

Lightning Links

with Kurt & Bec Langmead • February 2026



G'day supporters, here in Lightning Ridge we've been going the distance since you last heard from us: Bursary Students Callum & Monique Dowling came from Armidale to the Ridge and back (& are coming again soon!); we completed a mammoth 12,000 km round trip on Long Service Leave; Samuel & Grace Ogg have just arrived from Sydney to serve with us for two years; Heather Robinson is still going the distance with kids ministry; we have a supersized BCA mission coming up; & our partner churches have been on the road going above and beyond. Read on to find out more!

The Dowling family

Callum & Monique and their precious little Manny took a giant leap of faith in 2025. They packed up their whole life and spent 12 months with us – working to build Christ's Church in The Ridge on the Rock.

Callum & Monique are completing theology studies through Ridley College, but their home church is St Mark's Uni church in Armidale. Initially they came to the Ridge for a one-week intern visit, because St Mark's send their trainees for an experience in the wild west.

They came out in November and loved it so much that they signed up for the next 12 months. It's impossible to quantify the blessing of how good it was to have them with us. Callum & Monique hosted a small group in their house especially for newcomers and new Christians. And they were able to get a feel for ministering in a completely unique context amongst the

marginalised, open-minded and the Indigenous community. But more than that, and most importantly, the Dowlings became precious friends and members of our church family.

When we first tossed around ideas for a training position, one of the first couples we talked to was Samuel & Grace Ogg. They were keen to finish their four years of theological training first. And so, the Lord in his kindness provided Callum & Monique to be something of a stepping stone for us to bring the Oggs on in a full-time role.

The Ogg family

The key purpose of this training role is to give a fresh out of college family an opportunity to cut their teeth in a real life remote location, rather than doing their first few years in a larger centre. The hope is that Samuel & Grace will be able to discern God's will and direction with the possibility of serving beyond the region in places, even wilder, further afield, and

Circle Image: The Langmeads

Middle Image: The Dowlings farewell lunch

Bottom Image: Mike Uptin with the Langmeads and the Oggs



In on Green Island during our Long Service Leave

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more far out than here.

Samuel & Grace arrived in the Ridge on Australia Day in 46 degree heat. Their removal truck arrived the day after in 47 degrees. All we could say was, 'welcome to the Ridge'.

Samuel's focus, other than getting a broad ministry experience, is to assist with ministry to high schoolers and teens. He's also going to put some thought into training and teams within the church.

We just had our welcome service for the Oggs and we're excited to see how God will use them in the next two years.

Long Service Leave

During term three, we took seven weeks Long Service Leave. We squeezed the family into the back of the Prado with a small tent and went all the way to Cooktown and back again. We did 12,000 kilometres. Along the way we celebrated the 500,000 kilometre birthday of our 2003 Prado. We pulled over on the side of the road and celebrated with red lollies to match our red car. (See odometer photo).

Our Long Service Leave was nothing more or nothing less

Samuel & Grace arrived in the Ridge in 46 degree heat. All we could say was 'welcome to the Ridge'

than just some really special time together as a family. We didn't have any profound moments of reflection about God's direction in life. We just had to work and work hard at loving God and loving each other for 12,000 kilometres. And on that journey it felt like, we were living Romans 5 to 8. In fact, in God's providence, three Sundays in a row at three separate churches, we had sermons from Romans 5 to 8.

We visited a number of BCA locations and former locations along the way, which added an extra level of meaning to the trip. We visited the Pipers on location in Emerald, and enjoyed sharing some meals together in their home and going to church with them.

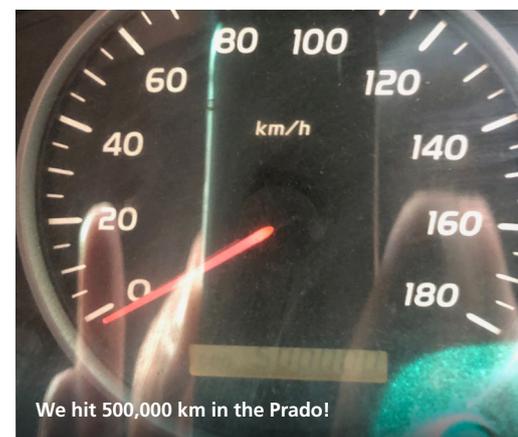
We bumped into the Hurleys in Cairns before they began

their new role. We dropped into the former BCA location of Yeppoon, and got to swim in the fabled Yeppoon lagoon. I ran my first marathon length run in Yeppoon, and Arthur, ran a half marathon with me, fuelled purely by treats from the local bakery and he didn't stop once. Another way we went the distance!

We also visited the Reeves in Woolgoolga, and then our partner church, Engadine Heathcote Anglican when we finally made it down to Sydney.

BCA-supported mission

For the last 23 years our BCA partner church Northlight Anglican has come to the Ridge on mission. Early last year we were contacted by Simon Gillham from Moore



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Theological College asking whether we would be open to hosting a mission team. We said we already had a mission team coming, but did they want to join the party?

So the concept of a BCA Barwon District Regional Mission was born. The idea is to do everything that we always do with the Northlight crew but make it a supersize version. We will duplicate the key elements including the flagship after school club, school visits, and various other evangelistic events in Walgett, Colly, Goodooga and the Ridge.

Rod & Amanda Haywood have very generously pulled together a team of 12 BCA Nomads to assist with the catering and logistical support. We'll have around 50 people serving from those three different sources. Greg Harris is coming, along with Bishop Rod Chiswell and Callum & Monique have even booked to stay for a week. It's going to be chaos and it's going to be an awful lot of fun.

Partner churches going above and beyond

Apart from our long standing partnership with NorthLight, St

Bart's Toowoomba sent down a youth group to help run one of our gospel gatherings to the Indigenous community last year. They had so much fun they're coming back to do it again in June this year.

Heathcote Engadine Anglican reached out to us and said, hey

well that we're doing it again this term for Romans 5 to 8 (following on from our LSL!)

We've just recently received a really generous donation from another partner church to repair and upgrade our dodgy sound system in the church.



Catch up with the Pipers in Emerland on our LSL

do you guys want to preach a sermon series with us? We preached through Romans 1 to 4, shared sermon preparation sessions with their team via Zoom, enjoyed making use of their Bible studies. We sent videos back and forth from the congregations. It worked so

We are also excited & thankful to God for our new partner churches plus new supporters coming on board, signing up to receive our prayer points and newsletters and even dropping us a line. Thank you for your prayers and your support, you are all such a blessing.

In Him,

Kurt, Bec, June, Arthur, Lydia, Jeremiah & Timothy

Pray for

**our work in
Lightning Ridge**

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