



Picture taken by the Rev. George A. Scott of an **XMHD bilingual programme** – one side Chinese, one side English.

XMHD - CHINA

Radio station XMHD was built in Shanghai, China, in about 1936. After the Japanese occupation, it went on the air again in 1946 until the Communists finally closed it down in 1949. The station was largely financed by a wealthy Chinese business man who had envisioned building small stations all across China, but was curtailed in his activities by the Communists.

While awaiting his last trial before the Communists, this remarkable man of God was taken home by his Master. Before his death, however, he had managed to send \$20,000 to the Far East Broadcasting Company, enabling them to further the construction of radio station KSBU on Okinawa. Today, KSBU is still broadcasting the Gospel to the Chinese mainland and a Chinese Christian's dream did become reality in spite of overwhelming odds. It has been said that this Christian gentleman (whose name must be withheld for security reasons) gave ninety per cent of his income towards maintaining XMHD in operation.

Mr. L. T. Lyall, author of "A Passion for the Impossible", and currently associated with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (formerly the China Inland Mission), recalls that the programmes featured by XMHD were very simple. Chinese Christians and missionaries were invited to give Bible readings, talks and evangelistic addresses. Some musical programmes were also featured. The recording equipment was far from elaborate. The station was administered by the Shanghai Christian Broadcasting Association.

The Rev. Mr. George A. Scott, home director of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, became associated with the Shanghai Christian Broadcasting Association in 1940. He recalls re-planning the English daily programmes. Chinese Christian leaders, of whom the well known Dr. Andrew Gih was one, were broadcasting regularly. The station also sponsored German and Russian programmes.

Although he was eventually interned by the Communists, George A. Scott was able to save some of the scripts he used for a thirty minute programme called, "Young People's Hour". With a small team of local Christian helpers and missionaries, the Rev. George A. Scott was responsible for several weekly broadcasts based on a book by the late Mr. Montague Goodman, a British author. Entitled, "Jack-Wants-to-Know", this material lent itself very well to broadcasting.

Christian books were reviewed on the air by Dr. Forbes Tocher, formerly of Ichang Church of Scotland Mission, under the heading: "Bookshelf". Mr. Kenneth Price of the China Inland Mission gave some talks on archeology under the title, "The Stones Cry Out". News coverage was provided by the North China Daily News. A weekly programme of classical music was also presented, thanks to a local musician who lent his personal record library to the station.

As far as the English programmes were concerned, listening response was rather meagre. Even letters addressed to "Uncle George, Young People's Hour" were largely from Chinese listeners. Some requests for literature, made available by the Bible House, were received.

Faced with serious transport difficulties (the studio was located in the fifth floor of a building), plans were made to move XMHD into the China Inland Mission's headquarters. This was just before the Japanese occupation and if those plans had not been providentially delayed, the invading armies might have occupied the premises of the C. I. M., since every radio station was seized when "Pearl Harbor" brought them sweeping into Shanghai.

Later, when radio station XMHD was finally closed down by the Communists, God overruled again so that the voice of Gospel broadcasters would still be heard behind the bamboo curtain, through KSBU.