



# CROSSWAYS<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL



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## ENGAGING THE LENTEN JOURNEY

As a child, I was taught that Lent was a time to do something out of the ordinary to show my love for Jesus and my commitment of faith. Thinking as a child, for me that usually meant giving up something like candy or sweets and saying additional prayers during these 40 days. Perhaps you remember doing something similar?

As adults, of course, we are called to a much deeper engagement in the Lenten journey. We are called to a radical transformation of our lives. Speaking in God's name, the prophet Isaiah says this about genuine fasting:



Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked,  
to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? (Isaiah 58:6-7)

Our Gospels tell us that this is what Jesus did in His life journey. If we are to be His disciples, this is what we are called to do, as well. And, although this sounds very demanding and deadly serious, which it is, this transformation of our lives is also cause for rejoicing, as the prophet continues:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall  
spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. (Isaiah 58:8)

As we make our way through the remainder of this Lenten season toward Palm Sunday, I invite you to engage as fully as you can in Jesus' journey toward the cross by practicing genuine fasting of the sort Isaiah describes. In doing so, hopefully we will be ready to enter anew into the spirit of this feast. It was, and is, a celebration filled [Read more...](#)

Catherine Cory, Ph.D. / Theological Council Member

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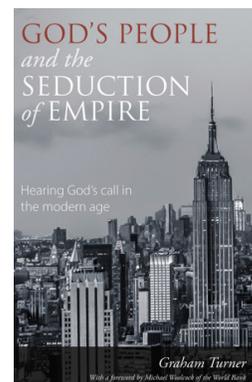
## GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE SEDUCTION OF EMPIRE: HEARING GOD'S CALL IN THE MODERN AGE / GRAHAM TURNER

After taking *Crossways®* several years ago, I started doing a lot of independent Bible study. Last year I decided to go through the book of Revelation and read multiple commentaries to help me understand it more deeply. The commentaries included: *Revelation and the End of All Things* by Craig Koester, *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* by Bruce M. Metzger, *Revelation for Everyone* by N.T. Wright, and *Come, Lord Jesus: A Study of Revelation* by Mark Braaten. (Side note: I'd highly recommend this process to anyone studying Revelation.)

One of the big messages that resonates throughout all of Revelation is Christ's call to resist the lure of Empire which leads to destruction and damnation. We are told do not conform to this world, do not value things that are perishable; conquer Empire by living the alternative lifestyle God has wanted true humanity to live since the dawn of time.

I started thinking about how Empire is represented in today's world. It's one thing to recognize the ways of Empire in how the Roman Empire operated with its Pax Romana enforced by brutality, and how the prevalent Emperor Cult required everyone to worship Caesar, simply to fit in with society. But what does Empire look like today?

*God's People and the Seduction of Empire: Hearing God's Call in the Modern Age* is insightful. Turner describes the behaviors of Empire: power, domination, division, exploitation, control, jealousy and angst. He contrasts them with the qualities God expects of His followers: living in community, being kind [Read more...](#)



Cindy Beaver / Board of Directors Member

# SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND OUTREACH

The Executive Director of Training and Outreach position functions as the Chief Executive Officer of Crossways International® (CI). He/She is responsible for creating a strategy to sustain and expand the worldwide mission of CI. He/she will work closely with the Director of Operations, the Board of Directors and the Theological Council in executing that strategy, overseeing the development of new/updated CI curriculum and resources, and defining new teaching model options for clients choosing to use CI's program materials.

The primary responsibilities of the Executive Director of Training and Outreach include acting as the key sales, marketing, fundraising, and public relations person of CI, and fostering positive relationships with prospective partners, current clients, and other friends of CI. He/She will be the face of CI, presenting and representing our program(s) at various conferences and gatherings in our global community. He/She will also serve as the primary biblical teacher and trainer and be responsible for overseeing the various training events, seminars and webinars conducted by CI.

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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!

***An Apostles' Creed for the New Millennium*** Webinar

March 15: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. (CST)

***The Bible's Big Story/The Biblical Tell-Tale Time-Line*** Webinar

April 17: 10 a.m. - noon (CST)

***See Through the Scriptures®*** Webinar

May 17: 9 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (CST)

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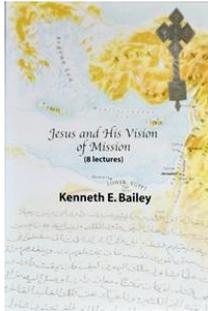
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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Gain insight into the often-spoken words of the Creed with ***An Apostles' Creed for the New Millennium***.

Theologian Harry Wendt revisits the Creed and takes a fresh look at what we really mean when we begin reciting the ancient words, "I believe in God the Father

Almighty..."

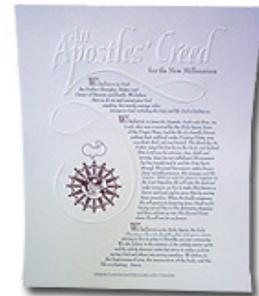


Discover what Jesus says about evangelism, justice and compassion with **Jesus and His Vision for Mission** DVD.

This series of eight lectures from the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Bailey focuses on what Jesus himself had to say about the mission on which He was sent and on which He sent the disciples.

Challenge yourself to think through what we are really professing when we confess our faith with the **Embossed Apostles' Creed**.

This thought-provoking variation on the traditional Creed is printed on textured stock in copper metallic and black inks, with an embossed title--perfect for a home or office wall.



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## SHARING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

### REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY NOTES

*"The profound significance of Jesus' death on a cross becomes all the more apparent when it is understood that, in the final analysis, Jesus' opponents did not kill Him. After uttering His last words on the cross, "It is finished," Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit. In giving up His life, He conquered the enemy powers that sought to eliminate Him. Jesus' greatest act of servanthood won His greatest victory!"*



Read the Rev. Dr. Wendt's **March 2018 Revised Common Lectionary Notes**.

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## A PRAYER TO SHARE

Lord Jesus, although You made and own all things, during Your earthly ministry You sought ownership of nothing. You sought the company of those seen to be unimportant little people so that You might share with them Your big truth. You walked the way of a Servant-without-limit. Your throne was a cross. Your resurrection was the greatest Good News the world has ever heard and will ever hear. Help us to rejoice in Your words of forgiving love as we journey through this life, and inspire us to wait with joy to hear Your words of loving welcome on that Last Day. In Your great and gracious name we pray. Amen. (From *An Apostles' Creed for the New Millennium* Leader's Manual)

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