

# THE NEW NORMAL

By Ian Menzies

In mathematics, a tangent is a straight line that touches a curve at a single point, and has the same gradient as the curve there. A common saying is that one 'can go off on a tangent' from whatever pathway one might be on, and for many of us life since COVID may feel like we have done just that.

The way we live and interact has radically changed. But a mathematical tangent is a straight line, and our road ahead might seem anything but straight at the moment. For a lot of us, that's not what 'the new normal' feels like at all. But then consider that, mathematically, a normal is a line at right angles to the tangent.

## Reflection:

*Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.*

*(Daniel 2:20b-21)*

Perhaps that is indeed a bit more like our experience: we haven't smoothly continued on to a straight path at much the same angle at all, we have experienced a sudden, sharp turn and are heading off in a completely new direction, with each day at times seemingly further away from our old pathway than before. Unexpected, certainly.

But life is always a journey; God is still with us. We need to be open to these new circumstances, new challenges, and while remembering and celebrating the old, still look to embracing the adventures ahead as we head off on our new normal.

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