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QUITO CELEBRATES 444 YEARS

There is a flurry of last-minute arrangements and then the curtain of the National Sucre Theater in Quito is drawn aside. The auditorium is packed and the audience is eager to hear the concert which is about to begin. The stage, which has been filled frequently by the National Symphony Orchestra or some internationally-known artist or group, is occupied tonight by the HCJB choir and orchestra. Eugene Jordan walks onto the platform to enthusiastic applause and the concert is under way.

This scene, which is repeated each year, takes place in early December. It is HCJB's way of helping Quito celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the city. It was on the 6th of December, 1534, that Quito was established as a Spanish city. Each year, and over a period of several days, Quito is in a festive mood as the anniversary is celebrated. This year Quito is 444 years old! There are parades, athletic events, and other special activities suitable to the occasion. For the thirteenth time, HCJB is presenting what we have come to call the Sucre Concert.

For several weeks during late October and November the choir is busy with frequent rehearsals. The group of about seventy singers is made up mostly of HCJB staff but there are some from other missions and some Ecuadorians. A small orchestra

made up of about twelve instrumentalists is also involved. Usually, two or three members of the National Symphony are included. A special guest soloist is invited to participate and travels from the United States for the occasion. This year's special guest is Suzanne Johnson, a well-known gospel soloist who has made many recordings.

The concerts are divided into two parts. The first section always starts with the Ecuadorian National Anthem and the Hymn of Quito. Then follows a group of songs which includes some of the great religious classics and other sacred songs. Many of these have been arranged by Eugene Jordan especially for the concerts. Following the intermission the atmosphere is more relaxed with music of a lighter nature. Several songs are always included from the many that have been written about Quito. Some well-known Christmas music is very popular with the audience. To round out the program there are some secular songs. As soon as the concert is finished, the theater is emptied and then refilled for a second performance. This is necessary to meet the great demand. Both times there is standing room only.

Eugene Jordan, who directs the choir and orchestra, has been a member of the HCJB staff for many years. He and his wife, Ruth, came to Quito in 1951. Gene is a talented musician and a master of both the violin and marimba. He usually performs a marimba solo at the Sucre Concerts which is received with demands for an encore. Ruth is a talented soprano soloist and a member of the choir. Gene comes from a musical family. His father was a band director who won many awards for having the best bands in Alabama. One of these trophies was presented to him by John Philip Sousa. Ruth's parents were also very talented musically. Before coming to Ecuador, Gene was a member of the staff of WMBI in Chicago, the radio voice of the Moody Bible Institute. Lois Hatt Vasconez, an outstanding pianist, was Gene's accompanist at WMBI. She later joined the HCJB staff and is the pianist for the Sucre Concerts. The arrangements for the Ecuadorian numbers sung at the concert are her workmanship. Gene and Ruth spend every summer in North America where they are in constant demand as special musicians for Bible conferences.

Each one who has any part in the Sucre Concert feels that this is one way we can show our appreciation and thankfulness to the people of Quito and Ecuador for the hospitality they have given us. Later this same month HCJB will be celebrating its 47th anniversary. For forty-seven years Ecuador has granted us complete freedom to live and work in this beautiful country. After last year's concert a critique appeared in El Comercio, Quito's leading newspaper. It was entitled "Happiness in the Songs of the Vozandes Choir." It expressed the feeling that all who participated in the concert manifested an outstanding spirit of happiness. The article questioned whether we were happy because we were singing, or whether we sang that way because we were happy. The conclusion was that we probably sang that way because we were truly happy. They were certainly right. How can we help but be happy when we have the opportunity to share our love for Jesus Christ with others through such a wonderful medium as that of great music.

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HCJB

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LOVE CAME DOWN

The tinsel and trappings of the Christmas season can easily blind us to what the celebration is all about. Christmas speaks of the Incarnation – the act by which the eternal God assumed a human form and nature and lived among men. "Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us and was full of loving forgiveness and truth" (John 1:14).

It was this mission of mercy that led him from the throne of the universe to a cattle shed and then all the way to a cross. "Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going

as far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Christmas is the good news that God in Christ entered fully into our human experience, tasting its joys, pain, problems, and temptations.

The purpose of the Incarnation is crucial to our well-being. "God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out" (2 Corinthians 5:19). In doing that, Jesus Christ not only took on our nature, he also bore our sins. "God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

And that is what Christmas is all about. It zeroes in on you at this point. The Incarnation took place in order for God to reveal himself to our understanding and demonstrate the length and breadth of his love. He could do that only by becoming one with you, assuming your sin, and dying for you. "He is able to save completely all who come to God through him. Since he will live forever he will always be there to remind God that he has paid for your sins with his blood" (Hebrews 7:25). As John 1:12 promises, to all who receive him he gives the right to become the children of God.

All you need to do is to trust Christ to save you. Then, you'll have a Merry Christmas in 1978 and 1979 will be a different year than you have ever known before!

DXer OF THE MONTH

This month we are taking a trip to the South American country with the smallest population, in order to visit our DXer of the Month. Guyana, with a population of just under one-million people, lies to the east of Venezuela and touches the Atlantic Ocean. It is a tropical land and most of the people live in the narrow plain along the Atlantic coast. Most of the country is covered by a thick, uninhabited tropical forest. Adding to the scenic beauty are several famous waterfalls, some of the highest in the world. Only a short distance across the Venezuelan border is Angel Falls, the world's tallest at 3,212 feet. Among its many resources, Guyana is a major source of Bauxite, the raw material for making aluminum.

Michael Lopes, ANDEX No. 2881

Michael Lopes lives in the capital city of Georgetown with a population of about 100,000. Georgetown is located on the ocean at the mouth of the Demerara River. This should be an ideal spot for listening to stations coming across the ocean from Europe and Africa. Michael uses a simple Hitachi TRS-5112W receiver-cassette recorder combination. He does his DXing with the built-in whip antenna. In addition to the medium-wave band, the receiver covers two shortwave bands. He is able to listen to stations between 2,300 and 22,000 kHz. In spite of the simple receiving equipment, Michael has heard stations in more than forty countries and the number is continuing to grow.

Michael has been interested in shortwave radio for about two years. He is a busy fifteen-year-old student, but he finds time to listen to his radio for two or three hours a day. He does most of this listening between 1800 and 2100 GMT. He should have a real advantage in being able to listen to Action Radio and Radio Demerara. Both of these stations are located in Georgetown and operate with fairly low power in the 49 and 90-meter bands. With the built-in cassette recorder, he has been able to collect about 50 interval signals on tape. He has also recorded a number of national anthems to help identify the stations he hears. In addition to DXing, Michael enjoys stamp collecting, gardening, and sports.

In his own words, Michael adds these suggestions for other DXers. "When DXing I always keep an atlas handy. This helps me identify the part of the world where the country I am listening to is located. Also, I use a number of other books to help me find out more about the world of radio. These books are on the table behind my radio receiver. A

book that I use and would recommend for DXers is *The Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary.* This book not only deals with radio and television but also with many other interesting topics such as architecture, music, geography, medicine, etc. These are helpful to DXers as well as to other people.

Michael Lopes joined ANDEX in early 1978 and this is the only club of which he is a member. His ANDEX number is 2881. We are happy to introduce Michael to our other ANDEX members.

THE IDEAL ANTENNA

By Don Jensen *Part 1*

What type of antenna should I use? How long should it be? How high? Indoor or outdoor? What about directionality? These are typical questions SWLs have about the sometimes puzzling subject of antennas. Virtually everyone knows what an antenna is. Many have at least a pretty good idea of what it does. It captures electromagnetic energy transmitted from a distant station and converts it into an electron flow to your receiver. Then, of course, in your receiver that stream of electrons is changed into an audible signal—the program you hear.

Antenna design is a complex subject. There are many books on the market, most of them designed for radio amateurs, which are filled with detailed instructions for constructing antennas. Because they emphasize transmitting antennas, are all involved with things like baluns and standing waves, SWLs often are turned off or scared off by these books. In fact, a receiving-only antenna is a whole lot less critical than one that is also used for transmitting.

What would the ideal DXing antenna be like? Well, it would be broad band. That is, it would work well on all, or at least most, of the shortwave frequencies from the top to the bottom of your receiver's dial. It would be directional and have "gain." This means it would receive signals better from one direction than from others, and that when compared to a simple dipole antenna, the signals from that direction would be stronger. Being directional, the antenna would have to be rotatable so it could be pointed in the direction of the desired shortwave station. It should be of a convenient size and, finally, inexpensive to construct.

That would be the ideal DXing antenna. And it doesn't exist! There are antennas that are broad band, directional, have gain, are rotatable, compact, or cheap to build. There are some antennas that have several of these characteristics. There are no antennas that have them all!

Beams with directors and reflectors, parallel elements fore and aft of the active portion of the antenna, offer gain and directionality. A look at your TV antenna will give you an idea of what a beam is all about. Then, consider that the elements of a 49-meter beam would be about 80 feet long and you can see the impracticality of building it, and the near impossibility of rotating it even if you could construct one. Coils make physically smaller beams possible, but still not too practical for the typical SWL.

Veteran DXers dream of rhombics, diamond-shaped wire antennas that can offer a maximum of signal increase, plus directionality. Rhombics are probably "out" for most hobby listeners. An ideal rhombic antenna for 60 meters would be well over a thousand feet from end to end and require more than two-thirds of a mile of wire! And just try to turn that baby around! Frankly, a lack of acreage precludes most SWLs from using antennas offering gain and directionality on the lower shortwave bands.

Reluctantly, but practically, DXers usually must content themselves with antennas which are broad band, are of convenient size, and are relatively cheap to construct. That is obtainable.

To be continued

MERRY CHRISTMAS

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PUT IT UNDER THE TREE?"