

GTA and the early Radio Church of God in Australia (author unknown)

On the 12th of November 1959 GTA flew into Sydney with Frank Longuskie [*later axed*] and Gerald Waterhouse who were Ambassador College graduates to open an office in Australia.

GTA obtained PO Box 345 North Sydney. On the 24th of December the new RCG office was opened in the MLC building at 105 Miller St North Sydney. Gerald Waterhouse remained in Sydney as the first Australian Regional Director. On the 30th of January 1960 the first church meeting was held at 30 Martin Place in Sydney. Other staff were soon added including Charles Heffner, Jesse Emmett and Tony Hammer. Later in 1960 radio [2CH](#) in Sydney, which was run by the Council of Churches, "kicked" GTA off their station so GTA returned to Australia in August 1960 to arrange to have the programme broadcast on radio station 2KY.

The 1960 Feast of Tabernacles was held in the Builders Institute Hall at 118 Alfred St Milsons Point and from 1961 to 1963 it was held in the Blackheath Community Centre in the Blue Mountains. Around this time Gerald Waterhouse was replaced by Wayne Cole who had grown up with Garner Ted. In August 1961, 28 attended the first RCG bible study held in Brisbane.

In January 1964 the weekly church services in Sydney were moved to Petersham Town Hall. Later in 1964 a Tabernacle was built on the site of the Osborne Ladies College in Thirroul Ave Blackheath after it was burnt down in a bushfire on 23-Oct-1963 and the Australian Feast of Tabernacles was held there. In 1969 another Feast site was opened in Perth. The Blackheath Tabernacle was enlarged in 1970. In 1974 there were new sites in Adelaide, Hobart, Mackay and Miami. The Blackheath site closed in 1978. The first minister to be ordained here in Australia was a Jew from New Zealand called Don Abraham.



Photo: (by Frank Clark) The 1960 Feast of Tabernacles at North Sydney.

By the mid 1960's "The World Tomorrow" was on 33 stations in Australia, 11 stations in the Philippines and reached South Africa over Radio Laurenco Marques in Mozambique. The program was beamed into Europe over Radio Luxembourg and Radio Europe Number 1 and into Britain over Radio Manx and the "pirate" ships, Radio Caroline in the Irish Sea and Radio London in the English channel.

In 1969 the offices of the Australian headquarters moved to the 13th floor of the "Combined Insurance" building at 132 Arthur St North Sydney. In 1970 GTA visited Jerusalem in the churches Falcon DA-20 Fan jet.

From 12-July-1972 GTA began daily television for about two years. (PT 1974). Around this time, the Australian printing works that began operating in 1962 and had been moved into new premises at 36 Hotham Parade in Artarmon in mid 1969 moved again to 7 Lancelly Place Artarmon. In August 1972 Dennis Luker became the new Australian Regional Director. In April 1973 GTA began making special daily five minute "capsule" broadcasts for Australia that went to air on the Macquarie Network in 1973. From about April 1976 until July 1977 another series of five minute commentaries were broadcast on other stations.

In January 1974 the Australian Headquarters were moved to a temporary office in Queensland using PO Box 202 Burleigh Heads. In 1975 for economic reasons the printing of "The Plain Truth" was moved to Singapore.

The Australian church (CGI) was started here in Sydney in July 1979 as a "non-profit trust" by David Sandland who had graduated from Ambassador College in 1969.

GTA visited Australia in February 1995 and spoke at the Sydney Opera House followed by the Melbourne Arts Centre and the Brisbane City Hall.