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Ecuador to Australia

In 1956 my older brother Glenn (then 17) was sent home from hospital to die. He had a radio beside his bed. It was only a matter of time before he stumbled across HCJB's English session. He followed the loss of the five martyrs in Ecuador and shared it with us. (By the way, he is still alive nearly sixty years later!)

Two years later, I travelled to far south-west Queensland as a 17 year old. I was to be governess to a young boy on a one-million acre (over 400 000 hectares) sheep station, owned by the family of cattle king Sir Sydney Kidman.

I had no radio. The station men found a spare one and set it up for me, throwing the aerial high in a gum

tree on the creek bank outside my window. What joy to be able to tune in to HCJB. I was totally isolated from any other Christian fellowship for eight months; the only adult who did not drink alcohol or swear. When I was leaving, I learnt that they had all given me three to six months to become like them. Thanks to the sustaining power of our God, I didn't!

Marilou McCully and Marj Saint conducted a program sharing letters from listeners. I wrote, and one afternoon they started on my letter with the sound of sheep bleating in the background. Then Marilou played Waltzing Matilda on the organ, followed by Marj reading my letter. What a thrill.

Queenie Kilpatrick, Queensland, Australia

I was a keen shortwave radio enthusiast, and one night whilst tuning to foreign broadcasts, I heard to my amazement a very weak signal and some Christian gospel music coming softly over the airwaves, and the announcement at the conclusion, "This is Radio HCJB, The Voice of the Andes, Quito Ecuador," and an invitation to all who heard the program (which I had missed) to write to them, giving time and reception details, which of course I did. Some months later (there was no airmail or email in 1947) I received a reply from Clarence Jones, HCJB Ecuador, and of course I was delighted.

Barry Shackleton, Melbourne, Australia

I contributed items for 'Evangelical Radio Witness' in the recording studio at the Birkdale Radio Chapel (New Zealand). Harry Yeoman was our organist. All items and messages were recorded using reel-to-reel tape equipment. The tapes were put into a library and used at HCJB Quito as needed. When we migrated to Australia in 1969 we were amazed to tune into a shortwave program and hear me singing on one of the regular HCJB programs, and this so many years after I'd started recording.

Graham Cooper, Auckland, New Zealand and Queensland, Australia



An old radio receiver from the 1930s

I remember rushing home from the country school in the 1950s to warm up the valve radio – grabbing some biscuits and milk – to listen to the radio serials like Hop Harrigan, Biggles, Tarzan, Robin Hood, etc. This radio also had a shortwave band which I used to listen to, fascinated with the idea that the voice I was hearing was thousands of miles away.

After commencing work, I drifted away from church and became more and more dependent on alcohol and cigarettes. If I'd happened to tune into a Christian radio station during that time, I would have moved on straight away. At the age of 23, I decided to accept God's gift of salvation. Within a short time, I was tuning in stations on shortwave, stumbled onto HCJB and continued to listen regularly.

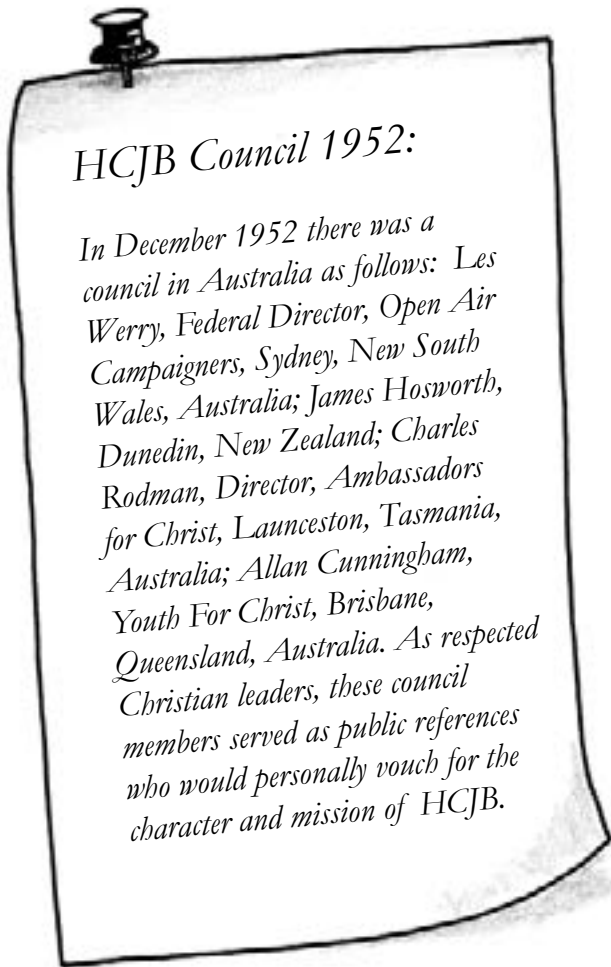
Ken Palmer, Adelaide, Australia

There is no exact date on which HCJB officially commenced a work in Australia. These letters are from just a few of HCJB's early Australian listeners.



At a Missions Convention over Christmas 1950 at Brisbane City Hall, Reverend Vernon Turner, a Presbyterian (later Uniting) Church minister and pioneer Christian broadcaster in Australia, presented a display featuring HCJB. Vernon was at one time program director of a very popular radio hymn-singing program called *The Sunshine Hour* which was syndicated to a large number of radio stations across Australia for many years. He later moved to Sydney as the owner of Radio 2CBA-FM. Carey Mansfield (a long-term representative of the mission) remembers being interviewed on air about HCJB by Vernon.

‘I can very clearly remember Rev. Vernon Turner claiming to me in Sydney that he was the original director for HCJB in Australia!’ says Carey. However, there are no official records to verify this. He may have been an appointed representative of some sort.



At the beginning of 1953, the HCJB Australia office was begun at the corner of Chambers and Randle Streets, Sydney, where Les Werry received donations for the mission.

In 1957, Bill Darymple became the Representative for Australia. The mission was then still focused

entirely in Ecuador, and all donations received were toward that work. Whatever the exact structure of HCJB in Australia, such as offices held in other parts of the world, its purpose would have been to spread information about the international work, enlist prayer support, recruit personnel for missionary work, raise financial support for the work internationally – or to put it colloquially, *represent, recruit and receipt!*

In 1963, Rev. J Amos of Latrobe, Victor Upsen of Melbourne and Dr Ray Wilson of Rockhampton were invited to become HCJB representatives under Bill Dalrymple as Chairman. Dr Bill Rowe was an early representative in Western Australia. In 1965 it was recorded that WRMF Inc had a desire to appoint a *‘fulltime HCJB Director during a visit by the President in 1966-1967 as the Lord permits.’*¹ John and Olive Shaw (who we will meet in later chapters) also became representatives there following a deputation visit by Barbara Baddeley (another person we’ll meet later) who had just returned from serving with HCJB in Ecuador in 1976.

‘I was keen to support HCJB because I had a cousin who was involved with Royal Flying Doctor radio and that had stirred an interest,’ said John Shaw. ‘I read about HCJB in *New Life*, a Christian newspaper. It gave the broadcast frequency so I bought a shortwave-capable receiver, strung up a wire between trees, and after a number of attempts, heard the word *Jesus* in all the static. That would have been in 1955 or 1956 when the 50 000-watt transmitter was operating. I got quite emotional, and still do a bit when I talk about it. Later, when we moved, I put up a higher and longer wire and could listen to programs on and off from the 100 000-watt transmitter.’ John started up three prayer groups who met monthly and organised deputation trips for visiting speakers from Ecuador, USA and Melbourne.

In the 1960s, a few years after he began tuning in, Ken Palmer was asked to become an HCJB representative. Ken confesses, 'I wasn't good at speaking, but another man had agreed to become a representative as well, so I was comforted by the fact that there would be another person who would do the talking and I would look after the technical and behind-the-scenes areas. I also knew that God would give me the power and abilities to do the job. But within about 12 months, the good talker went to Sydney to live, so I ended up in the position that I had been apprehensive about. This just meant learning to trust God more.

At one stage, I became afraid of the communist threat and hid everything that would show I was a Christian. I was listening to *Southern Cross Salute* and decided to write to program producer, Charles Gray (who we will meet in later chapters) about how I became a Christian. He read my testimony over the airwaves! So now I reasoned that everybody in the world, including the Kremlin, had the chance to hear that I was a Christian. My bridges had been burnt, so out came everything. It was a great freedom from fear.'

Getting on the Same Wavelength

A young man in Brisbane named Peter Uscinski (more about him in later chapters) had built himself a boat and equipped it with a marine shortwave radio. One evening in 1972 he was *twiddling the dial* when he found HCJB. This was a thrilling discovery to Peter who had only recently become a Christian and had no idea that missionary radio existed. He heard Harry Yeoman, a New Zealander working in HCJB's English Language Department, talking about Charles Gray who was preparing to leave Australia for service in Ecuador. Peter contacted Charles who told him more about HCJB and suggested he get in touch with the then director,

Cliff Nightingale, who lived in Tasmania. Cliff sent Peter a copy of an audio visual about the mission. Peter thought, 'This is very poor quality and the strong American accents are not at all suitable for Australia.' But it didn't put him off. Several months later, Harry Yeoman came to Australia so Peter and his wife Robyn invited him to stay with them so he could learn more about this organisation that had so captured his interest and imagination.



Channel 7 interviewing Harry Yeoman about HCJB on Peter Uscinski's front porch. Peter said, 'It was surreal. Harry had just finished mowing my grass for me!'

'Harry travelled a lot,' says Peter. 'He only travelled with one pair of trousers, two shirts and a change of underwear and socks. When he stayed with anybody, he would ask, "Can I borrow a pair of trousers while mine are in the wash." He carried his *spare*s in a very battered old briefcase. It looked like it had been through a train wreck. I had just bought a new leather briefcase so I said, "Give me that

heap of junk Harry,” and I gave him my new one. When he left, I threw that old briefcase in the bin.’

Harry encouraged Peter to go to Ecuador, take photos and produce a new audio visual better suited to an Australian audience. So Peter and Robyn made the trip in 1973. While they were there, HCJB President, Abe Van Der Puy, asked Peter if he would take on the role of Australian Executive Director. Cliff Nightingale was ready and willing to hand over responsibility so Peter paid him a visit to do just that. ‘There was nothing much to hand over,’ chuckles Peter. ‘It was all in two shoe boxes – that was HCJB Australia’s paper work.’

Back in Brisbane, Peter set up an office at the premises where he ran his engineering business. Lorraine Nosworthy came in a voluntary capacity three days a week to attend to receipting of donations and other administration. Loraine Roebig, another volunteer, helped out too. People had told Peter about sending donations to the mission and receiving no acknowledgement.

‘That was a terrible state of affairs, so we quickly set about redressing it and determined that every donation would be acknowledged with a personally signed letter within three days,’ says Peter. Other responsibilities included maintenance of a mailing list, newsletters, support of Australians serving in Ecuador, general promotion of the mission and coordinating the visits of overseas personnel. A strong network of representatives was set up throughout Australia.

Soon Peter was able to report with satisfaction, ‘The mission is prospering and giving has grown considerably.’ A solid relationship was forged with the New Zealand office. Under the directorship of David Maindonald, it already had a strong presence within HCJB internationally. There were 13

New Zealanders working in Ecuador in various missionary roles, including Harry and May Yeoman.

The two countries began cooperating in the production of *Wavelength South Pacific*, a quarterly newsletter. It had its origins in a newsletter produced by HCJB in the United Kingdom. *Wavelength* consisted mostly of international articles with a few about New Zealand and Australia and their workers.

When HCJB sent international visitors to the region, the strong links between the Australian and New Zealand offices meant a comprehensive itinerary could easily be worked out for them.

In 1980, when David Maindonald resigned after six years as New Zealand Executive Director, he was asked what future developments he envisaged for HCJB. David stated that he saw the need for world-wide expansion.

‘HCJB has been seen as the Voice of the Andes, Quito, South America and so it is, but it is also the World Radio Missionary Fellowship...we need to remember our ministry is to the world. It’s exciting to think that we have a part in filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.’ At the time, David didn’t realise the prophetic nature of these words or what a large part he would later play in making HCJB’s ministry *one to the world*.



In Australia, Peter Uscinski was involved in recording *Bible Adventures*, a children’s Bible story program, with Wally Guilford. These programs were aired on HCJB, TransWorld Radio (TWR) and Radio ELWA². Barry Cutchie, the Church of Christ pastor at Brisbane suburb Camp Hill, joined them in this venture.

In 1974 Peter paid for Barry to extend a trip he was making to the US in order to visit Ecuador. When Barry returned, he began assisting Peter in his administration of HCJB Australia for which, over the next two years, a board was formalised.



Peter Uscinski, Barry Cutchie and David Mairdonald at the HCJB Australian Representative Conference

In 1979 Barry took over the leadership from Peter and based the office in his Brisbane home. Barry says, 'It was a challenging role. The mission went through some very *deep waters* there for a while. And I was juggling my work as a pastor and my commitment to HCJB.' When the family moved to a ministry at Clayton Church of Christ in Victoria, the HCJB Australia office went with them and was based at the church. Barry acted as the director (part-time) for over ten years and at times was chairman as well.

In 1984 Barry Cutchie asked Cicely Tucker (who we will meet in later chapters) to become the secretary/bookkeeper one day a week in the office at the Clayton Church. Later Barry established the office in his well fitted-out garage where Cicely had the Cutchie's big black dog for company. He lay across her feet and kept them warm on cold days!

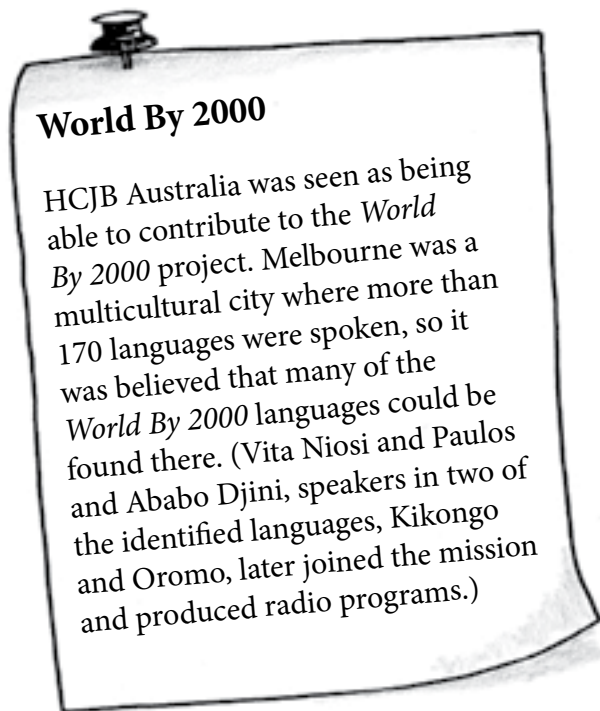
Cicely recalls, 'My duties were to type Barry's letters from a dictaphone, keep the accounts of receipts and expenses in Kalamazoo manual ledgers and fill out cheques for payment. Any mailings of newsletters I took home and the family helped me type labels and fill envelopes.'

World by 2000

In 1985, Dr Ron Cline, then President of HCJB, drafted a proposal he titled *World By 2000*. It was an ambitious plan for Christian radio organisations to work together. He and the presidents of Far East Broadcasting Company (FEBC) and Trans World Radio (TWR) signed a commitment to '*provide every man, woman and child on the earth the opportunity to turn on their radio and hear the gospel of Jesus Christ in a language they can understand so they can become followers of Christ and responsible members of His church.*'³

The aim was to complete the task by the year 2000. With the inclusion of Sudan Inland Mission's radio arm ELWA and the Far East Broadcasting Association (FEBA) it became technically possible to reach every person on earth by radio. By working together, duplication would be avoided and efforts made more efficient. The greatest challenge would be finding the right speakers with the right message.

A team of experts began research to determine which languages still needed to be covered. They identified 372 mega languages (more than one million speakers). A world-wide search for speakers of any of these languages began. Prior to the *World By 2000* partnership, 93 of the identified languages were being broadcast. By 1998 an additional 101 languages were on air and another 85 were considered adequately covered by other closely associated languages.⁴ Although the initial aims were not fulfilled by the year 2000, the commitment continues and is now known as *World By Radio*.



Australia's contribution to the wider mission of HCJB itself was growing year by year too. It was now one of 12 world offices. In 1985, a draft constitution was drawn up to enable HCJB Australia to become an incorporated body.

In line with its stated purpose of the three Rs – *represent, recruit and receipt* – HCJB Australia had been active for some years in sending missionaries to Ecuador (see later chapters).

Raising money for overseas projects was a priority too. For example, in 1979, \$5104 was raised towards Ecuador's *Project Penstock*. Penstock was the welded steel pipe, 120 cm in diameter, that would carry the water from the dam to the hydroelectric plant in Papallacta that powered the Pifo transmitters. Australia's contribution was equivalent to 54.5 metres of the 540-metre pipeline. Later \$25 113.85 was raised for a new antenna at Pifo. The goal had been \$25 000!

Soon fundraising would be directed more towards support of missionaries and projects within Australia such as the building of a studio.



In 1981, Charles and Val Gray, who had served as program producers in the English Language Department in Quito since 1974, returned to Australia, briefly living in Tasmania before settling in Victoria. They took on a major deputation ministry, representing the mission throughout much of the country. Programs were now being requested from Australia, so a small studio complex was built on the Gray's property in Park Orchards on the outskirts of Melbourne by Mobile Mission Maintenance (MMM) and volunteers.

All the equipment needed for the studio was purchased for half retail price by John Edmondson. John McDiarmid gave many hours to designing the studio, advising on soundproofing and best equipment to buy, and then installing the equipment. On 28 September 1986, Wendy Freeman (an Australian HCJB missionary nurse home on furlough from Ecuador) was invited to officially open the studio. It was debt free.

The first program produced in the new studio was *Perspective*, a 30-minute English program. Some programs were for local use but most were sent to Ecuador for broadcast around the world. John Edmondson became the first program producer, but after contracting Asian flu followed by months of ill health including glandular fever, he felt unable to continue. Malcolm Shipley took over the role.



Malcolm Shipley in the Studio

Looking for a Leader

In 1988, the year of Australia's bicentenary, HCJB President, Dr Ron Cline, and his wife Barbara visited both Australia and New Zealand, bringing with them Ecuadorian singer Rocio Zapata. Ron could see the growth within HCJB Australia and realised a full-time director was needed.

He recalls, 'I spoke with the former President of HCJB, Abe Van Der Puy, about the man who had built a very strong representative system throughout New Zealand, David Maindonald. The structure he had built was most impressive. David was very gifted organisationally. I spoke to Barry Cutchie about him. Barry met with David and came away willing to work with him. So, I asked David to take the leadership in Australia and move from New Zealand to Melbourne.' God had prepared both David and his wife Glenis for this move. They had taken members of their home group to one of Ron Cline's meetings in New Zealand with the idea that God might speak to some of them about service with HCJB.

Says David, 'Actually, it was us God hit between the eyes. On the way home, with friends in the

back seat, I said to Glenis, "God may have spoken to me". Glenis whispered, "Me too." Our friends in the back seat chipped in, "We knew that was for you." 'Ron had been promoting *World By 2000* and I liked the idea that they were doing research into what was and wasn't being done and what was needed. I was also impressed that there was a unity among the missions involved, and a sense of urgency about getting languages on air. Things were happening.'

Glenis had sensed a call to missionary service while attending a camp as a 16 year old. Over the years, the idea had been crowded out by marriage and family – until this night. She realised God was speaking to her but had thought, 'Maybe I won't tell David just yet. He'll want to rush off straight away and we have two girls still at school.' Glenis's picture of missionary service was an island with palm trees, a sparkling sea and antennas. It definitely wasn't Australia! They came to visit anyhow. David was reading Nehemiah at the time and the reference to Shallum repairing a section of Jerusalem's wall *with the help of his daughters* arrested him. It was unusual – and David only had daughters, four of them.

David was well established in business, they had a beautiful home, their daughters were settled in school and careers – and Glenis had just planted roses in her garden! It was going to be hard to leave everything that was so precious to her. A week before they were due to depart, Glenis was panicking, horrified. Then a letter arrived from a missionary friend. 'It just *flew into my heart*,' she said. 'My friend shared Psalm 139: 9-10 with me. "If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." As we flew out on a pearly grey morning, it was just like that. I knew God was going with me. It's just as well you don't realise how hard it's going to be though!'

David knew that Clarence Jones had harboured thoughts of Australia being a possible broadcast site many years before. He also knew that Australia's political stability and location made it an ideal broadcast site. A dream was born. Well, actually, it was born many years before but David had forgotten. His brother Eric had to remind him of a time when they were little boys playing in the back garden. David stuck sticks in the dirt and declared, 'One day I'm going to build a radio station.'

Their father suffered from tuberculosis. Mr Maindonald had bought a Hallicrafters radio to help distract him from his illness, and found HCJB on the dial. He became fascinated and, despite poor health, became a representative of HCJB around Auckland during the last few years of his life. Minutes from HCJB Board meetings at one stage recorded, 'We are impressed with the good work that Mr Maindonald has been doing on behalf of the Voice of the Andes'.

After his father's death and while still a teenager, David took over the radio and continued to listen every night. He believes that gave him a solid grounding in Bible knowledge. Experiences with Open Air Campaigners as a young man trained him in public speaking. An electrical apprenticeship and trade, followed by the running of various businesses, gave David further skills that God would use.

Now in late middle-age with hair showing a hint of grey, David still had a boyish face that often broke into a grin. A mischievous twinkle bounced around his grey blue eyes too. But as soon as David spoke, any doubts about his seriousness, commitment or zeal were dispelled.

After 24 years involvement in the leadership of the mission, Barry Cutchie stepped aside and David Maindonald became Australian Director. He and

Glenis moved to Australia and established the HCJB office in their home. Barry Cutchie became the mission's Chairman.

From the start, David gave visionary leadership and direction to the work. He was a hard worker and a driver of projects and people. People struggled at times with David's style of leadership, but in the words of Ron Cline, 'He was the one who made things happen, well, he and the Lord! Give him a task and let him go. I loved his spiritual dimension; he loved and trusted the Lord in an amazing way.'