

KYBC: connecting one on one

A short history 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 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 identified a need for offering Bible study courses via correspondence. It was determined that this initiative would initially begin in Western Australia (WA). Ten lessons were created. The WA Committees had up to one hundred women awaiting their release. This ministry was called *CWCI Bible Correspondence Courses* (BCC).

The course was advertised in *Christian Woman* magazine. Miss Pixie Weaver, based in WA, and who was the Secretary for the correspondence courses, was appointed 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. Interest in BCC likely increased in other states and territories due to the advertisement in *Christian Woman* magazine.

In 1971, CWCI resolved that upon completion of the 10-week BCC by the women, they would be encouraged to undertake the *Scripture Union Bible Study Course* and *Daily Reading Notes*. By October of that year, it became apparent that the course had positive impacts on participants, with many current students requesting additional lessons. Miss Weaver was asked to draft additional lessons for approval.

At the start of 1972, the new lessons were still unwritten. CWCI's Bible Studies, *Know Your Bible* (KYB), was established in 1972 following conventions at the request of women seeking to learn more about God's Word. ANMB approved using the KYB course material for correspondence purposes. At first, this material was thought unsuitable by Miss Jean Raddon (the original writer of the KYB group study material). Miss Weaver suggested a course on *Vital Topics to Christian Living* as being more appropriate. Following on, more correspondence course materials were subsequently written.

In 1974, reports indicated that the BCC effectively served women in various situations. By May 1975, BCC's name had changed and was now known as *Know Your Bible Postal Fellowship*. The studies continued to fulfil a significant need across Australia and by 1976 there was an increased demand for tutors in various states and territories, as well as for individuals capable of developing 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 were re-edited annually for use in the correspondence ministry. Under that system, the number of questions was decreased, and the lessons were modified to be appropriate for students submitting their answers through regular mail or email. The questions were printed on individual sheets of paper with space beneath each question for students to write their answers.

The KYBC ministry was overseen by the Director of Bible Ministries (later known as KYB Director), a position held by Mrs. Joy Jarman, a KYBC tutor until around 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 one hundred students using the KYBC studies in 1986 with twenty-eight tutors collaborating with them. At that time there were six studies available: Mark 1 and 2, Galatians, Hebrews, Esther, and Colossians.

KYBC used adapted KYB studies until November 2001, when standard KYB books were adopted for all new enrolments. Since 2021, due to the global pandemic – COVID 19, the Lord has graciously enabled CWCI Australia to utilize online video platforms. Now students can do their study by mail, email, and online video technology. In 2025, KYBC rebranded to *KYBC: connecting one on one*. The term "correspondence" was replaced, and "tutor" became "mentor".

And by the grace of God, that is where we are up to in 2025 with *KYBC: connecting one on one* ministry.