



CWCI
International

Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails

During the past couple of months most of us have had to change our plans, or our plans have been changed for us. There was nothing wrong with what we were going to do; in fact a lot of it could be classed as God's work. Primarily the reason for all the change is the deadly virus that is rampaging through many countries, so in part we understand.

This verse shows us that we should hold on lightly to all our plans, yet it is right to make them, and often they come to pass, but how do we react when they don't? Frustration, anger, disappointment, to name just a few emotions we naturally pass through, but we should not stay with these emotions but move in our thinking to ... "but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails".

When we get past what we are feeling and start to consider God's purpose, then things change. If God's purpose prevails, then he has a purpose in what is happening; we might not understand it, but our faith and trust in God allows us in the situation we are all facing to ask the Lord to show us the opportunities he is giving at this time.

I believe God is giving us many: people are feeling insecure, unsure of the future, sometimes even unsure of life itself. We have been told in the UK that

at the moment one in four people are tuning in to services on Sundays. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. As we have been moved, sometimes against our will, into the technological age and many of us are learning to do our Bible studies by Zoom or other means on the internet, amazing opportunities are opening up to us. Many women at present are at home and have time; we need to seek opportunities to ask women we know to join our study groups by Zoom. If your church is doing a YouTube service and interviews church members on a Sunday, ask if you can share about your Zoom KYB group. People all over the world are watching our services; what an opportunity! The question is: are we willing to be his workers at this time taking the knowledge of God through Know Your Bible out into his harvest field?

Sandra

Introducing Sandra Gilbert - International Board President

I did not grow up in a church-going family. My first real experience of church as a teenager was attending a youth club associated with a church. After joining, we had to attend once a month to be in the youth club. I was one of those young people giggling in the back row. It was not until my early twenties, having left London, married with a baby and living in Cornwall, that my husband started attending church. He completely changed and I was horrified, but after a while I started going with him and, as they say, the rest is history. In those early years, I could not get enough of God's word. When my youngest child was a toddler, I was invited to a KYB group and started going to local conferences. It was there, besides feasting on God's word, I learnt that there were Christians in other denominations!



Later, I was asked to join a local KYB committee, then the Regional Board and after a few years the UK National Leadership Team, which involved annual trips to Australia for IB meetings. I am now completing my term on this team having served an extra three years. When I was asked to consider taking on the role of IB President, I was shocked because I imagined the role could only be filled by someone within Australia. I was wrong! So, the travelling continued. Retirement – what's that? But I think God has intervened; we are all unable to travel and are getting used to Zoom. Maybe travelling such distances so often is a thing of the past.

What has this to do with the International Board of CWCI? In many ways nothing, but in other ways, everything. The danger is we write off the giggling teenager at the back of the church but 1 Corinthians 1:24-31 starts, 'Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called ...' and finishes, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord'. All our boards are made up of ordinary women in whom God, by His Spirit, is working. Under God's guidance and with the rest of IB, my desire is to take the work of this board forward. Ephesians 3:20 says, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us ...'. He is able to do more than we can imagine in the work of CWCI around the world for His grace is sufficient for us, His power is made perfect in weakness.

Beth Worley, Editing Officer

We are delighted that Beth Worley, who is both a KYB Study writer and Editor, is joining our Production team in the role of Editing Officer and will work alongside Hannah taking on particular responsibility for overseeing the editing of our KYB Studies.

I'm Beth Worley, and I'm from Sydney. I've recently been appointed as Editing Officer for CWCI International. I'm married and have two young-adult children. Over the past twenty years or so, I've been involved in KYB and CWCI in various ways — in KYB groups, by correspondence, and also as a speaker, editor and writer. I'm passionate about understanding God's word better, and passing on that understanding to others. That's because, as we understand the Bible more fully, we come face-to-face with the great God who has revealed himself to us through his word and his Son Jesus.

I grew up in the Hunter Valley, and try to escape the city whenever I can. My husband and I go 'glamping' (glamorous camping, of sorts) in the Southern Tablelands of NSW. We love sitting peacefully looking out at God's creation; we love campfires and star-bright skies.



I'm excited to be stepping into this new role. It's a privilege to serve God in whatever way he puts before us. But it can be daunting, too. Recently, in our KYBTOO group, we've been studying *Kings of Judah*. My prayer is like King Asa's: "LORD, there is none like you ... Help us, LORD our God, for we rely on you" (2 Chronicles 14:11).



If you wish to support CWCI International financially, these are the details

Account name: CWCI International
Westpac Bank
BSB: 032167 Account: 125143

Our web-site is being redesigned
For further information regarding our work
please email info@cwci.org.au

The way ahead for translation

Sometimes it is good to stop, take stock and seek God for the way forward. That is what we are doing on the International Board. With our translation programme we are seeking to move forward in new and exciting ways. Often we have books translated but no way of getting the books to the people who would use them in their countries. This is often because books are translated outside of the country but we have no contacts in that country. Translated books are still being used in various countries and this will continue, but as we look forward we want to move to a more sustainable programme. With this in mind we are seeking Christian organisations who

are working in different countries and able to use people in those countries to translate our study books. These could then be used in situ by local people and we feel that would be more sustainable and enable the work to grow within the country. The study books could then be produced within the country in a format that is appropriate to them. With this in mind we are actively seeking a Development Director for the International Board to take this work forward.

We still have pdf's in many languages and translated study books can still be obtained.

Give thanks and praise

- For all our office staff and their commitment to the ministry
- For Beth Worley joining the Production Team as Editing Officer
- For the Australian government's cash flow boost to compensate for the economic effects of the virus

Pray

- For Beth and Hannah as they begin working together on the production of KYB books
- For our new writers Chris Keith, Helen Owens and Beth Allison
- For our new editor Sandy McKay
- That God will lead us to the person of his choice for the role of Development Director on IB
- That KYB groups will continue to order books despite not all being able to meet via technology
- For the women in many parts of the world using KYB studies but unable to meet together during COVID-19, that they will be strengthened and encouraged as they continue to study alone
- For the Study group leaders that they will be able to keep in touch with their groups
- For the new members of the International Board:
 - + Cecily Jackson, Finance Director
 - + Kathryn Graham, Secretary and Prayer Convenor
 - + Sandra Gilbert from UK, President
 - + Tina Stevens joining IB as the UK Representative