

## Crooked Paths

KYB is all about loving and living the word of God. Yet so many find it hard to get into and understand – don't we all at times? Recently I've come across two quotes which have stuck with me and have been playing about in my mind and heart.

They are from:

John Piper: "God wrote a book, that really blows me away every time I stop to think about it. Pages and pages of God. His thoughts, His words, His heart – right there, just a few inches away."

Richard Forster: "It's a wonder to me how God uses squiggles on paper to do the work in the hearts and minds of people."

These took me first to Ecclesiastes 7:13, "accept the way God does things, for who can straighten what He has made crooked?"

Many of God's people in this book are taken on 'crooked' paths. Things weren't straightforward, not tidy, not overly understandable.

Joseph with his pit to prison to palace – Moses and God's people wandering in the wilderness – Job – Daniel – Jesus Himself and the cross – many more! Such storylines can make us question at times what God is doing. Twisted journeys, visible and laid bare for all to see: the world watching, seeing what is going on in us.

It is hard to realise God is still making a straight path of it all. Straight in this Hebrew context means direct, upright, true, straightforward, against

the meaning of crooked being awry, out of shape or place, twisted.

So even in all our life situations, just like these Bible characters, there are answers and comforts from others' lives in God's word that make sense or give us courage to press on. Even when the path seems crooked with the twists and turns that life brings, His plan is still good. He can still be trusted for these truths are certainties when life seems uncertain. Or, we could say like these quotes, there are straight lines when the squiggles on paper are all curved and crooked. God is writing straight with crooked lines in our lives. No other book, self-help or otherwise, can give us promises or such hope.

Why is that? Because it's all about Jesus.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Or, Isaiah 45:2, "I will go before you and make the crooked places straight." We don't have to understand the whys of God's ways, but we do have to choose to follow Him at times without the details. He is the only One who can write straight out of crooked lines. So when the way doesn't seem straight, remember as someone said "she survived every hard day, because God helped her, because God held her, and because God healed her heart". This reality is what we have for our own lives and to offer in KYB through this book.

**Lesley Searle,**  
**UK National Leadership Team**

### New Website

Our thanks go to Cynthia Pym who has diligently worked on a new website for the International Board. We are thrilled to tell you the website is now ready to view at [cwci.org.au](http://cwci.org.au)



# Update from the Bushikori Christian Centre (BCC), Mbale, Uganda, ([bushikori.org.au](http://bushikori.org.au)).

This year four of the Australian Support Committee (ASC) visited Uganda to celebrate 30 years of partnership with BCC Uganda. It was a time of joy, celebration, a thanksgiving service and meeting with staff and students.

I would like to thank CWCI for their encouragement and support in sourcing KYB material to take to Uganda. For five years I have led a KYB group at my church and found the studies really useful. We are growing in our understanding of our faith and walk with Jesus through the lessons and are frequently challenged, but this is a blessing. It is for this reason and appreciation of KYB material that I wanted to share the studies with our Christian brothers and sisters at BCC.

We took one printed copy of the leader's guide (an Easy English study) and one of the study book, as well as a USB with the PDF on it, plus instructions which we also explained to them. This is a new concept of Bible study which we hope they will embrace when they have the time to organise a regular meeting. We suggested that the staff gathering held each morning before commencing work might be a good time. This worship and Bible study time is called 'Morning Glory'. It is a wonderful way to start the day in a Christian organisation, and I have always loved participating when I am visiting.

We presented the KYB material in the library (see photo). I am on the left showing the hard copies to Fatina, the Chaplain and Bessie (right), one of the Child Care workers. The socked feet are young students sitting on a mat; they take their shoes off as it is very dusty or muddy outside!

We communicate regularly with BCC staff and hope to have some news from them later in the year regarding their progress with the KYB study.

**Pamela Ferrar**



## KYB Malaysia

We praise God for the way study groups are growing in Malaysia. At present Agnes/Sian Li and Fan meet with a group of 13 leaders every Saturday at 8am to study Thessalonians. They hope to complete the study this month when the 13 will be ready to start their own groups. Six of their study groups have now completed Revelation and are ready to start Thessalonians. An online group is ready to start their third study. I am amazed at what God can do when we step out in faith in obedience to His call.



If you would like to give towards the production of KYB Easy English or standard studies, here are the details.

Account Name: CWCI International. Westpac Bank BSB: 032167 A/C: 125143

If you would like an acknowledgment of your donation please email Reda at [info@cwci.org.au](mailto:info@cwci.org.au)

For any enquiries regarding the content or production of the KYB Studies please email our KYB Production Director Lyn at [kybpd@cwci.org.au](mailto:kybpd@cwci.org.au)



# Musings of a first-time writer

**Beth Allison**

My first response to being asked to write a KYB study was that I felt inadequate for the task. It's interesting how we are tempted to shy away from challenges that are outside our experience and comfort zone.

But the timing was actually perfect. It was May 2020 and we were now in full Melbourne Covid lockdown. The brief was "to choose nine prayers from the Old Testament." But where should I start? What prayers best lent themselves to a KYB study? The selection process actually took several months, with much prayer, advice and lots of coffee. I had studied Old Testament history in the past, but realised I needed to refresh my understanding of events, people and places if I was going to do justice to why people prayed the prayers they did.

For nearly two years I immersed myself in the life of nine amazing Old Testament characters. What struck me was that although they belonged to a totally different time and culture, the cries of their heart were the same as ours. *Where is God in my pain? Can God ever forgive me? How bold can I be in my prayers on behalf of others?* When I at last emailed off my final draft to the editing team I felt I was farewelling nine dear friends.

Then began the wait for feedback from the team and the pilot groups. It reminded me of waiting for exam results. Writing a KYB study is very much a collaborative effort. Certain study questions or ways of expression that I held dear might not be held quite so dearly by the editing team! The whole process was an important lesson in learning to value each other's opinions, trusting that with the Holy Spirit's guidance, we would together produce a study that would enrich and deepen people's spiritual lives

Finally the long awaited day arrived. Three years and nine months after I commenced writing *Ancient prayers for modern people - Prayers of the Old Testament*, I held in my hand the completed Study Book and Leader's Guide. It was a moment of deep gratitude for the privilege of being asked to write a KYB study. But above all, it was a moment of thankfulness to God for the way the study had challenged me personally as to the power and priority of prayer.



## New CWCI International information leaflet

The International Board has produced a new leaflet to outline and promote the ministry of CWCI International. This was prompted by changes to how the translation ministry is being carried out, as well as being an opportunity to explain CWCI International to the wider CWCI community.

Copies of the leaflet are free and may be ordered through CWCI Australia by emailing Michelle: [cwci@cwciaus.org.au](mailto:cwci@cwciaus.org.au), or phoning the Office Administrator at Head Office (02) 9740 6355.



# Prayer and Praise

## Give thanks:

- for the new international website ([cwci.org.au](http://cwci.org.au) - click on CWCI International)
- for God's financial provision throughout the ministry
- for a new KYB writer and a new vetter
- for the provision of new team/board members
- that the sale of books in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom remains constant
- for the growth of KYB in Malaysia
- for new KYB groups including in the UK and Fiji



## Prayer points

### Sunday

Pray for ways to promote the studies, especially in countries where Know Your Bible is not known.

### Monday

Pray for the provision of more editors for standard and Easy English studies, and for more writers.

### Tuesday

Pray for women of God's choosing to fill the roles of President and Finance Director on the International Board from the beginning of 2026.

### Wednesday

Pray for someone to fill a new position on the International Board to look after development and promotion.

### Thursday

Pray that an expression of interest from someone in Durban will result in a new KYB group.

### Friday

Pray that the UK Leadership Team's participation in the Keswick Convention in July will broaden the reach of KYB.

### Saturday

Pray for the three national boards/teams: for the provision of a Vice-President Prayer and Communications Director in Australia; that the special speaking tour in New Zealand in November will bear much fruit; and for a new National Distributor in the United Kingdom.

## Spread the good news

The gospel is the good news of salvation and everyone in the world needs to hear it. Our KYB studies are also good news; they help people engage with God's word and through it know changed lives, living hope, and peace beyond understanding. Why not take your KYB study book on holiday with you - at home or abroad - and pray that God will give you opportunities to share about the studies with others. An increasing number of people in other

countries are asking for the studies in English and we are able to send the PDF, which can be easily printed from a computer. You may go to an international church while abroad, so have a study book with you. God cannot give you an opportunity to share about the study books if you do not have one with you. Take this small step of faith and remember that with God all things are possible!