



## *Where we come from*

The ministry of Know your Bible started from one small group of women meeting for Bible Study in Sydney, Australia, in 1957, under the leadership of Mrs Grace Collins. The spiritual hunger of that small group made them ask for more than just their weekly meeting, so they had a weekend away JUST for Bible teaching! This proved such a success that it was repeated the next year with double the numbers, around 40 this time. The work began to spread and in a few years weekend Bible teaching conventions for women were being held all over Australia. These were held firstly under the name of Christian Women's Conventions. When the good news reached women in New Zealand, the name changed again to Christian Women's Conventions International – CWCI.

By the time CWCI was established in the UK, Jean Raddon had been called from the mission field in Nepal to work in CWCI in Australia. Thousands of women had been attending the Australian weekend conventions once or twice a year but were asking for regular teaching at a local level. KNOW YOUR BIBLE groups started using study material, mainly written by Jean. In the beginning we, in UK, bought the study books from Australia. However, as the work has grown, we now print our own using master copies supplied from Australia usually in the form of computer disks.

As the ministry of CWCI broadened over the years the need for a further change of name became apparent so it became CHRISTIAN WOMEN COMMUNICATING Intl. There are National Management Boards in Australia and New Zealand. The UK has a National Leadership Team which also incorporates Europe, and there are National Committees in several other countries

When CWCI celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2007, it was felt to be an opportune time to make a change of name. The ministry in the UK became known as KNOW YOUR BIBLE. However, in Australia the ministry is known as CWCI Australia, in New Zealand as CWCI New Zealand and the international ministry as CWCI *International*.



## *Know your Bible in the UK at Present*

The Mission Statement of KYB is

- To bring women to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour.
- To deepen and enrich the spiritual lives of women.
- To equip women for life's challenges so they might be a positive influence in their homes, work and communities.
- To enable women to play a more effective role in their own Churches and in all their service for the Lord.

We also have a Statement of Belief which we expect all our study leaders to agree to. Please visit [www.knowyourbible.org](http://www.knowyourbible.org) to see these and look further at our work.

The ministry of KYB in the UK is led by the National Leadership Team (NLT), who meet twice a year, for two days, for their business meetings. The Team presently comprises seven ladies, each with specific responsibilities. KYB UK is overseen by a group of Trustees who have oversight of the work and the finances. Trustees meet twice yearly for business meetings and prayer support. All the NLT, Trustees and Area Team members in UK work voluntarily, freely giving of their time and gifts for this ministry for the Lord.

Know Your Bible study groups are spread from Cornwall to Scotland. There are several groups in Wales and in island settings such as the Shetlands and the Channel Islands. Although these Bible Studies were originally written for women, there are now mixed groups doing the studies and also some men's groups.

Know Your Bible Study material is written by women in Australia. The whole process, from asking a lady to write a study to the completion of the printed study, takes four years. Writers have to agree to the KYB doctrinal statement and have to submit an initial study on part of the book chosen before being able to continue. A group of theologians check the doctrinal accuracy of the books. These studies do not take a 'denominational emphasis' or major on areas that would divide Christians. Studies are Protestant but non-denominational allowing women from different churches to attend.

A number of conference areas throughout the UK have teams who arrange conferences, evangelistic events, quiet days and other events, usually once or twice a year.

A weekend residential conference is held each year alternating between Derbyshire and Devon.



## *Into the future*

Where do we go from here? To divide and multiply would be great! If each group of ladies, encouraged, motivated and blessed by the studies, were to reach out to others, and start another group.

How the work would grow. This is not an impossibility, we have a great God! We need to reach out from our 'Holy huddles.

We have had occasional area team's days, but it is our aim to give more regular opportunity for local groups to meet together for fellowship and encouragement.

Someone once referred to Know Your Bible as '**Britain's best kept secret**'! We do not want this to continue and are seeking to increase awareness of the ministry.

We have an excellent resource of sound Bible study material, many find these books are some of the best small group bible study material they have used. However there is enormous need in our day for faithful teaching of God's word, many in Churches do not open the Word of God and study it for themselves and therefore do not know the comfort of the scriptures (2 Cor. 1 v3-5) or that they need to be 'transformed by the renewing of their minds' (Romans 12 v 2) which also comes from the scriptures. It is our heartfelt desire to reach out into these needy areas

To help us with this task, where possible, we have a promotional table at events and conferences. With a donation from the late Margaret Lewis, an ex-President of CWCI, we have been able to purchase two attractive pop-up banners which we are now using, with good effect!

The translation work of Know your Bible is based in Australia, the study books have been translated into over forty languages and are in over seventy-five countries. Please see [www.cwci.org](http://www.cwci.org) for more information.

In the UK there are many foreign students as well as permanent residents from overseas. To be able to have KYB groups using books in their own language is something to work towards. In the past, we have sent to Australia for translated studies which have been taken from UK, to various parts of the world. To see this happening more would be great.

For more on the translation work please visit <http://www.cwci.org.au/links.html>



## *European Work of KYB*

For many years the European Sub-Committee co-ordinated the work in Europe, Over the years visits have been made to Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Denmark, Moldova, Romania, Netherlands and Armenia and Albania. These countries each had active KYB groups. Sadly, although we still have contact with the ladies in these countries, as far as we can tell the only active groups now are in Russia, Denmark, Netherlands and Albania. Contact is kept with the ladies in these countries through the National Leadership Team. At the moment most of the translation work is done through the International Board in Australia, they are always looking out for those who are able to translate into or check translations in the European Languages

In Russia the work of KYB continues under the guidance of Ludmilla Bilichenco who lives in Moscow. Ludmilla leads several Bible Study groups including one in English. Russia is a huge country, it takes Ludmilla 19 hours to reach Volgograd. We are able to give Ludmilla money from the UK for her journeys to promote KYB.

The work continues in Denmark. Two members of the NLT had the joy of visiting the ladies in Denmark and leading a KYB Day. Valerie Brunn has headed up the KYB work, her husband has been very active in translating the books over the years. The work is now being led by Jaqueline van Roekel Groeneveld

Teuta in Albania, is very keen that ladies should study KYB but over the years she has become very disappointed because there has not been very much interest. Last year Teuta retired from her secular job and the Lord opened doors for the furtherance of the KYB ministry. It has been so exciting to see two groups start in Teuta's Church and others purchase books with a view to starting groups. We also have had contact with a young couple in a village in Albania and have been able to send books out from the UK, Esther has started KYB in her village of Morave.

Books are translated into several European Languages and we seek God's help to know how to take this work further into Europe.