



Know Your Bible

Transforming women's lives by the power of God's Word

UK NEWSLINK

SPRING 2023 ~ ISSUE NO 67

IN THIS EDITION:

Our Forever Home

New KYB Study: Christ's Final Victory (Revelation)

Residential Conference May 19-21st

KYB in Hungary, Uganda and UK



A fresh new start

As we come into Spring, we begin to see new life emerging after the winter cold and darkness. Snowdrops and daffodils give us hope that the cold weather will go and, as the days lengthen and the temperature warms up, we feel invigorated. Plants spring to life, birds start making their nests and new life dawns around us.

Like the new life which we see in nature this time of year, the Christian message gives hope of a fresh new start.

2 Corinthians 5.17 reminds us that '...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come!' It does not say 'will come' but it 'has come'. Do we feel like new creations all the time? Fortunately, we don't have to rely on our feelings to believe it because

it is God who makes this possible through Christ's sacrifice on the cross. **God reconciled** us to himself.

Reconciliation is, according to the dictionary, the restoration of friendly relations. Why do people need to be reconciled? Sin had separated us from God and only he could bring about reconciliation.

We see children in the playground at school falling out with one another. Cyber bullying. Discord in families and marriages breaking up. Neighbours in dispute and splits in our churches. Strikes and political disagreements. Wars all around us!

Many are in strained relationships with family members, friends or neighbours. Can there be reconciliation? It is always a possibility if there is the will to do so.

An example of this is when I volunteered at our local support centre, we had a client who had not spoken to her sister for a few years since a disagreement after their mum's death. Our client wanted to have a restored relationship with her sister, but did not know how it could happen. She was afraid of rejection if she tried to speak to her, so we suggested she wrote her a letter. Her letter was well-received and she was able to build a new relationship with her sister. They were reconciled.



2 Corinthians 5 tells **us** that God has given us the *ministry* and *message* of reconciliation.

What does that mean? Are we to go around trying to resolve all the disputes we see around us?

Of course not. The message of reconciliation we have is on a different level: God wants us to be reconciled to himself. He does not count our sins against us when we put our faith in Him and give him his rightful place.

The passage goes on to say that we are Christ's ambassadors. An ambassador is someone who represents their country in a country that is not their own. In other words, we represent God to those who do not know him, and he makes his appeal for them to be reconciled to himself through us! You may think you can't do anything of value for God, but you can reach people that no-one else can. Your way of life and the way you show concern and speak to others will open opportunities to talk about your faith in our God who wants to be reconciled to all men.

Our message of reconciliation with God is so vital in these days when there is so much discord and disharmony. The price for our sin has been paid, 'God made him who had no sin to be sin for us...' What a message of hope and reconciliation!

May we be good ambassadors for Christ.

Tina Stevens, KYB UK President

Vision Statement

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

KYB Newslink Team

Tina Stevens, Sandra Gilbert & Nicky Dixon
This magazine is important in keeping everyone informed as well as an outreach tool. **However, the cost of producing & posting each Newslink is now £2.** Any contributions towards the cost, or books of stamps would be much appreciated.

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Know Your Bible is a registered charity:
No. 1002596. We are part of the ministry of
CWCI International

CWCI Australia www.cwciaus.org.au

CWCI New Zealand www.cwcinz.org.au

KYB in Helston, Cornwall

During the pandemic our group met online, which worked well as we had the KYB Finance Director, Margaret, joining us from Berkshire and two ladies joining us from Mawgan Smith in Cornwall, which is quite a distance from Helston. However, eighteen months ago we decided it was time to meet in person again but had several who, through health issues or distance, wanted to continue online. So, we accommodated both, having an in-person group on a Monday morning led by Jill and a zoom group in the afternoon led by Sandra. This arrangement works well. If someone can't go to their group they go to the other, and we try to study at the same rate, making it easier for ladies to slot in.

At the end of each term, we endeavour to have afternoon tea or lunch, allowing the two groups to meet. We have just finished Colossians and Philemon, a challenging study which kept us grounded in Christ, and are looking forward to starting Nehemiah.

Sandra Gilbert



‘To everything there is a season.’

After 18 years, with 32 conferences under their belt, the KYB Guildford Committee have decided that the season for conferences in the area is over. The committee have prayerfully reflected for several months and concluded that, with dwindling attendance and increasing costs, such conferences are no longer viable. We know that the many hundreds of women who attended the conferences were blessed by the biblical teaching and fellowship. Our 22 speakers were always a delight to hear with deep truths being shared. The prayer ministry was often busy during the breaks as ladies shared burdens and concerns with the Lord. There was always lots of interest

in the different bible study groups and the latest studies from KYB. We thank the women who started these conferences in 2004 for their vision and faithfulness and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless the work of KYB in enriching the spiritual lives of women.

The bible study groups continue to thrive and be a blessing to all those who attend. The Woking KYB group are hoping to invite ladies from other local groups to join them for fellowship in early June - perhaps for a Reflective half-day.

Contact: Hester Clarke email:
hester.clarkejh@ntlworld.com

Jan Campbell

What about YOU?!

You can read about KYB in Helston, Hungary and Uganda in this Newslink.

What about KYB in? (add your location here!)

How are things going in your area? Something to think about!

What blessings do you see? What change are you trusting God for?

KYB in Hungary



“Do you have any books in Hungarian?” This question came to the International Board (IB) from a KYB group in New Zealand. A missionary on furlough from Hungary had joined the KYB group whilst at home and was so excited about the studies that she wanted to take them back with her to Hungary. Sadly, we only had

one Hungarian translation – Luke. However, the question arose: is this the opportunity IB has been looking for – to translate a study within a country to be used with people able to set up groups and encourage them?

Study books in both Hungarian and English were sent to Hungary and a KYB group in the UK adopted the Hungarian group, paying for the books. (Being in Europe, Hungary comes under the remit of KYB in the UK). Enquiries are also being made by Krisztina regarding the translation of studies within Hungary, and there is the possibility of her zooming in with the UK study group to talk about the work there.



CWCI
International
2023

Philippians 3:13b-14

Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.





Pray for:

Our staff, Beth, Reda and Sanna

The International Board, Sandra, Cecily, Lyn, Tina, Susannah, Nola and Jenny

Our need for a Promotion & Translation Director and a Prayer Director

Africa: Pray for a renewed desire to use the KYB studies.

Asia: Pray for more opportunities to use the Mandarin studies and to reach out in Asia.

Europe: Pray for peace in Europe, for studies being used in several countries and for translators for the Ukrainian language.

Indian sub-continent: Pray for renewed vision for the studies and renewed contacts.

Melanesia & Pacific Islands: Praise God for the work which is forging ahead, and pray for wisdom for those co-ordinating the work.

Middle East: Pray for believers living in difficult circumstances, and for translators into Farsi and Arabic.

KYB in Uganda

A request came into the IB office, for copies of the four gospels in English to be taken out to Uganda by an Australian group going on mission from their church. It would be too expensive to post the study books and too cumbersome to take a large quantity by air. Sandra Gilbert, IB President of CWCI (KYB in the UK) was able to offer pdfs of the studies and permission to print 25 copies of each study in Uganda for a small charge. This was readily agreed, the pdfs were sent, and the studies printed in Uganda. Here is a report from the Churches receiving the studies.

Rockhill Church, Mukono District Uganda

They recently used a study at a Young Adults 'Camp' that lasted for 3 days during school holidays in August. About 50 young adults attended. The Youth Pastor had a friend translate the study into Luganda (common language in Uganda) so that everyone could understand. The study was extremely well-received, and the pastors were very happy with the response from the young adults. Many asked if they could do further similar studies so the Youth Pastor is grateful that we have provided more KYB studies to use in the future. He planned a similar event with them over the Christmas break period.

New Hope Ministries, Butumbula district Uganda

A church was planted by Kkuza Children's Foundation towards the end of 2020 during the Covid period. The district is more than 85% Muslim and NHM is the first Christian church in the area for more than 70 years. The church has grown quickly, with 50 members who regularly attend services. The community has a large problem with teenage pregnancy with mothers being abandoned or victims of sexual assault. The church plans to use KYB studies to connect with young mothers and support them.

Thank God for our Leaders!

What a blessing good Christian leadership is. Within KYB groups, Area Teams, our National Leadership Team or the International Board, as well as in fellowships, church congregations, local and national public life.

What are characteristics of Godly leadership?

Humility and Enthusiasm

Romans 12:3-8: *'For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment..... having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.'*

Faithfulness and the ability to care and guide

Psalms 78:72: *'With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.'*

Willingness to serve

Luke 12:48: *'Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required,*

and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.'

So, ladies, let's value, encourage and appreciate our leaders.

And leaders: are you encouraging others to share your role, and developing them for the future?

Are you still enthusiastic and full of joy in your role, or are you flagging and it is time for someone else to lead?

Do you delight in what God is saying to your group through the studies or are you in a desert experience?

Dear Father,

Thank you for the richness of your Bible, which shows you to be our creator and faithful protector, your Son Jesus our Redeemer and Lord, and the Holy Spirit who illuminates, guides and brings wisdom. Thank you for those in leadership roles in Know Your Bible. Please continue to energise, equip and fill with joy all those leading KYB groups and Area and National Teams, that we may soar like eagles as we serve you and nurture one another, that your kingdom is seen here on earth by more and more women. Amen

Nicky Dixon



KYB Week 12-18 June

An annual opportunity to celebrate the KYB studies, pray for growth and blessing for all KYB ladies and groups, and extend an invitation for others to 'taste and see.' Perhaps your group could put on an event to which friends could be invited or meet up with other KYB groups. Some groups meet up with other local groups to celebrate and encourage one another.

Do let us know if you're putting on a larger event and would like to borrow KYB banners & posters for impact and information.

Our Forever Home

Is it Heaven? Actually, no!! Heaven or paradise is where we go when we die but it is not our forever home. Jesus told the thief on the cross, 'This day you will be with me in paradise'. The thief did not have time to prove his repentance, Jesus knew it was genuine and, in that moment, he was saved. Jesus comes with us by his spirit, through death to heaven, where we are conscious but without our new bodies. Paul felt that to be with Christ was better than living, so it cannot be a place of nothingness or sleep till Jesus comes again. I wonder, is it the place where there is rejoicing in the presence of angels over one sinner who repents? What is your picture of heaven?

We are there until Jesus comes again, when, in the twinkling of an eye, we will be changed. Read 1 Cor 15: 50-58 together with 1 Thess 4:13-18 to get the full picture of what will happen.

This is when death loses its sting, when those who have already died are given new bodies and are caught up with those who have remained on earth. To know what we will be like, we need to look at Jesus' resurrection body. He still has it and ours will be like his! Free from sin, disease, decay, more fully ourselves than we have ever been.



So where is our forever home, where we will be forever with our new bodies? Read 2 Peter 3:10-12, verse 13 says, 'But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.' Read Romans 8:18-23. These verses give a picture of creation groaning, waiting to be set free. This will happen when the earth is consumed by fire and, I believe, renewed not obliterated. CH Spurgeon says, *'This world, so far as we know, will not cease to be; it will pass through the purifying flame, and then it may be the soft and gentle breath of almighty love will blow upon it and cool it rapidly, and the divine hand will shape it as it cools into a paradise more fair.'*

One commentator said, *'We should not close our eyes and try to imagine the unimaginable. We should open our eyes because the present earth is as much a valid reference point for envisioning the new earth as our present bodies are for a valid reference point for envisioning our new bodies.'* Open your eyes, look at the original earth which God said was very good, that is more a picture of the new heavens and new earth. God gave Adam work to do, not toil or heavy labour. I believe the same for us, we will have a wholesome existence using the perfected abilities God has given us, enjoying to the utmost Almighty God, worshipping him, and rejoicing in his new creation.

I read somewhere, *'Satan need not convince us that Heaven doesn't exist. He need only convince us that heaven*

is a place of boring unearthly existence.' This is what so many believe. Do you want to see people with God forever? They need to be freed from everything wrong, they cannot take their old lives with them. We need, by our lives, to show that we have a sure and certain hope and to convey that our forever home is somewhere we are really looking forward to because it is the best!

Sandra Gilbert



Losing a loved one

It is nine years since my husband David went to be with the Lord. Do you get over the loss? The answer is no. How do you 'get over' losing a life partner? You don't get over it, but you learn to live with it. You are not always in those early stages of grief, but even nine years on, there are moments when something catches you out, and there is a lump in your throat and tears in your eyes, but these are moments and not an everyday occurrence. It is right to look back at memories, they are precious, but not to live in the past, but explore new avenues for the present.

Knowing that God's timing in our lives is perfect is a great help, remembering that your loved one is in a better place with the Lord is a great comfort, but this knowledge does not totally take away grief because they are not with you!

On a practical note, one of the great helps to me was that I had areas I was involved with apart from David, which continued. It is helpful to have interests or hobbies of your own. The other important thing I learned is to

keep important paperwork together, birth certificates etc and know where they are kept! Have a record of passwords - I had such trouble with some of my husband's gadgets as I didn't know passwords. Thankfully, I was in charge of the finances, so I knew those important passwords!

If you are involved with those who have lost loved ones, besides praying for them, one of the most healing things you can do is to allow them to talk, even if it makes them and perhaps you, cry. They may need to go over and over things, this is fine, it is part of the healing process, but don't bring your losses into the equation, it isn't the time, they have enough to deal with.

There is a day coming when death finally loses its sting, when Jesus comes again and we are reunited with those who have gone before, all with new bodies fit for our forever home and forever with the Lord. Let us encourage one another as we see the day approaching.

Sandra Gilbert

Never give up on your dreams

In my late teens, more years ago than I care to remember, I had a secret dream that one day in the future I'd like to run a Christian Book Shop. The dream faded as family life took over, but never completely left me. 40 years later, I suddenly realised that, though different, this dream had become a reality.

My introduction to KYB, 20 years ago, was when Margaret Kearley invited me to join a small Bible Study Group in Northampton. I quickly came to love the KYB method of study, how it opened God's Word in a way I had not experienced before, as well as learning from the other ladies.

A few years later Margaret asked me if I would be interested in taking over the national distribution of KYB study books when Gillian Skipp retired. I was unable to commit at the time as Mike & I were looking to move, but I agreed to think and pray about it. Less than a year later I was taking delivery of 50 boxes of books and sending out my first order!

Preparing to move, going through a difficult time, we found Psalm 18 a great source of comfort, particularly v.19: 'He brought me into a spacious place ... because he delighted in me.'



This was more than fulfilled, not only in the beautiful place where we now live, but to a house with plenty of space for the storage of 5000 books! There's even a small post box right opposite our gate!

Despite challenges over the last 18 years: changes to postal rates; closure of local Post Offices and, living in a rural corner of North Wales, feeling a bit isolated at times, I really appreciate contact with KYB groups around the country by phone and email and the lovely letters I receive from the one lady who still orders by post.

I love the job, knowing that I'm where God wants me to be and being able to help those who also have a love for God's Word and a desire to share it with others.

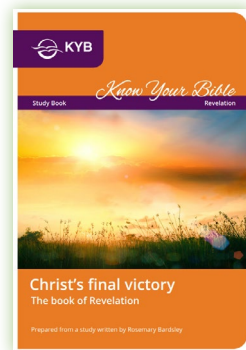
Mary Wray KYB National Distributor

New KYB Studies 2023

Christ's Final Victory is the newest KYB study on Revelation, which focuses on Christ and his church. 'Somehow, we have to stop thinking that Revelation is only about what is going to happen at 'the end', and we also have to stop thinking that Revelation is 'too difficult', writes Rosemary Bardsley in her introduction. As God's final word, it shows us the climax and conclusion of his great salvation story, which began in Genesis.

Know Your Bible Studies

Keep this list handy for your next order!
**KYB studies should not be photocopied
 or reproduced in any way.**



Study Titles	
New Study! Revelation: Christ's Final Victory	£4.15
Also: Galatians: Grace and freedom	£4.15
Also: Nehemiah: Faith & perseverance under pressure	£4.15
Genesis I	£4.00
1 Samuel	£4.00
2 Samuel	£4.00
The Life of Solomon	£4.00
Proverbs	£4.00
Jeremiah (limited stock)	£4.00
Haggai & Zechariah	£4.00
Psalms of restoration & renewal	£4.00
The Problem of pain: a Biblical perspective	£4.00
5 Lives: Women who encountered God	£4.00
The Good News	£4.00
Jesus of Nazareth	£4.00
Matthew I	£4.00
Matthew 2	£4.00
John's Gospel I	£4.00
Acts 1-12	£4.00
1 Corinthians	£4.00
Ephesians	£4.00
Colossians & Philemon	£4.00
Timothy & Titus	£4.00
Hebrews	£4.00

Main distributor: Mary Wray
 studybookorders@knowyourbible.org.uk

Mary deals with all orders, apart from those in Devon, Cornwall & Scotland
 In those areas, please contact:

Devon & Cornwall
 Sue Edgeler

Scotland
 Maureen Meredith

How to pay:
 Distributors will send an invoice with your study books.
 Pay using online banking: Know Your Bible Business Account 82160455, Sort Code 40 35 04, reference invoice number and distributor (eg 23 Mary Wray)
 Please email details of the invoice to Margaret Toy: margaret.toy0302@tiscali.co.uk

Unable to use online banking?
 Send the invoice for your study books and payment to Margaret Toy, 29 Farley Copse, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks. RG42 1PF, making cheques payable to Know Your Bible Studies.

Remembering Carol Dadswell



Carol's involvement with Know Your Bible began over 20 years ago when she was invited to become one of our speakers. One of her first KYB speaking events was

in Northampton, then in the following years, Carol was in demand to speak at various conferences up and down the country and travelled many miles to share God's word.

Carol spoke several times at our residential conferences, both at Brunel Manor in Torquay and Willersley Castle in Derbyshire.

She also went on to become chair of trustees where her skills in communication and the desire to see the work of KYB flourish were immensely helpful.

Carol's love for sharing God's word was contagious; wherever she went she took the opportunity to encourage people to get to know God's word.

Her systematic approach to explaining a Bible passage was so appreciated

by all who heard her, she really brought God's word alive. She loved to delve deeper into the history and circumstances behind a passage to reveal its meaning and significance.

I still remember one occasion when she spoke about the woman at the well and how that message impacted the lives of women from my own church.

Carol loved people and had a real pastoral heart for those she met. Personally, she was a great friend and mentor - I will miss our regular conversations, not least catching up on the latest tennis results, for Carol and I shared two great loves: God's word and tennis! It was a great joy to join her over the last 7 years at the tournament in Eastbourne. We shared many enjoyable hours and cream teas at Devonshire Park from early morning till close of play no matter what the weather threw at us! It is, however, as a Bible teacher that I will especially remember her.

Carol leaves an outstanding example for us to follow - that to know God we need to know his book.

Sue Edgeler

Remembering Marilyn Maguire

Marilyn passed away on December 20th 2022 aged 71yrs, after a lengthy time of illness

She had been part of KYB for many years and attended conferences in Pelsall and later in Lichfield when it became known as Heart of England Area Team.

She became Chairman of the Area Team following Dodi Graves who moved to Northern Ireland.

Marilyn attended most of the residential conferences at Willersley Castle in Derbyshire and also some in Brunel, Torquay. She also attended the Area Forums held on zoom in 2021 and 2022. She leaves a husband, daughter and granddaughter and we pray that they will know God's comfort as they adjust to life without Marilyn

Thoughts on finishing Proverbs

“ In our group, which meets regularly on a Tuesday morning, we have just completed the study of Proverbs which has caused a lot of discussion among us. It has been challenging and encouraging, but also enjoyable, teaching us the importance of wisdom in every area of our lives. It's been interesting going through this study, whilst our government and nation are in such turmoil, and in great need of wisdom. We are encouraged in scripture to pray for those in authority, and we certainly need to, more than ever during this turbulent time. ”

Grace Fitch

“ Proverbs at first glance would appear to be a collection of wise and sometimes witty sayings. Stand-alone verses that could be used to quote at dinner tables or enclosed in Christmas crackers. However, studying this Biblical book shows it to go far deeper. It offers instruction for upright and good living, packed full of practical advice for living a life pleasing to God.

In this troubled world people are keen to seek and give advice from all sorts of sources, but I wonder how many look for encouragement and wisdom in God's word. The Bible, and particularly Proverbs, is rich in good practical advice on how to live well.”

Jan

When I set foot upon that distant shore

When I set foot upon that distant shore
And hear the songs of those who've gone before,
And see the towering turrets of pure gold
Rich beauty more than mortal eyes behold.
Wonder of wonders – all of this, much more,
Waits those whose feet will tread that distant shore.

When I set foot upon that distant shore
Gone tears and sickness, aching hearts so sore,
Instead, great paeans peal with joyful praise
That never dims but rings eternal days.
Look up, look up, nearer does that day draw
When my feet tread that wondrous distant shore.

When I set foot upon that distant shore
Beyond all beauty, one thing I'll adore:
The face of Jesus – arms stretched open wide
To draw me and to hold me to His side,
To hear His voice as sounding waters roar
In welcome as I reach that distant shore.

Margaret Kearley

Prayer Diary

As we pray, let us consider **Hebrews 6:18** and be encouraged as we hold on to the hope we have in Christ.

Day 1 – Romans 15:3 & 4

National Leadership Team

- Pray for Kate and Lesley as they join NLT
- Ask that God will guide us to the right people to fill some key positions on the NLT.

Day 2 – Micah 7:7

Intercessors & Trustees

- Thank God for our intercessors and trustees in their roles as they seek his will for the work of KYB
- Praise God for the encouragement of seeing prayers answered.

Day 3 – Psalm 146:5

KYB Online

- Thank God for the success of our online events during the pandemic and for the new skills acquired during this time.
- Pray that the website and Facebook page remain up to date and relevant.

Day 4 – 2 Thessalonians 2:16 & 17

Residential Conference

- Thank God for those who have already booked for the conference.
- Thank God for our speaker, Debbie Laycock and for her preparation.
- Pray for the NLT as they prepare for the conference in detail.

Day 5 – Hebrews 6:19

KYB Week

- Thank God for the blessing KYB week is as a way of raising awareness of KYB and raising funds.
- Pray for creative ideas of ways to connect with women during KYB week 2023.
- Ask God who you should be talking to about KYB.

Day 6 – Psalm 62:5

KYB Groups

- Thank God for women who faithfully lead our KYB study groups.
- Praise God continued growth of groups in the pandemic and new groups starting.
- Pray that we will be able to reach areas where there are no KYB groups yet.

Day 7 – Romans 15:13

Area Teams

- Thank God for those who serve on our Area Teams.
- Pray for teams facing challenges as they seek new team members and new practices
- Ask God raise up new Area Teams to support local KYB groups and encourage women to explore God's Word and in events locally.

More prayer ideas on our prayer page at:
<https://www.knowyourbible.org.uk/prayer-diary>

KYB Events

WEST CORNWALL

Saturday 29th April 10.00 – 14.00

Speaker: Esther Carter

'Who do YOU say I am?' Discovering our Identity in Christ

Venue: Redruth Baptist Church TR15 2SP

Cost: £10. Please bring a packed lunch

Contact: book with Sandra Gilbert
email: kybevents985@gmail.com

TORQUAY, DEVON

You are warmly invited to join us on our 2023 Reflective Day.

Saturday 10th June 10.30 – 14.30pm

Speaker: Julie Cubitt

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Locarno Avenue, Preston, Paignton TQ3 2DH

Cost: £6 to include coffee, tea and cake

Contact: book your place by emailing
kybtorquay@gmail.com
or phone Mary Walton

BRISTOL

The Bristol Team holds regular events as well as sending out a monthly message to ladies in the area.

Contact:

Sue Hoyles: susan.hoyles16@outlook.com to receive monthly email messages and news of events
Jane Brittan: for events

KYB RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE

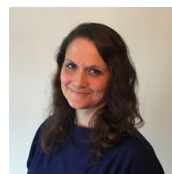
19-21 May at The Hayes, Derbyshire

Speaker: Debbie Laycock
'Transformation'

Cost: £192.00

There are a few spaces left.

Contact: Margaret Toy at margaret.toy0302@tiscali.co.uk



New Shoots

It has been exciting to hear from the KYB studies distributors, of new groups starting in recent months in St Ives, Cornwall; Rugby, Warwickshire; Bracknell, Berkshire; Dunbar and Blandford Forum, Dorset (apologies if we've missed any). Also, several groups are blessed with new members joining them and have needed to order more books. Thank you, Lord, for the encouragement of growth, whether in numbers or in spiritual growth. What a gift of your Holy Spirit! May we be expectant in waiting for new shoots to spring up, and in seeing your kingdom come. Amen

For anyone without a KYB group, there is an online group meeting every other Friday morning (Proverbs) and one every Monday morning (Nehemiah.) If you would like to join either of them, contact the office: admin@knowyourbible.org.uk



Our Heavenly Father

“Abba,” Daddy in Aramaic, opens what we know as The Lord’s Prayer.

“Abba” used by children with their loving earthly father, showing we can use our everyday language to speak with our loving Father God. He is not just **like** a father, but He **is** our heavenly father, if we have given Him our lives by trusting in Jesus to save us. What a wonderful relationship we have.

Our wonderful heavenly father cares for us, provides for us, guides us and, yet he is also our Creator. He is all-powerful (omnipotent), all-knowing (omniscient) and with us always, wherever we are (omnipresent). We do not have a severe, judging father, waiting to catch us out when we fail but one who wants us to look to Him for all our needs (‘Give us this day our daily bread’) and who, because of Jesus’ death, is able to forgive us (‘Forgive us our trespasses’) when we call on him. As we lean on him for his help, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can walk with him daily and avoid failure (‘Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil’).

Very often, we think of our heavenly father as being different in the Old

Testament from the New Testament, yet this is not so. Whilst we see God’s holiness and standards in the Old Testament, it is full of passages about his love for his people, not merely judgement. In just one verse in Isaiah, at a time when so many of the people of Judah had turned away from him, God said of them, ‘Since you are precious and honoured in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life.’ (Isaiah 43:4). Our heavenly father longed for his people to stay close to him and he knew that was best for them, too. Even though they strayed, he still loved them. Of course, that is true for us today as well.

As we contemplate all that our heavenly father is and how much he loves us, this will stir us up to give him our praise and worship:

‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.’ (KYB verse for the year, Revelation 4:11)

Margaret Toy

