellence), a training school for children birthed out of City Gates Christian Centre, continues to develop. In August, CASEx will be running a residential school for a week – to be held at London School of Theology, where we have access to the many rooms and equipment. The school will be for children from the age of 7 – 17 years old! (More details to follow on the City Gates web site).

Our Children

2011 is quite a significant year as Velisha starts university and Esther starts high school. They are both very excited about their future studies.

Second Album launch in Israel

Steve and Vel will be travelling to Israel on 1 – 9 February for the annual Chinese conference, which has doubled in attendance. Hosted by, Melody of My Heart! Beracah Music has been asked to do another official launch of the album, 'Living Waters'. Velveta will join Steve later on during the trip as the girls are still in school and college respectively.

Work with Graham Kendrick

After over 24 years, Steve & Vel continue to work with their friend and mentor Graham Kendrick. In 2011 they will travel with him to **Egypt, France, Denmark** and possibly **Singapore**. They had the privilege of joining the Kendricks family at the marriage of their second daughter, Aimee!

A great year lies ahead!

BMI Prayer & Financial Support



We truly do appreciate all the financial support and prayers throughout 2010 and we know many of you have sacrificed in your giving (even through the recession). But, our Heavenly Father has provided the finances needed to continue our work throughout the

nations. Thank you for sharing in this awesome season of breakthrough and blessings as it is all about the many lives, daily coming into the Kingdom of God.

Thank you!

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