

The Narrow Road

(Mt 7:14)



with Paul & Cathy Sampson

May 2023

Has there ever been a month like this? Five Field Staff commissioned in six weeks!

Our good God has heard and answered your prayers. What a joy to attend the commissioning of not one but five Field Staff in five different locations in just six Saturdays during late January, February and March 2023. Each of these ministries is a testament to the graciousness of our God and the faithfulness of BCA supporters who have prayed diligently for many years and generously provided financial support for these ministries.

#1 The Connellys – Cowra Saturday 28 January

The thermometer in my car read 43 degrees on the day of Ben & Alissa Connelly's Commissioning as BCA Field Staff. Praise God for the air-conditioning in the spacious Cowra Anglican Church that was up to the task. Ben & Alissa are settling in well to their new location having served in Narrabri (Armidale Diocese) for the previous two years. Ben was recently ordained to serve as Priest in Charge of Cowra Anglican Church, where there has not been a full-time Anglican minister for several years.

The small group of regular members have enthusiastically welcomed the Connellys and have joined them in the task of growing the church.



Paul, Steven Klouth, Bishop Mark Calder, Ben Connelly, Greg Harris

#2 The Hurleys – Broken Hill 5 February

Avid supporters would be familiar with the Hurleys as they served with BCA in Bluff Point WA from 2019–2022. During January, Brendan, Laura and their five children made the long trek across the country to Broken Hill. Brendan was commissioned as the Senior Pastor of Saltbush Evangelical

Church. The Hurleys have been warmly welcomed into the Broken Hill community and are grateful for the ongoing support of the BCA family.

Neville Naden, who previously served in Broken Hill was able to introduce Brendan to a number of the resident First Nations people who have been looking forward to the arrival of the Hurleys.



#3 The Klouths – West Wyalong 11 February

Following two years at the Bathurst Cathedral as Assistant Minister, Steven was ordained as a priest, and on 11 February, commissioned as Priest in Charge of West Wyalong. Steve & Caitlin and young Hannah are enjoying getting to know people in their new location and look forward to seeing what ministries the Lord opens up for them in the days ahead.

Steve delivered the keynote address at this year's AGM describing their ministries in West Wyalong and some of the challenges faced by Christians in small rural churches.



#4 The Daymonds – Cobar 18 February

Cobar had been without a full-time Anglican minister for more than 20 years. After spending the last few years in Mudgee, James & Brittany Daymond took on the challenge of ministering in the mining town of Cobar. James was ordained in December last year and commissioned in February as the Priest in Charge of the Anglican Church in Cobar. James seeks to continue the work of evangelism as well as pastor and equip Christians in Cobar to share the good news of Jesus. The church is still very small in number but under God has already grown in the short time the Daymonds have been in town. In recent weeks numbers have been bolstered by some Fijian men who have blessed the congregation with their singing talents.



#5 The Boardmans – Bathurst 4 March

James Boardman graduated from Moore College at the end of 2022 and was Deaconed and commissioned at the Bathurst Cathedral on Saturday 4 March. What a wonderful day of celebration of the graciousness of God in providing for James & Charly to serve in Bathurst. James is the Assistant Minister at the Cathedral parish.

James, Charly, Elijah, Joshua & Hannah are enjoying the tree change from Sydney to Bathurst and getting to know people in their new community.



(L) Paul joined Bishop Mark Calder and the Bathurst BCA Field Staff for James' Ordination
(R) Paul with James & Charly at their commissioning



Praise God for His extraordinary grace and mercy in answering the prayers of the saints in raising up these five Field Staff to serve in regional, rural and remote parts of NSW/ACT. Incidentally, as you might have read in the Prayer Notes, there have also been new Field Staff commissioned in other parts of Australia. All glory to God.

Moore College Mission

One of James Boardman's first responsibilities in Bathurst was to organise and facilitate the Moore College Mission team coming to the Bathurst Cathedral for a week of mission in late March. The team were involved in a variety of evangelistic and training events, including meeting and encouraging university students, evangelism training, a 'Grill a Christian' night at a local pub, Kids' Club, High School assembly, and Sunday services.

Some of the team also visited the Connellys in Cowra to hear about some of the ministries there. Ben & Alissa provided some really useful insight to the students about the joys and challenges of living and ministering in the bush.



Paul with the Moore College Mission Team

Deputations

Paul's deputations over recent weeks have included:

- Temora
- South Head
- Sadleir
- Norfolk Island
- Hawker

SMBC Ministry Matters 7 March 2023

During term time, Sydney Missionary and Bible College invites different speakers to present on an area of mission, following a prayer time involving all students and several staff. Paul presented on the topic 'Bible Bashing in the Bush – The Needs and Opportunities of Bush Ministry'. Many students attended and engaged well with the topic.

BCA Office

Elza Lee commenced as the NSW/ACT Administrative Assistant during January and has already proved to be a great blessing to BCA. If you have not yet met Elza please drop in and say hello next time you are in York Street.



Norfolk Island

Laurie Carleton has been serving as the Anglican Minister on Norfolk Island for a little more than a year. The 2200 residents of Norfolk Island have an interesting history steeped in controversy and Christianity. Historical buildings are a visual reminder that the Island was formerly a penal colony but also that the Church of England has been a significant part of the community since its early days. In 1856, permanent civilian residence on the Island began when descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers were relocated from Pitcairn Island. In 1914, the UK handed Norfolk Island over to Australia to administer as an external territory.

Sunday services are usually held in the beautiful St Barnabas Chapel built in 1875. The resident members of the church have their numbers bolstered each week by the regular flow of visitors to the Island.

Laurie & Bec and their children have been welcomed into this wonderfully friendly, engaged and connected community. Have you been anywhere else recently where people leave their keys in their unlocked cars?

Laurie & Bec have taken great strides in getting to know people through sport, school and other activities on the beautiful tiny island. Paul had the opportunity to share about our ministries with the locals at a BCA lunch and a BBQ dinner, Bible studies, and at the Sunday services. Laurie and Paul also did a Sunday morning radio show speaking about Acts 1 and the work of BCA. Laurie has this radio show as a regular slot but pressure is mounting for Christian content to be reduced. Please pray for the continuation of this ministry.

Paul also attended what must be a candidate for the world's best youth group activity – shark catching on the pier! No sharks (or children) were harmed in this unique event.



Other Prayer and Praise Points:

- Praise God for raising up Field Staff to serve in locations across the nation, including the five recent commissionings and the other Field Staff who have been serving faithfully for years.
- Praise God for the enthusiasm, energy, prayerfulness and generosity of BCA supporters and donors across the country and for the Lord to raise up more people to partner in these ministries.
- Pray that the Lord would provide support and encouragement for each Field Staff and that He would continue to use them to build His Church across the country.
- Pray that the Lord would give Paul energy and focus for the eight deputations over the next eight Sundays.



In Him,

Paul



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