

Cockroaches & Canetoads

with Mike & Sandra Uptin • May 2025



It was a privilege to be given the 2025 mission spot at the Men@Glen Conference in Glen Innes. I was joined by Kurt Langmead and Callum Dowling as we reflected on men who impacted our spiritual growth and reaching men for Christ in rural and remote towns.

A big thanks to the organising team and the many BCA Nomads who came and helped with catering and logistics.

Having spoken at Guyra Anglican the Sunday after Men@Glen, I was then meant to speak at Tenterfield Anglican in late March. I was looking forward to this for many reasons but one was to say thank you and farewell the minister, Jonathan Earnshaw, on his retirement. Unfortunately, I had an accident in the BCA car on my way to Tenterfield and, although I was physically fine, the car was not. It was taken to a yard in Billinudgel and was eventually written off.

I am thankful to God, that even though He doesn't have to protect me from every danger, He certainly did in this instance. I am currently trying to reschedule my visit to Tenterfield.

Before we get on to Queensland, I was watching a bit of the funeral of Pope Francis last month and they were showing his favourite icon in the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. It reminded me of my favourite icon (right) Sorry for the irreverence.

Both the Piper (Emerald) and Browne (Gladstone) families were commissioned in January. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend either event but reports and photos have appeared in

their latest newsletters so please have a look at them.

I was welcomed by the Anglican church families at Booval, North Pine, Dayboro, Boonah, Aratula, Southern Cross Beenleigh, Stanthorpe and Glen Aplin. Each of these are faithfully meeting to be built up in God's Word in order to reach their communities for Christ. And each of them have a big vision for the mission of Christ beyond the walls of their churches. It was a joy to share some stories from BCA Field Staff with them.



Cyclone Alfred impacted my proposed visit to Nundah/Banyo Anglican. Like many churches in Southeast Queensland at this time, there was consideration from the leadership to not hold in-person services on the

Banner Image: The Thompson River (Longreach)

Circle Image: Mike & Sandra

Top Image: Men@Glen. Callum, Kurt & Mike

Middle Image: BCA car after the accident

Bottom Image: St James Church Glen Aplin

Continued from previous page...

weekend that the cyclone was meant to make landfall. After consultation with the wardens during the week prior it was decided that I should postpone my visit till later in the year. This gave me a little more time to prepare for the BCA Connect events in early April...

These BCA Connect events were opportunities to give thanks to God for – His grace, the shepherds He calls to lead His flock, and the great Shepherd that He provided in His Son Jesus. Richard Gibson (Brisbane School of Theology) spoke from Ezekiel 34 and Simon & Angela Owen, along with Grace, Esther & Josiah, opened our eyes to what God is doing in Cloncurry and Julia Creek.

It was also great to be able to introduce Sarah McKinnon (new Regional Admin Assistant) to the supporters who gathered. Having only started in the role five weeks before these events,

Sarah slotted in seamlessly to the organising and running of them.

Give thanks for the recent BCA Connect days in South East Queensland. Give thanks for the encouragement from both The Revd Dr Richard Gibson and the Owen family from Cloncurry. Give thanks for the Anglican churches in Rochedale, Maroochydore, Surfers Paradise and St Bart's Toowoomba who hosted these events. And give thanks for the many BCA supporters who came along

The weekend after the Connect events saw a family celebration – our son David's 21st birthday.

Give thanks for our son David turning 21 and the celebration of this milestone.

The weekend after that was Easter and once again we travelled up to Mt Tamborine for Easter Convention.



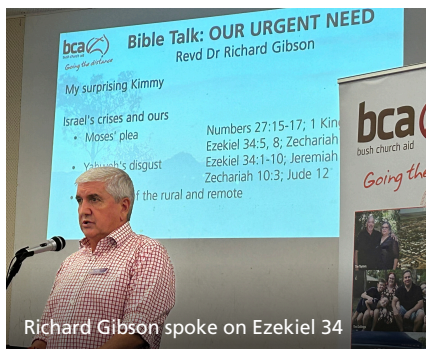
Mt Tamborine Easter Convention

I had the privilege of chairing the mission spots, manning the BCA display in the morning tea area and hearing from a speaker (Charles Price) I had not heard before but who was well known to many of the 700+ adults who attended.

I am convinced that these forays into generally non-Anglican territory will be helpful in the long term as Christians from other denominations hear of our commitment to *Going the Distance* to take the Good News of Jesus to the bush.



Angela Owen speaks to supporters at BCA Connect in Rochedale



Richard Gibson spoke on Ezekiel 34



The Owen family with Mike, Sandra & Sarah

In Him,
Mike (& Sandra)

[Find out more](#)

about Bush Church Aid

[Donate](#)

Would you consider giving to support gospel ministry here and across rural, regional and remote Australia?



Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919