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FAITH COMES BY HEARING . . . ROMANS 10 : 17

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RADIO ANDORRA

Andorre-la-Vieille. With the booms of sky rocketing fireworks bursting outside the studio window, clearly audible over the microphone, AWR-EUROPE's first-ever live broadcast began over RADIO ANDORRA INTERNATIONAL.

It was 2000 GMT (10:00 pm local Andorra time), Saturday night, September 8, 1979. A hundred thousand or more visitors had come to assist the 30,000 native Andorrans celebrate their national holiday. All-day festivities in gentle warm breezes under deep blue skies were drawing to a close. The climax of the day was a dazzling fireworks display, colorful and extra loud, as each exploding bomb echoed and reechoed through the canyons of the valley.

But few of the festivity-makers were aware of another important event taking place at that same moment... one that indeed most historians will likely take little note of... two very significant "firsts", as AWR-EUROPE by the grace of GOD progresses with the share of the gospel commission (Matthew 24:14) assigned to it.

This was the first of a series of AWR test transmissions on this small but mighty station nestled away in the Pyrenees mountains. The purpose is to see how well it can be heard in Europe, as compared with other, far more powerful facilities AWR uses in Portugal, Malta and Luxembourg.

Operating with only 3 kilowatts transmitter power, RADIO ANDORRA INTERNATIONAL is perhaps the lowest power shortwave station in EUROPE. Its simple antenna, a 3 element horizontal co-linear with a single reflector, strung just above tree top level, surrounded by towering mountain cliffs, causes one to wonder if the station could be heard beyond this tiny country's borders.

But, indeed, it is, not only in its primary target area of Northern France, Belgium, Holland and Great Britain, but most everywhere else in Europe. The station frequency receives signal reports from as far away as the Americas.

How could that be, you ask, with such low power and modest antenna? Aside from good engineering, an important reason is the choice of frequency. At 6215 Kilohertz, the station operates just outside the normal limits of the 49 metre band, on a relatively clear channel, and away from the dozens of super-power giant broadcasters which compete to be heard within our modern day shortwave broadcasting bands.

So, a big thank you to all of you who have sent in reception reports. These favorable reports have made it possible to expand the number of hours for the tests and also to extend the testing period. Can YOU help us evaluate this new opportunity? Let us know the conditions of reception.

NEWS...NEWS...NEWS...

AWR helped build the first Italian Adventist FM radio network station in Florence. The station went on the air Saturday, December 1, 1979. 101 MHz.

SEASON'S
GREETINGS