

## Are You Qualified?

asks Margaret Toy, our KYB Finance Director



I came across the following phrase (maybe using very slightly different words) three times within the week prior to writing this. The phrase is “God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called”. I read the phrase in a book and heard it said twice in two very separate places by people who (as far as I am aware) do not know each other. It’s a phrase I’ve heard several times before but three times in less than a week made me sit up and take notice!

There are times when I need to be qualified to carry out work God has planned for me – I am a qualified accountant, so looking after the finances of KYB is something I am qualified to do. Of course, it is God Who gave me the ability to obtain that qualification in the first place (many years ago!). Nevertheless, I must never discount myself from doing something which God is clearly calling me to do.

Many of us are mothers. Very few of us will have been trained to look after and raise children before becoming mothers – we accepted the role even though we were not qualified to do it. Not being qualified did not stop us! All we had was our maternal instincts and, very importantly, people around us to help us through.

In the Old Testament, we read of Moses, who was a great prophet and leader. He was not always like that and when we read of him being called by God, he used all kinds of excuses as to why he was not qualified to do the job God was calling him to do. After running out of excuses, Moses even asked God to send someone else (*Exodus 4:13*)! We learn that this angered God, although He shows His patience with Moses, too, for He did not give up and told Moses that Aaron would be his spokesperson. Interestingly, although Aaron spoke to the people whatever Moses told him at the beginning, later on Moses speaks directly to the people – he had grown into his role and fulfilled God’s calling on his life.

How do I respond when I am asked to take on a role? Do I discount myself because it’s not something I feel able to do? Clearly, there are times when I do need to say “no” (certainly, if I were asked to design something requiring artistic skills that would be the right response!) but at other times I may have the basic ability but lack the confidence or boldness that is needed for the job. That is the time to seek what God wants me to do, not simply make excuses like Moses did.

So then, I need to listen to whatever God calls me to do – big or small – for whatever I am called to do, God will enable me to do it.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

*(Ephesians 2:10)*