



International SHORT-WAVE

Compiled by KENNETH R. BOORD



THIS month we are happy to salute HCJB ("Heralding Christ Jesus' Blessings"), "The Voice of the Andes," located in Quito, Ecuador, South America, the pioneer missionary broadcaster of the world.

As the silver wings of Panagra flash over the heart of the Andes, one sees the rugged form of old Mount Pichincha looming to the north of Quito. On the lower slopes of this extinct volcano, the plane passenger sees one particular spot of green on which cluster several buildings and a radio tower. *That is HCJB!*

The visitor to Quito who takes the time to stop in at "The Voice of the Andes" sees abundant evidence of the present-day working of God. For HCJB is the outgrowth of a vision of reaching the regions beyond by radio—doing missionary work in many fields from one spot.

Here is the story of HCJB as related to me by Clayton Howard, its chief technician:

HCJB was founded in 1931 by two men—Clarence Jones and Reuben Larson. Mr. Larson had been a missionary in Ecuador for a number of years and had felt that radio could be of great value in missionary work. Mr. Jones had had a great deal of radio experience in religious broadcasting in Chicago, USA, but had felt a call to use radio in the mission field. While Mr. Larson was on furlough, these two men met and soon

found that they had the same idea. They decided to see what could be done about it.

As soon as Mr. Larson returned to Ecuador, he approached the Government there and was able to secure a permit to operate a station for 25 years. Immediately, a 200-watt transmitter was purchased and was sent to Quito.

The city of Quito, capital of Ecuador, was chosen as the location although it is in the heart of the mountains at an elevation of 9500 feet and is about 12 miles south of the equator. Engineers had advised the use of Guayaquil, on the coast, as they said the mountains would affect transmission and that proximity to the equator would also be a distinct disadvantage. Nevertheless, Quito was chosen and both reasons given for "not" locating there have since been proved to be of great advantage.

The 200-watt transmitter was set up on a wavelength of 73 meters (4.107) and the first broadcast went out on Christmas Day, 1931. For the small group of missionaries gathered in the living room which served as studio in the HCJB home, the occasion meant much more than just another radio station "coming on the air." HCJB was the answer to years of faith and prayerful vision. Fervent and sincere were the grateful hearts that offered thanks to God for providing and preserving the

fragile equipment that had been transported thousands of miles to bring to pass another chapter in the romance of modern missions!

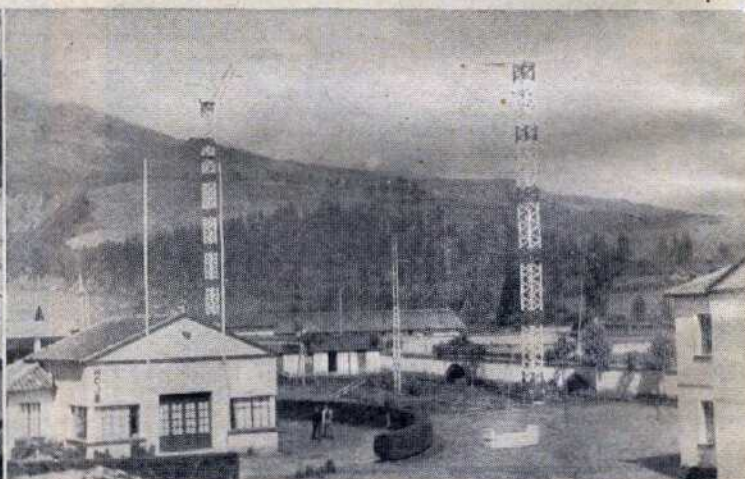
At that time, HCJB was the only station in Ecuador carrying regular programs, which makes HCJB actually the oldest station in that country. It is still the only station in the world owned and operated entirely by missionaries for the primary purpose of spreading the Gospel. Incidentally, at the time of the first programs, *there were only five or six radios in the entire country of Ecuador.*

From this humble beginning, HCJB has grown until it is what it is today. A station in the broadcast band (974 kcs.) soon was added to the original transmitter. In the spring of 1940, a new 10-kw. transmitter (12.455) was inaugurated by the President of Ecuador. At this time, the station moved to a new location (Inaquito) on the northern fringe of Quito. In 1942, a 30-meter channel (9.958) was added, and in 1943 wavelengths were added in the 19- and 49-meter bands (15.115 and 6.240). Just recently, 4.107 (73 m.) has been dropped, a new frequency of 5.995 (50 m.) has been added, and the use of 6.240 (49 m.) has been discontinued (at least for the time being).

In the meantime, personnel has increased from the two original families until now there are some 26 full-time

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(Left) Enrique Romero, one of the Ecuadorean operators, handling studio controls at Station HCJB. (Right) HCJB's transmitter building and antenna arrays at Quito.



missionaries on the staff in Quito as well as many Ecuadorian workers. In the United States there are some 15 additional workers—either on furlough or soon to come to Ecuador for the first time.

Languages have increased from the original Spanish and Quechua (the most cultured of all the linguistic stocks of South America, which at one time was spoken by an unbroken chain of tribes for nearly two thousand miles from north to south), to the 18 languages now employed (with others to be added soon).

"We are at present looking for new property since we are badly crowded in our present location," Mr. Howard explains. "It is our hope to be able to increase our power so as to get out even better. Rotary beam antennas are used on all short-wave frequencies although only the 15.115 and 12.455 antennas are regularly turned. We also operate a surplus Army SCR-299 radio bus with public address equipment, transmitter, receivers, and a 10-kw. portable power unit. This makes possible many types of remote broadcasts and special events, as well as publicity work.

Since HCJB is missionary-operated and owned, programs given the greatest emphasis are naturally religious ones. Many of the best known Gospel programs from the United States are carried—such as "The Old Fashioned Revival Hour", "Haven of Rest", "Young People's Church of the Air", "Lutheran Hour", "Back to the Bible", "Radio Bible Class", "Miracles and Melodies", "Word of Life Hour", and many others. More than 700 Gospel programs are aired monthly.

HCJB is also the Quito outlet of the *Cadena Panamericana* of the National Broadcasting Company (USA), and as such has carried hundreds of rebroadcasts of Spanish programs from New York. Particularly during World War II, many "Goodwill" programs are rebroadcast.

Although religious programs take pre-eminence, many cultural and educational programs are presented as well.

The fact that HCJB broadcasts are heard well around the world is proved by the thousands of letters which reach the station from listeners in practically every corner of the universe.

"Quito is a city of some 220,000 people," Mr. Howard points out, "and is located at an elevation of some 9500 feet in the heart of the Andes mountains, about 12 miles south of the equator. On a clear day one can see some seven snow-capped peaks from the city, really a wonderful sight to behold. The

weather is just about ideal, with the temperature averaging 60 to 65 degrees F. every day of the year. Corresponding to winter in the United States, we have our rainy season when it usually rains in the afternoon but is sunny and nice in the morning. Corresponding to summer in the States, we have a dry season when it seldom rains at all. Quito has often been called 'the land of Eternal Spring,' and Ecuador is often termed 'the Switzerland of South America'.

"Our relationship with the Ecuador Government has been very cordial through the years," Mr. Howard continues, "and they have often gone out of their way to help us. During the past Christmas season when HCJB observed its 16th anniversary, a decoration was received from the Ecuador Government in recognition of the service the station has rendered to the country. This was a decoration of Merit of the *Order of Caballeros*, the highest honor that can be given to an organization of this kind."

Languages used by HCJB include Arabic, Bohemian, Czech, Dutch, *English*, French, German, Greek, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Quechua, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Urdu, Yiddish, with more languages to be added soon.

Frequencies now in use include 974 kcs. (308 m.), 1 kw.; 5.995 (50 m.), 1 kw.; 9.958 (30 m.), 1 kw.; 12.455 (24 m.), 10 kw., and 15.115 (19 m.), 1 kw. The 15.115 and 12.455 antennas are beamed on (1) London, (2) Omaha, Nebraska, (3) California, and (4) Brazil. The 9.958 and 5.995 outlets are fixed on Omaha, Nebraska. Usually, two or more frequencies are used in parallel.

Normal daily (*Tuesday through Saturday*) schedule is 0530-0900*, 1130-1330, 1600-0000; Sundays, the same and also 1430-1600; on Mondays the station is on *only* 0000-0100, which period is also carried on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays (extends to 0115), Saturdays, and Sundays.

English periods are 0630-0800 (daily), 1630 - 1700 (Saturdays), 1700 - 1800 (daily), 2100 - 2200 (daily), 2200 - 2230 (daily), 2230-2300 (daily), and 2300-0030 (daily); "daily" means *except* Mondays.

HCJB verifies and is glad to receive reports from listeners anywhere in the world. Quito address is P.O. Box 691; offices are maintained at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, New York, USA. It is operated by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, incorporated in the state of Ohio, USA, in 1931.

As we take our leave of HCJB, *pioneer missionary voice*, we quote this paragraph from "Radio — The New Missionary" (Moody Press, Chicago), by Clarence W.

* (Note: Unless otherwise stated, time herein is expressed in American EST on a 24-hour clock basis; add 5 hours for GCT. "News" means in the *English* language.)

Jones, one of the founders and co-directors of the station:

“God’s bringing to pass that dream and hope which He had implanted makes up the remarkable story of spiritual romance that constitutes the day-by-day progress of Radio Station HCJB since its inception. *Here is a promise and a method transformed into a missionary radio station, flashing the good news to the ‘uttermost parts of the earth.’*”