



# CROSSWAYS<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL



In This Issue:

*Christmas: The Real Story / RCL Notes / Training Events*

## SOLA SCRIPTURA



**May our hearts and minds be focused on God's word as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation and embrace its significance for the future.**

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### DEAR DIARY

Christmas is on the horizon--already. It brings to mind the story of Jesus' birth, and the tradition of gift giving. Here is where I do a detour, for the question has emerged, "What is the most significant gift that one can give a person?" In the file drawer of my mind I cannot imagine a more precious and transforming gift than sharing God's story from beginning to end.

Whether young or old, the Christmas story embraces each of us, showing the power and intention of the Creator God for the universe, our planet, each creature, and humankind. We were meant to function lovingly, respectfully and productively; caring for God's property and international family.



Many intercontinental and intergenerational learners of one of Crossways International's biblical overview courses are grateful. They become part of a memorable journey of discovery through the study. God's story is clarified for anyone worried by external forces and their significance--or by the typical bumps of life's journey. ***Christmas: The Real Story*** shares the simplicity and wonder of God's intervention. When you think about it, humans constantly complicate or disregard that blueprint, that tour guide--much to their dismay. So, be a tour leader or take the tour of discovery. It is God's gift to you and all whom you encounter in your life's calling.

Chloris Wendt / Co-Founder

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TRAINING SEMINAR IN LAKE MARY, FL

October 18-20 / Holy Cross Lutheran Church / Was \$200, now \$100

**Since many in the south were impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, we're offering 1/2-off tuition for this seminar.**

Registration for *The Divine Drama*® Training Seminar in Lake Mary, FL is open! This Training Seminar will provide a solid foundation for lifelong faith-formation, and help you facilitate discussion of *The Divine Drama*®. Click [here](#) for more information, available discounts, and to register.

October 18: 8:30am - 4:30pm -- Check-in & Presentation

October 19: 9:00am - 4:30pm -- Presentation

October 20: 9:00am - 4:00pm -- Presentation

### SEMINAR IN RIVER FALLS, WI

October 21 / Ezekiel Lutheran Church / \$75

This *See Through The Scriptures*® Seminar makes the Bible more accessible by taking readers step-by-step through the entire biblical narrative, putting everything in clear context. Click [here](#) for more information, available discounts, and to register.

October 21: 9:00am - 4:00pm -- Check-in & Presentation

If you would like to schedule a workshop focusing on any of our Crossways International courses in your community, please call 800-257-7308.

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## JOIN A CLASS OR WEBINAR

Looking for a Crossways International® class near you? Visit our [Class Map](#) for locations and details! Interested in starting your own class? We're happy to help you with planning and promotion. Just call 800-257-7308 or email [info@crossways.org](mailto:info@crossways.org).

You can also join us online! Our [webinars](#) provide an interactive way to promote discussion and answer questions. They're the perfect resource for leaders preparing to teach a class within their own congregation, and a great opportunity for learners who prefer to study on their own. Click on a webinar below to learn more!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

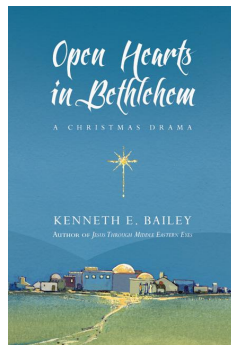
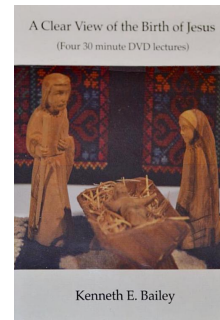
What does the Bible really say about Jesus' birth?

***Christmas: The Real Story*** reexamines traditional Western assumptions about the first Christmas in the context of Middle Eastern customs and culture. An ideal study during Advent, it also makes a great Christmas gift.



Get a fresh perspective on the Christmas story with ***A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus*** DVD.

Sometimes old, familiar stories aren't as familiar as we think they are when seen in a new light. In this DVD, Dr. Kenneth Bailey draws upon his decades of research and teaching in the Middle East to reveal a fresh perspective on the story of the birth of Jesus.



Enjoy a wonderful Christmas drama for all ages.

Christian educators, musicians, and others will enjoy ***Open Hearts in Bethlehem***. This drama and musical CD accurately depict what happened that first Christmas night, based on what the Bible says, rather than traditional stories. Five original songs grace this beloved story. This heartwarming drama, available with or without music, is perfectly suited for church productions.

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[Click here](#) to see an online version of our catalog!  
Request a free catalog in the mail [here](#).

## SHARING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

### REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY NOTES

*"In this parable, Matthew presents God's kingdom as something already present that one can enter in the here and now and as something that only those who can stand the scrutiny of the final judgment will possess. Note, however, that God's people are never saved by works; they are saved for works. God's free forgiving grace calls people to costly discipleship."*



Read more in the Rev. Dr. Wendt's **October 2017 Revised Common Lectionary Notes**.

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Check out our **Fall Specials** and **Recommended Reading!**

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## GiveMN DAY is Just Around the Corner!

We invite all supporters of Crossways International® to remember us on Thursday, Nov. 16, GiveMN Day 2017. This is a great opportunity for all non-profit organizations around Minnesota to receive donations.

The Golden Ticket drawing will once again be part of this special day. For each donation, we'll be added to a drawing to win one of the hourly \$1,000 prizes, or the grand prize of \$10,000! Please give often, breaking up your contribution into smaller amounts to increase our number of entries!

Beginning November 1, donations may be scheduled for this one-day event at **GiveMN.org**. GiveMN is excited to provide a feature that allows donors to pitch in just a little bit more, too. When patrons make a gift through **GiveMN.org**, they may choose to pay the 6.9% processing fee on behalf of an organization, ensuring that 100% of their donation goes directly to that cause! This feature is available by visiting individual organization pages by using the yellow "Find a Cause" box on the **GiveMN** page.

Crossways International is also looking for an individual or organization to partner with us by creating a dollar-for-dollar matching gift for all money raised on this particular day. Contact our office if this is an opportunity you would like to contribute toward! Please help us exceed last year's giving! Your support is greatly appreciated!

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Follow us on **Twitter** to keep up with all of our latest news and events!!

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## A PRAYER TO SHARE

Eternal God, we praise you for your great mercy toward fallen humanity. We thank you for revealing to us Your power, might, wisdom, and love. As we live out life in a troubled and confused world, help us at all times to find peace in Your promises and power to walk in the steps of Jesus throughout life. Keep us within Your grace throughout this earthly life and grant us the joy of finally experiencing Your eternal embrace. In Jesus' great and glorious name. Amen. (From *Christmas: The Real Story* Leader's Manual)

[DONATE HERE](#)

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## SAVE WITH CLASS-SIZE PACKAGE DEALS!

Planning a class for 10 students or more? Get a great deal! For the standard price of 10 student manuals or packages, get the manuals/ packages plus the additional free items listed. See descriptions of our class packages [here](#).

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