

*Celebrating 40 years of **KYB** by Correspondence*

A Short History of CWCI Australia Bible Correspondence courses and KYB by Correspondence:

(as gleaned from the Australian National Management Board (ANMB) minutes starting from April 1970, and other sources)

CWCI Australia (first known as Christian Women Conventions, and later Christian Women Communicating International in Australia Inc.) is a Bible-based interdenominational Christian, faith ministry, by women to women. It commenced in Sydney in 1957 when a small group of women went away for a weekend of Bible teaching.

From this commenced the first full weekend convention ministry for women in 1959, and has resulted in the CWCI convention ministry to women throughout Australia.

Committees, organising events in cities and country areas offering encouragement and Bible teaching for women through a variety of events, flowed on from this.

In **early 1970** CWCI Australia was made aware of a need to provide a Bible study course by correspondence and decided that it should commence initially in Western Australia (WA). A set of ten lessons were produced, and it was understood that the WA Committees had up to 100 women waiting for the notes to become available. This ministry was called CWCI Bible correspondence courses (BCC).

The course was then advertised in the Christian Woman magazine.

Miss Pixie Weaver, based in WA, and who was the Secretary for the correspondence courses, was given the responsibility by the ANMB to approach the Secretary of each State Central Committee and source at least one lady from each jurisdiction who could give adequate time and devote herself to this work, to tutor the students in her respective State /Territory. Apparently interest in doing BCC had spread to the other states, probably as a result of the advertisement in the Christian Woman magazines.

In **1971**, it was agreed by CWCI that when the women finished their 10-week BCCourse, it was to be recommended to them to take up the Scripture Union Bible Study Course and Daily Reading Notes. However, by October of that year, it was reported that the Correspondence Course was “proving a blessing in many lives”, and “many of the present correspondence students have asked for further lessons”. Miss Weaver was given permission to have a further set of lessons written to be approved by the CWCI Board.

By the beginning of **1972**, the new set of lessons had not yet been written. In the meantime, CWCI’s Bible Study method – Know Your Bible (KYB) – came into being in **1972** as a follow-up to conventions and at the request of many women who desired to know more of God’s Word. So ANMB agreed that the KYB course material could be used for correspondence purposes. At first this was not thought suitable by Miss Jean Raddon (the original writer of the KYB group study material), and Miss Weaver suggested a course on “Vital Topics to Christian Living”. More correspondence course materials were subsequently written.

In **1974**, it was reported that the “Bible Correspondence Course was functioning well and meeting the needs of women in different circumstances”. By May **1975**, BCC’s name had changed and was now known as **Know Your Bible Postal Fellowship**. The studies “continued to meet a real need throughout Australia” and by **1976** many more tutors were needed in the various States as well as “people who could write additional courses”.

In **1983**, Miss Weaver withdrew from her role as Administrator of Know Your Bible Postal Fellowship and the ANMB established the KYB by Correspondence (**KYBC**) ministry using materials adapted from the KYB study notes. The first adapted study was on Galatians. Two KYB studies per year were re-edited for use in the correspondence ministry. Under that system, the number of questions was reduced, and the lessons were then reformatted to be suitable for students using normal mail, or later on email, for their answers. They were printed out on single sheets of paper with space under each question for the students to fill in their answers.

KYBC ministry came under the responsibility of the Director of Bible Ministries (later called KYB Director), the role being held by Mrs. Joy Jarman at that time, who continued to be a KYBC tutor for many years till approximately 2017/8. Shirley Weeks was the first KYBC Distributor, starting in June 1984. Then in July **1985** Mrs. Janice Kennedy became the first KYBC Administrator. There were around 100 students using the KYBC study in **1986** with 28 tutors working with them. At that time there were 6 studies available: Mark 1 and 2, Galatians, Hebrews, Esther and Colossians.

KYBC continued to use studies that were adapted from the KYB material until November **2001**, when the standard KYB books began to be used for all new KYBC enrolments. Since **2021**, due to the global pandemic – COVID 19, the Lord has graciously enabled CWCI Australia to utilise online platforms. Now students can do their study by mail, email, and online video technology. And by the grace of God, that is where we are up to in 2023 with Know Your Bible by Correspondence.