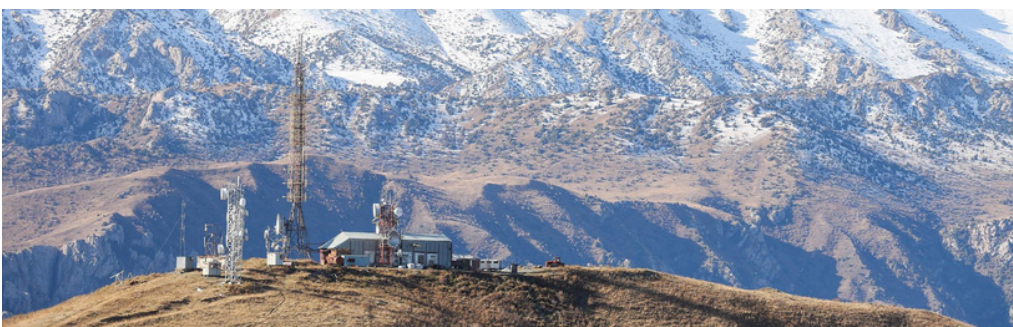
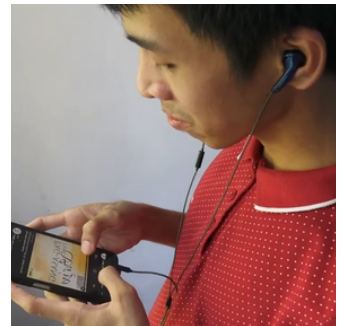


# Skywaves

July-September 2025

Far East Broadcasting Co (Australia)



# A Message from Ron

Celebrating 60 Years, Transmitting Truth into Tomorrow:  
Until All Have Heard

In 1945, the Far East Broadcasting Company was founded by Robert Bowman, John Broger and William Roberts. Their aim was clear: Christ to the world by radio.

Since the launch of the first station in the Philippines in 1948, broadcasts have expanded through 26 partner fields to reach millions of people across 50 countries in 152 languages, broadcasting some 1,600 hours per day. The strategy was always to share the message of hope in heart languages so the listener can understand and be inspired to follow Jesus Christ.

FEBC Australia was founded in 1965 to support this growing work with prayer and resources. This year, we celebrate 60 years of FEBC Australia. Even as technology has evolved over the decades, from solely broadcasting through radio to smartphones, websites and social media, our mission has never wavered, and will remain the same into the future.

I have the privilege to serve on FEBC International's Executive Committee and have seen firsthand how the support provided by FEBC Australia has grown both the reach and the impact of the work, with numerous stories of people coming to faith in Jesus. Last year alone, FEBC member organisations around the world collectively received over 180 million responses. That is many millions of lives impacted by the message of Jesus through the work of FEBC.

While we stop to celebrate all that God has done over the past 60 years, we also look forward to all that is yet to come. With over three billion people yet to hear the gospel, our work continues, until all have heard.

The Board and staff express our deep gratitude to all our supporters who have journeyed with us in this high calling.

Grace and peace to you,



**Dr Ron Cameron**  
Board Chair, FEBC Australia



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# A Mission Multiplied!

## Celebrating God's Faithfulness & His Labourers



1965 | Bruce Townsend (far left) with FEBC Australia's first committee.

[Click here to watch a greeting from FEBC Australia's founding member – Bruce Townsend.](#)

It began with a seemingly ordinary radio interview. When Dr Robert Bowman of FEBC International met Australian Christian broadcaster Bruce Townsend, neither knew they were standing at the threshold of something extraordinary. But God did.

Moved by Dr Bowman's vision to establish FEBC Australia, Bruce turned to Scripture: "For with God, nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). Like Mary's response to God's miraculous plan, Bruce embraced this divine calling with faith and conviction. Bruce believed the Holy Spirit would empower this endeavour of supporting the work of FEBC, making God's hand evident to all.

In 1965, armed with nothing but trust in God's provision, Bruce and a small team launched FEBC Australia. Their mission echoed FEBC International's: Christ to the world by radio, aiming to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with people yet to hear.

Understanding that radio could infiltrate where no missionary could tread, FEBC raised funds for shortwave broadcasts of the Good News, which crossed barriers and borders, penetrated deep into the unreached forests of Southeast Asia, the Soviet Union's iron curtain, and the bamboo curtain of China.

### Mission Multiplied

In 1967, the second edition of Skywaves shared this remarkable story: A Bible translator made an astonishing discovery while searching for unreached tribes in the remote wilderness of Mindanao, Philippines. "Imagine my

amazement," he wrote, "when I saw a Certificate of Completion of the FEBC Bible School of the Air displayed by a people untouched by modernity." In that year, this school, a project run by FEBC International, celebrated its millionth student.

From 1969 to 2016, Australian missionaries poured their expertise into transmission fields and broadcast stations in the Philippines, Saipan, Seychelles, Cambodia, Mongolia and Singapore, supporting local broadcasters reach locals in their heart language. By the 1980s, the FEBC International broadcasts being supported numbered 80 languages, reaching Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Soviet Union.

Today, because of the collaborative work of Australians, FEBC Australia, and other FEBC fields, millions tune in through radio, online platforms, and social media. What started from one divine appointment between two broadcasters has grown to include thousands of faithful Australian Christians. Together with fellow believers around the world, the work of FEBC continues to reach the hearts of many with the love of Jesus.



2025 | FEBC Australia's founding member Bruce Townsend on his 100th birthday.

# Celebrating FEBC Australia's Missionary Legacy



2021 | Former FEBC missionaries and staff gathering. From left: John Tan, Georgina Stott, Marlene Cooper, David Bayliss, Jan Bayliss, Kat Cooper, Remy Tan, Jenny Porter, Janelle Tan, David Zheng, Stephen Bayliss, Sam, Chris and Tom Cooper.

Between 1969 and 2016, a small but faithful group of Australians, supported in prayer and finances by FEBC Australia's supporters served as missionaries. Through their God-given expertise in engineering, operations, broadcasting and accounting, they supported local broadcasters, ensuring that God's Word reached millions worldwide. Their reflections offer a powerful window into how God uses willing hearts, humble service, and radio waves to transform lives globally.

## Strategic Locations, Global Reach

The Australian missionaries were sent to transmission bases and stations positioned for maximum geographical coverage. Some were based in tiny, remote places, but their reach was anything but small.

"Saipan was a small tropical island," says Jan Bayliss, who served with her husband David Bayliss (1994–2013, Saipan, the Philippines, Mongolia, Singapore and Australia). "From our compound, we were broadcasting in 30 languages to Russia, China, and Southeast Asia using three enormous curtain antennas. At the same time, our local station KSAI broadcast to the 60,000 people of Saipan."

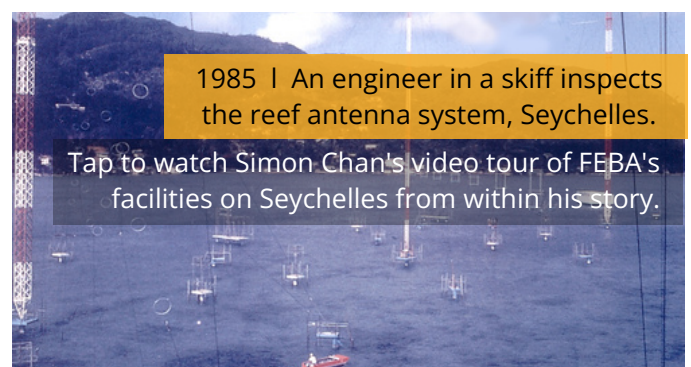
Seychelles "had an amazing reach into South Asia, the Middle East and Africa, with broadcasts in more than 30 languages," recalls Simon Chan (1989–1991, Seychelles).

## Turning Trials into Testimonies

The mission was not without trials, but God worked everything around for good.

Larry and Barbara Podmore (1986–2016, Saipan, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Mongolia) remember when "Super Typhoon Kim wiped out the site in Saipan. There was no power for three months." Simon, who faced a lightning storm in Seychelles witnessed: "at the right time, the funds or people came through. God always shows Himself as the one who provides out of every adversity." No storm was going to stop God's gospel broadcasts.

God's provision was sometimes through FEBC. In Manila during the Gulf War, Bryan\* saw how FEBC began transmitting live news in English to meet the needs of listeners during a lockdown. Bryan served short-term between 1990–1991.



1985 | An engineer in a skiff inspects the reef antenna system, Seychelles.

Tap to watch Simon Chan's video tour of FEBC's facilities on Seychelles from within his story.

And when the devastating 2004 tsunami hit Indonesia, John and Remy Tan, who served in the Philippines and Cambodia (2004–2012), heard about FEBC's First Response Radio team that brought practical help and spiritual hope: "The city was wiped out. Locals needed help. FEBC sent our First Response Radio." This service helped soften hearts towards Christianity.

*\*Surname omitted for privacy reasons.*



Chris and Marlene Cooper (1997–2015, the Philippines, Singapore, Australia) testify of God's unfailing goodness: "Uncertainty can be used by God to increase people's faith." Chris remained motivated by the "great privilege of serving local Christians in reaching their own peoples in their own languages."

### A Lasting Legacy

The impact of these missionaries runs deep. In Mongolia, a local trained by David now leads technical operations. And when technology shifted, David, Chris, and John led FEBC International's crucial digital transition.

Over the decades, FEBC's broadcasts shaped the church in countries where Bibles were scarce and pastors untrained. Rev David Zheng, who hosted training programs in Mandarin from Hong Kong and Australia (1996–2012), recalls one listener's words: "Nearly 60 of the 100+ house churches in our area tune into Liangyou (FEBC Chinese) radio. Preachers who listen to your broadcasts are more disciplined."

"We get the local perspective and try to do it the way things will work for the people even after we leave," explains John Tan. "How to get the gospel out is different in each culture."

And there were unforgettable personal stories too. Jan Bayliss recalls corresponding "with this boy for years before he saw Jesus as the pearl of great price. His family disowned him, but he kept his faith and later volunteered for FEBC India."

In one remarkable case, a whole village in Southeast Asia came to Christ after hearing the gospel in their heart language for the first time.

The mission formed lasting bonds—several missionaries met their future spouses in service. Simon Chan met his wife while fundraising in Goldie and Tek Chong's church (Goldie had hosted FEBC programs in Hong Kong).

From analog shortwave to digital platforms, from isolated rural villages to vibrant house churches, the legacy of these Australian missionaries will continue for many decades to come.

Scan the QR code on the back cover to read more of FEBC Australia's missionary stories.

## Through the Years

**1965**

FEBC Australia founded by Robert Bowman, Bruce Townsend and others.

**1967**

First Skywaves newsletter.



**1969**

First partnership: Funded transmitter for FEBC Seychelles to broadcast into India in eight languages.

**1969–2014**

Long-term Australian missionaries (provided engineering expertise, leadership mentoring and other support).

**1979**

Office moved to current location in Caringbah (New South Wales). The office was partly gifted by Australian donors.



**By 2010**

Support of projects reached 20 countries, and expanded to include the Internet.



**2008–2012**

Some shortwave broadcasts produced in Australia and sent to the Philippines and South Korea for broadcast into China.



**By 2025**

Broadcasts reach millions globally through radio, online, social media and mobile applications.

# The Radio that Sparked a Revival



1999 | Hmong women and children in a northern province of Vietnam.

In the misty hills of northern Vietnam, the word of God was reaching hearts and minds through radio. Australian missionary Jan Bayliss recounts the revival that brought life to entire Hmong communities previously untouched by Christianity.

FEBC had been broadcasting gospel messages in Hmong to remote communities where overt evangelism was banned and Hmong broadcasts were non-existent. These broadcasts used Hmong folk history to introduce Jesus.

## "Lord is Anyone Listening?"

After years without a response, Hmong broadcaster John Lee poured out his heart to God in despair, "Lord, is anyone listening?"

Shortly after his lament, a very large parcel arrived for John with an astonishing message: 'My friends and I, our people have become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. These names are in the Lamb's Book of Life.'

## Tens of Thousands of Names

What followed left John breathless: page after page after page of names. Tens of thousands of names.

Hmong people had been listening all along. Quietly, they had been gathering the names of those who accepted Christ, and saving funds until they could send their messenger to let FEBC know. After three days of walking through mountains and villages, the messenger arrived with their testimony.

Reflecting on God's faithfulness, Jan Bayliss shares these words from Philippians 1:6: "He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus."

No village is too remote, no heart too distant, no silence too long for God's voice to reach. Every broadcast carries His promise – faithful seeds planted today will yield tomorrow's harvest.

## Hmong Ministry Today

Today, that single radio signal has multiplied into a digital symphony of hope. While 84,000 Facebook followers join daily livestreams and mobile apps deliver gospel content to smartphones, trusty shortwave signals still reach mountain villages beyond the internet's reach. At the Hmong Bible Institute, a new generation of leaders is being equipped to carry forward this legacy of faith.



2025 | FEBC Australia sponsored livestream training for Ethnic Ministry broadcasters, including Hmong broadcasters.



# Courage to Faith: From Headhunters to Harvest

A Story from FEBC's Missions Partner



Reaching remote communities then and now.  
[Click here to watch Pastor Rene's testimony.](#)

"I will behead you if you stay," an elder in a Bugkalot village threatened Pastor Rene, FEBC Philippines' missions partner. He did not like that Pastor Rene just planted a church in his village after a year of living with them.

Pastor Rene was afraid and wanted to flee, but his wife's steadfast faith and memory of God's promise to Joshua strengthened their resolve. "No, we'll stay," she declared, even with their young baby in tow. Today, Pastor Rene reflects, "Fear will not go away, especially when serving the tribes. The people will see how you put yourself in the service of the Lord. We have to trust in the Lord God and overcome fear."

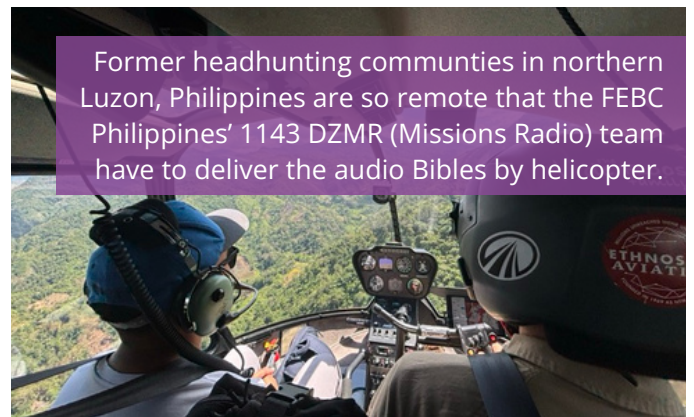
That single act of courage in 1978 blossomed into an extraordinary harvest—35 churches now stand, with former headhunters turned pastors.

## Enduring Partnership, Thriving Mission

This transformation exemplifies FEBC Philippines' enduring partnership with local missionaries like Pastor Rene. From its humble beginnings in 1948 broadcasting into China, FEBC Philippines has grown to serve its own nation, strengthened by Australian missionaries who brought technical expertise and dedication to its expanding operations.

Today, through 13 radio stations including 1143 DZMR (Missions Radio) which Pastor Rene connects tribal communities to, FEBC Philippines reaches nationally in 27 local languages and internationally in 40 languages, potentially touching millions of lives worldwide.

In these isolated mountain communities, where rough terrain and distance make regular church attendance challenging, radio becomes a vital tool for spiritual growth. DZMR broadcasts penetrate the remote villages of the Cordillera and Sierra Madre Mountains, bringing life-changing messages in local languages including Ilocano, Ayangan, Itawit, Bugkalot, Ibanag, Kalanguya, Kankanaey, Tagalog, and English.



Former headhunting communities in northern Luzon, Philippines are so remote that the FEBC Philippines' 1143 DZMR (Missions Radio) team have to deliver the audio Bibles by helicopter.

For these remote settlements, DZMR broadcasts are a spiritual lifeline. "People are thirsty for the Word," Pastor Rene witnesses. Listener Linda Cannawan reflects, "Through this radio, we listen to the Word of God every day. This is important because this serves as our strength in our spiritual life."

As FEBC Australia marks 60 years of ministry, stories like Pastor Rene's remind us why our mission endures. From the Australian missionaries who helped build FEBC, to the local partners who brave remote territories today, each partnership writes a new chapter in bringing God's Word to the unreached.

# When God Writes the Story

A Skywaves article in 1997 about God's provision. Click here to read it online.

A leaflet that slipped out of a Bible. Chance radio encounters. An escape from a war. Over the 27 years that Mari Atkinson produced FEBC Australia's Skywaves newsletters and missionary brochures, she saw much evidence of God's divine direction.

"There were just so many accounts from listeners who turned to Jesus because they found a program in their own language and stopped to listen to something they probably wouldn't have listened to otherwise." Mari shared.

She recalled another incident: "When Saigon fell at the end of the Vietnam War, a couple got on the very last U.S. Air Force plane out of the country, before the communists took over.

"They were Vietnamese believers who then created FEBC programs in Vietnamese from America. It's like God reserved a space for them so that they could continue speaking to their people via shortwave radio. God kept reaching people in a language they understood."

These stories make real Revelation 7:9: "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb".

God also penned Mari's beautiful chapter with FEBC. When Dr Robert Bowman, the founder of FEBC visited her church in Melbourne in 1969, Mari's imagination was set on fire by the possibilities of radio. Mari hadn't met her husband David yet, but he trained as a radio engineer, which inspired him to use technology to reach people and places otherwise closed to the gospel and traditional mission methods.

After marrying, they talked about how they could serve God in some form of mission, and in 1982 they found an FEBC brochure that had dropped out of someone's Bible. Pursuing this lead, they joined the Victorian FEBC Committee. David was soon invited to join the FEBC Australia Board, becoming Chairman in 1991, a position he held for two decades. Mari volunteered in Communications. Working 1000 km away from



the Sydney team meant it was a lonely job. David was also often away on FEBC travels. But God inspired her to tell the stories of His supply of equipment and personnel to studios all around the world, and the miraculous stories of thousands of lives changed as the truth of Jesus became real to them.

Then they experienced their own miracle. In 1997, God led David to acquire Radio Australia's former transmitter parts for free and provided free shipping to Manila to keep an old transmitter going until new ones were installed.

Stories of God infiltrating homes and hearts through radio fuelled them, so that even with full-time work and three children to raise, a suburban couple could partner with God to bring all people to Himself.

*Special thanks to Mari for collaborating on this story.*





# Cambodia: From Darkness to Light



1975 | Khmer refugees in Pong Nam Ron refugee camp in Thailand. Left: Queueing for food. Right: Singing at Pastor Kung's fellowship group. Pastor Kung, who was FEBC Khmer broadcaster's father, was also a refugee in the camp.

A chance meeting at church unveiled a remarkable story of survival, faith, and God's perfect timing. Mari Atkinson, who served voluntarily as FEBC Australia's Communications Manager, listened as B\* shared her heart-wrenching journey.

In 1975, as the Khmer Rouge unleashed terror across Cambodia, B\* witnessed the unthinkable. After soldiers killed her entire family, she fled alone. Still in shock, she walked across the border into Myanmar. B\* was 12. There, exhausted and traumatized in a refugee camp, she heard something extraordinary—a radio broadcast in her native Khmer language. The gentle invitation, "Come unto me," pierced through her despair. B\* gave her life to Jesus, forever changing her story. In time she came to Australia, married and had a family of three.

During this dark chapter of history, the Communist regime banned all religious expression. Sixth-generation Cambodian Christian Mr Poch Thuon's family members, leaders and pastors of Cambodia's first church, were imprisoned for their faith. Despite the risks, believers lived and gathered secretly in rice fields. Countless Cambodians made perilous journeys across borders to seek refuge in Thailand and Myanmar.

Throughout these harrowing times, Voice of Love Cambodia (VOL) never stopped broadcasting hope in Khmer. In Thai refugee camps, a Khmer broadcaster's parents, who were themselves refugees, ministered to displaced

people. They introduced FEBC's life-giving broadcasts to them and ran fellowships.

## Restored and Redeemed

In 2023, Cambodia marked an incredible milestone—30,000 Khmer Christians gathered to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the gospel in the nation, with VOL helping to organize and livestream this historic event.

From modest beginnings in 1957 with just two hours of shortwave broadcasting, VOL now reaches four million people through FM radio, social media and digital platforms. Through FEBC Australia's partnership, VOL brings both physical and spiritual light to Cambodia's poorest villages through solar-powered radios, leadership training, and youth programs, illuminating hearts across the nation. And this Christmas, a special outreach will spread even more joy and hope!

\* Name abbreviated for privacy reasons.



2023 | 30,000 Khmer Christians celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the landing of the gospel in Cambodia.

## Innovating Mission, Growing Impact



*Representative images*



Today, FEBC Australia's ministry reaches further than ever before. Across Africa, the Middle East, Eurasia and Asia, our Partners harness everything from traditional radio to digital and social media, bringing the gospel to those who have yet to hear in their heart languages.

This expanding reach touches lives in profound ways. In South Asia, where Christianity often faces resistance, our Partner combines radio programs, Facebook engagement, and community service to demonstrate Christ's love. "We have created a bridge of love in Christ, connecting us with individuals of other faiths, even in a challenging environment," our Partner shares. At their free medical clinics, patients specifically request the program's nurse. "The medicines are the same; there's nothing different. One thing is for sure: I start each treatment with prayer and always approach the sick with passion and love," the nurse explains. This integrated approach has also led to growing church attendance amongst Christians as they embrace the message they hear.

### Lives Transformed through Media

The use of different media platforms has touched many lives. When a Ukrainian refugee found himself in Moldova, he discovered FEBC online. Through digital conversations with FEBC Moldova's follow-up evangelist, he encountered and received Christ as his Lord and Saviour. "Today, I went for a follow-up operation, but before I went into the office, I prayed. This time, I almost didn't feel any pain. This situation made me really start thinking more about God."

With restrictions on religious activities and gatherings, and few churches in a nation where Christianity is new, the broadcasts of our Partner in Kyrgyzstan have become the single source of spiritual sustenance for many believers. It has also led others to the hope found in Jesus. One listener writes, "My husband was paralysed in an accident. At that time, my older daughter was two years old and I was pregnant with my other child. Listening to your program about a couple where the husband was paralysed and the joyful life they were able to live, I was given hope for the first time. That hope has kept me going for 20 years now."

From Iraq, where public evangelism is restricted, our Partner's media ministry breaks through barriers. "I have been addicted to smoking since I was a child, and I began to suffer from breathing problems with chest pain," shares a listener. "I listened to the program about the mercy of God, and the presenter was praying for healing, saying that Jesus heals every disease. I asked Christ to heal me. I write to you because I do not have any desire to smoke and all the pains in the chest have disappeared." Our Partner works through radio, digital and social media, and social messaging. For believers who cannot safely attend church, these media programs provide their only Christian community.

As we and our Partners globally embrace media innovation, our mission remains just as vital and relevant today because it is God's mission: sharing the gospel with those who have yet to hear.



# A Message from Janet

## Three Billion Reasons for Us to Continue

From shortwave radio to heart-language apps—until all have heard

Three billion people across our globe have yet to hear the Good News in their heart language, in a way that speaks to them personally. God has called us together, for them.

Sixty years ago, Australians caught a vision: sharing God's love through media with those yet to hear. From that spark a steady movement grew—fuelled by people who prayed, gave, and shared their talents. They shared a common desire: to help others discover God's love as they had, knowing the gospel transforms lives.

And it does.

Since joining FEBC, I've seen the difference our ministry makes, sitting with Partners in India, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, and beyond. There are women finding hope as they hear Scripture on the radio in their heart language. Young people are led to faith through messages on social media. Communities are drawing strength from truth they can finally understand.

In this Skywaves edition we're celebrating 60 remarkable years of God's goodness, those who have partnered with us, and the testimonies of many who have met Christ through FEBC's ministry.

As we look to 2026 and beyond, we will continue to respond to Jesus' call to "go and make

disciples of all nations," remembering that He is with us "to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

The message endures, and we have three billion reasons to continue—fuelled by the love of God. As we build on the rich legacy of our past, we will continue to harness media to share the gospel with people who have yet to hear of His love—through radio and new technologies, local voices, and deep partnerships that cross borders and bridge barriers to reach hearts.

FEBC Australia's mission has always thrived on shared conviction. Australians have been its heartbeat—some for decades, others just now joining. Each one of us matters.

Let's keep playing our part ... until all have heard.

Yours in Christ,



**Janet Cousens**  
CEO, FEBC Australia



## Partner with Us

Pray



[febc.org.au/  
2507-issue-dg](https://febc.org.au/2507-issue-dg)

Give



[febc.org.au/  
2507-n-dg](https://febc.org.au/2507-n-dg)

Tell



[febc.org.au/  
socials](https://febc.org.au/socials)

Click on the icons to visit the web pages.

# Thank You

We thank God for the privilege of sharing His Good News through media with those who have yet to hear, and for gathering Australians around us to join us in this mission.

60 years of FEBC Australia's mission is only possible because of the countless individuals—donors, prayer partners, advocates, volunteers, staff members, missionaries, and their families—who devote themselves to God's mission. Your partnership is valued and creates ripples that stretch into eternity.

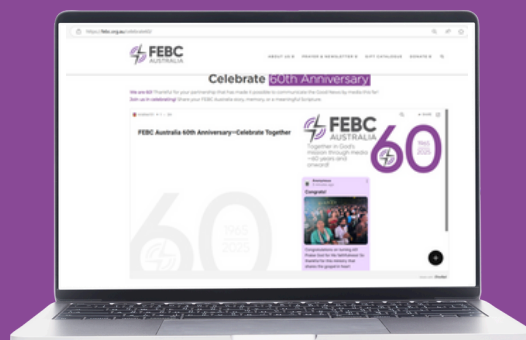


## Celebrate together

You are a part of our celebration! We would love to hear your journey with FEBC Australia so we can all celebrate together.

Pen your favourite memory of FEBC Australia, most impactful story, meaningful Bible verse or just send a celebratory note to FEBC Australia/ greeting to fellow Australian supporters.

Write your celebratory note or view/comment on others' online!



Ways to **send your greetings**:

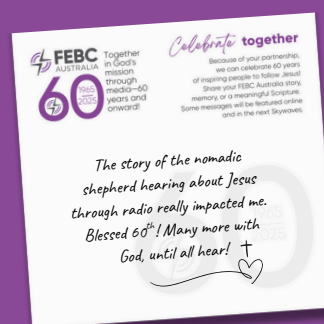
1. Online

**Click here** to access the **online celebrations page**. The same link allows you to read, like and comment on others' messages.

2. Mail.

**Mail us** your greeting using the attached greetings sheet and reply envelope.

Or mail us your note!



**Celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with us on [www.febc.org.au/celebrate60](http://www.febc.org.au/celebrate60)**

For all the latest updates from FEBC Australia, go to [www.febc.org.au](http://www.febc.org.au)  
or follow us on social media: [febc.org.au/socials](http://febc.org.au/socials)

FEBC Australia – PO Box 183, Caringbah, NSW 1495 • Phone: 1300 720 017  
Far East Broadcasting Co (Australia): ABN 68 000 509 517 • FEBC Relief Limited: ABN 87 617 872 287