

THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD IN SYDNEY

AN OUTLINE OF ITS HISTORY

By Robyn Kleinbergs (c. 1982)

1956	
14 April	The message of Almighty God reached, for the very first time, the peoples of Australia. The voice of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong broadcasting the Good News of God's coming Kingdom boomed into Australian homes. The "World Tomorrow" was one half hour program per week on 8 stations controlled by A.W.A.
1957	
	4 more stations were added.
1958	
	Another 3 more stations were added, making 15 in all.
1959	
12 Nov	Mr. G.T. Armstrong, Mr. G. Waterhouse and Mr. Frank Longuskie arrived in Sydney to establish an office.
13 Nov	They saw Mr. P. K. Harris, Superintendent of Country Broadcasting Services for A.W.A. By this time there were 12 radio stations on 6 nights a week.
14 Nov	First Sabbath observed in Australia by any of God's people from headquarters.
24 Nov	Acquired Box 345 North Sydney.
24 Dec	Office was opened on 7th Floor, M.L.C. Building, North Sydney. Mailing list was then 5,000 and growth was very rapid.
	Mr. Waterhouse became minister in charge of God's Work in Australia.
1960	
23 Jan	First official meeting of brethren at Mr. Waterhouse's home at 45 Coolaroo Road, Lane Cove.
30 Jan	First full-fledged church service in Sydney with 30 people (19 adults and 11 children) at 30 Martin Place, Sydney.
Feb	First advertisement appeared in the Australian edition of Reader's Digest.
	The office was run by Mr. Waterhouse and Mr. Longuskie.
	Mr. Charles Hefner was sent to dub the transcription tapes for the broadcasts.
	29 people took the Passover - the first in Australia.
	The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a full festival of preaching and Bible studies at the Australian Institute of Builders Hall at Milson's Point.
June	Mr. Tony Hammer and then Later Mr. Dexter Faulkner.were sent to help Mr. Waterhouse.
July	First "Plain Truth" printed in Australia - by Wilke & Co., Melbourne.
Aug	First Australian student, Gunar Freibergs, left for Ambassador College.
	First Feast of Tabernacles held at Builders Institute. 104 attended, some travelling 2,000 or more miles.

Oct	Mr. Herbert Armstrong visited Australia and as a result of his visit 39 new radio stations were added, bringing the total number to 48. Contract with 2CH ended and contract with 2KY began.
	Mailing list had reached 15,000.
	Mr. Don Abraham and Mr. John Churchland were hired and then Miss Noeleen Hack (now Mrs. Ian Canard) joined the office staff.
1961	
2 March	Mr. Gene Hughes arrived to become Business Manager.
10 June	First Spokesman Club started.
June	Sydney church had reached 96.
6 Aug	Mr. Waterhouse opened Brisbane Bible Study with 28 people.
Aug	Mr. Frank Simpkins arrived.
15 July	Mr. Tony Hammer started new church in Melbourne.
Sept	Mr. C. Wayne Cole and also Mr. Clarence Huse arrived.
	Feast of Tabernacles was held at Blackheath in the Community Hall. Attendance was 171, some travelling nearly 3,000 miles and many coming from 600 to 1500 miles.
19 Dec	Mr. Waterhouse left Australia and Mr. Cole became director of the Australian Work
	It became apparent that a small Printing Department was needed to handle some of the Smaller jobs such as office forms, envelopes, letters, letterheads, etc.
	Those hired during this year were: Ron Lyons, Glyn Davies, Kevin Lulham, Jessie Emmett, Bill Myers and Leroy Cole.
1962	
	First edition of the Australian edition of the "Church of God News" appeared.
	Baptising tours to Brisbane were undertaken by Mr. Huse and Mr. Faulkner.
	Mr. Bill Winner arrived to pastor the Melbourne Church. Feast of Tabernacles again held in Blackheath Community Hall with 330 in attendance.
Dec	Mr. Ted Armstrong visited to see the growth since he first came to Australia three years before.
1963	
	Baptising tours as far as Cairns by Mr. Simpkins and Mr. Don Abraham.
	Brisbane Church established
	139 took Passover in Sydney
	Over 1,000 letters received each week in North Sydney office. PT mailing list over 23,000.
	3,200 students enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course.
	575 attended Feast of Tabernacles in Blackheath Community Hall.
	40 acres of property purchased at Blackheath for building of Tabernacle.
1964	
	179 took Passover in Sydney

	Night to be Much Observed kept by 312.
	Building of the Tabernacle at Blackheath. Architect was Mr. Harry Smith (member of the South Sydney church) and builder in charge was Mr. Barry Dawes. Much work was done throughout the year by members, many travelling from as far as Newcastle and Wollongong each Sunday to help.
	Feast of Tabernacles was held for the first time in our own Tabernacle building at Blackheath.
1965	
March	First church in Newcastle.
	Petersham Town Hall became home for the Sydney Church.
1966	
	Australian attendance each Sabbath was 1334.
	Perth Church established
1967	
	Ministers in the Sydney church: Messrs. Wayne Cole, Don Abraham, Leroy Cole, Keith Crouch, Trevor Higgins, Gene Hughes, Graemme Marshall, Ted Tupper.
	Our own press upgraded to print Australian edition of P.T.
1968	
	Radio covers the whole of Australia.
1969	
1970	
1971	
1972	
August	Mr. Wayne Cole returns to the U.S. after 11 years and Mr. Dennis Luker succeeded him as Regional Director.
1973	
	Decision made to move and build own office at Burleigh.
1974	
Jan	Office moved from Sydney to a temporary rented office at Burleigh.
	P.T. circulation 150,000 per month.
	Nationwide newsstand program.
Jan 19	Two churches in Sydney - Ryde church and Sydney South church.
1975	

	Newsstand program continued through newsagencies.
	Printing of the P.T. moved to New Zealand.
Nov 29	Sydney West church established.
1976	
	Moved into own office at Burleigh after more than two years of planning, preparation and construction.
	Membership in Australia grown to 2,700 with 4,000 attending services. 30 separate congregations.
	Film presentations (eg. Herbert W Armstrong, Ambassador for World Peace) shown to audiences of invited P.T. and G.N. subscribers.
1977	
	Mr. Dean Wilson replaced Mr. Dennis Luker as Regional Director.
26 Nov	Mr. Ted Armstrong while visiting Australia spoke in Sydney at the Hordern Pavilion.
	Printing of the P.T. moved to Singapore.
	TV program on 50 channels.
17 Dec	Sydney East or Sydney Central church established.
1978	
	Public campaigns held in 150 locations around Australia.
	4750 attend the last Feast of Tabernacles to be held at Blackheath.
1979	
	Nationwide advertising pushes P.T. list to over 100,000.
	5,000 attend weekly services in 56 locations throughout Australia.
	Feast of Tabernacles held for the first time at Port Macquarie.
1980	
19 July	No Sabbath Services held and an Australian wide Fast for the Work in Australia.
26 July	Mr. Waterhouse spoke' to combined Sydney churches emphasizing that Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is God's Apostle and that God works through an organised system of government in His Church.
	Mr. Robert Morton arrived and became Regional Director.
Aug	Two churches established again in Sydney - Sydney North and Sydney South.
1981	
May	Mr. Herbert W Armstrong visited Sydney and spoke to the brethren at the Sydney Town Hall. He spoke of the difference between the true spiritual inherent life of God which is available to man through the Holy Spirit and man's physical "life" which is only a physical, chemical, mechanical existence like a clock wound up and running down.
1982	
	P.T. currently printed by John Sands in Sydney.