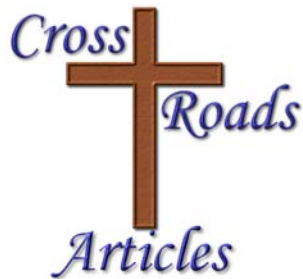




Cross
Roads
Articles

This is what the LORD says, “Stand at the crossroads and look, ask where the good way is and walk in it... and you will find rest for your souls”.

– Jeremiah 6:16



CrossRoads Articles Accountability

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

To all it may concern:

It is my Biblical conviction that quality ministries will make every effort to communicate, share vision, battles, and successes, and most importantly, prayer needs to all who desire to oversee the Lord's work in a Biblical manner. This informational packet will enable you to “**know**” what the Lord has done, and is doing through this ministry founded by Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin. It also provides you an opportunity to enjoy true Biblical partnership with this Word-filled, Christ-Centered, Holy Spirit led ministry.

Two key words the Holy Spirit of Christ wants to illuminate within your hearts are: **One:** To “**know**” (*aida*) generally means to know instinctively, (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament) to have intimate or close relationship with or have knowledge of the work someone is doing for the Lord. (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) In regard to CrossRoads Articles, you should possess information about and have knowledge of the high status of this ministry. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages) Christians are to be able to take note of this work and identify the works of this ministry. (The New American Commentary) **Two:** To “**partner**” (*koinonos*) with someone in ministry means to have fellowship, to be a partaker in common experience in the work of the Lord. (The Complete Word Study; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament)

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CrossRoads Mission Statement

Our Purpose: “Stand at the crossroads and look... ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16 NIV) People of this world are lost and are standing at the crossroads everyday. Our desire is, through God’s word, to bring them to the place of decision. We want them to understand clearly that to go one way means death; to go another means life. The good way is a life of repentance, reconciliation, reverent fear and love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Call: “Preach the Word...” (2 Timothy 4:2) The apostle Paul’s charge to Timothy is not to preach about the Bible, but to proclaim or herald the Word of God. We are appointed as ambassadors of Christ to proclaim the message of salvation and appeal to lost souls to be reconciled to God through accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Our Belief: “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16) “The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrews. 4:12) “God’s Word is like fire... and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces.” (Jeremiah 23: 29) As God’s Word goes out into the public, it will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it. (Isaiah 55:11) Faith comes by people hearing the message of God’s Word about Christ. (Romans 10: 17) It is a necessity to get the Word of God out to people if we are going to reach them for the Lord and fulfill our part of the “Great Commission.”

Understanding: We joyfully plant the seeds of God’s Word, knowing well that Jesus taught that there are four types of soils which represent the hearts of mankind. 1.) The hard trodden-down pathways are like the hearts of those who hear, but the devil comes and takes away the Word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 2.) The rocky ground is like the hearts of those who believe for awhile, but in the time of testing they fall away. 3.) The seed that fell among thorns is like those who have hearts with faith that is quickly choked out by life’s worries, riches, and pleasures, and they never mature. However, 4.) There are those with good and noble hearts (fertile soil); they will hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering, produce a crop. (Luke 8:11 - 15) We also understand that the results of the harvest from the planted seeds of God’s Word come from God, for only He can bring growth. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Responses: CrossRoads Articles are found in the Norton Telegram nine times monthly reaching into 4,600 homes every week. Christians and non-Christians, some who are shut-in due to age or physical ailments have expressed thanksgiving to us for having CrossRoads in the paper each week. People cut them out and send them to family members, friends and hang them on the walls in their homes. CrossRoads has grown from short messages of teaching the truths of God's Word to full transcripts of messages which are placed in "Topical Illustrative Commentaries." These transcripts are on SermonCentral (with over 9,100 viewings and growing weekly). They may also be found on the website (www.standatthecrossroads.com). Just press the button "**Messages**" and then scroll down to the topic you desire and click on the title of the message. You may also click on the button "**Archives**" and read all the CrossRoads Articles that have been written by Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin

Faith: It is the Lord who has called us to go out into the world through our local paper, websites, and CD's in effort to fulfill our part of the Great Commission. We fully trust in Him to help us make disciples, teaching them to obey everything He has commanded us to obey. He has promised that He would always be with us and that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us to fulfill His mandate. (Acts 1:8) We give ourselves fully to this work of the Lord, for we have this promise in God's Word, "...[our labors] in the Lord are not in vain." (1 Corinthians 15: 58)

Thanks so much for making time to prayerfully read this "Mission Statement."

In His Service,

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word

CrossRoads Articles



Beginnings

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man

to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. Son of man, say to the house of Israel, 'This is what you are saying: Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, 'As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!...'." (Ezekiel 33:7-11)

In the early years in my walk with the Lord, the Holy Spirit laid deep within my heart the teachings of Jesus Christ, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4) It has been my prayer to be enabled to fulfill my part in equipping the Body of Christ to achieve (Ephesians 4:4-16) her Biblical mandate: "The Great Commission." (Matthew 28:16-20) In Ezekiel 33:7 – 11, the prophet Ezekiel lays down the foundational truth for accomplishing the heart of God. God's heart is also expressed to us in 2 Peter 3:9, "...He (God) is patient... not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." There are two key Hebrew words which we must understand if the church of today is going to enjoy all that God has for her in fulfilling the "Great Commission." The first word is, "**watchman**," (*sapah*) an active verb meaning *to guard, to keep an eye on something or someone*. The second word to understand is "**wicked**" (*rasa*). This word indicates the guilt engendered by sinning against others, including sins against God. This word describes people who are enemies of the Lord and His people. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; The New Bible Dictionary; Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs, Hebrew and English Lexicon) The point is, "the wicked" are those who are not surrendered to the Lordship of Christ Jesus.

Being a child of God who desires to enjoy the Lord's best for His church, I prayed between 1999 and 2001, petitioning the Lord to make a way for me to get the Word of God into every home in Norton County, Kansas and beyond. One particular prayer warrior, Doris Isabel Stump, caught the vision with me and she prayed daily for this ministry to be birthed. By August 2001, this Word-based, Christ-centered ministry had its first appearance in the Norton Telegram. Doris kept a "CrossRoads" bookmark in her Bible and prayed faithfully from the spring of 1999, until her death in October of 2007. Since August 2001, the Lord has enabled us to place "CrossRoads Articles" into every home in Norton County and beyond each week. In more recent years, the articles are published on two websites: (standatthecrossroads.com and; SermonCentral.com) Pastors, high quality para-church ministries, Christians and non-Christians have expressed their appreciation and thankfulness for having the opportunity to read our Bible teachings on a regular basis. **[For This We Do Praise the Lord!](#)**

In His Service

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word



CrossRoads Articles

A Ministry of Biblical Proportion

“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.” I Corinthians 14:1

“Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy...everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” I Cor. 14:39-40

The heartbeat of *CrossRoads* is found in the exhortation of Jeremiah 6:16, “This is what the Lord says, ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls...’”

Eagerly desire the spiritual gift of prophecy. “Prophecy,” (*propheteuo*) means having the enablement to declare truths through the inspiration of God’s Holy Spirit, whether by prediction or otherwise. It is to tell forth God’s message through one who speaks out the counsel of God with the clearness, energy, and authority which springs from the consciousness of speaking in God’s name and having received a direct message from Him to deliver. This gift is exercised by divine inspiration through those who proclaim what God wants to make known, preach, and expound concerning the truths of God. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains; The Greek English Dictionary of the Bible; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament; The Complete Word Study Dictionary) Christians who enjoy and exercise this gift are those who through Biblical love for the Lord have sacrificed time, expense and strength to prayerfully study the Word of God.

It is my Biblical conviction that the preacher of God’s Word is to do his best “to present [himself] to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15) Therefore, 100 hours of prayerful study of God’s Word is completed before presenting every message spoken in the sanctuary. It is my conviction to write down that which the Lord reveals to me so that it can be passed on to others. (Romans 12:6; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:13-15; Exodus 17:14; Isaiah 8:1; 30:8; Jeremiah 45:1; Malachi 3:16, Habakkuk 2:2) This conviction is also on the heart of those who the Lord has used to be an influence on my spiritual growth: men like Pastors David Wilkerson, John MacArthur and Rick Warren. (Hebrews 13:7-8)

CrossRoads Ministries strives to perform the Lord’s work in an orderly manner, and I believe you will appreciate our endeavors to exercise our Holy Spirit gifts for the common good for all of mankind. (1 Corinthians 12:7)

I ask that you will prayerfully continue to read this material. I pray that the Holy Spirit of Christ may place within your heart His desire for you to consider how you might be a part of this Christ-centered, Word-filled ministry.

In His Service

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God’s Word



CrossRoads Articles

Enabling the Saints:

Ephesians 4:11-13, "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God's people for works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

In the early season of our health crisis with my wife, (Bonnie K. Laughlin has brain cancer), I was sitting in my office asking the Lord to raise up the helpers I needed to achieve His call upon my life. The Holy Spirit of Christ moved deeply upon my heart prompting me to pray and ask the Lord to raise up people who needed to really grow in their knowledge of the Lord and His Word.

With a faith I had never enjoyed before, up to that time in my walk with the Lord, I prayed. In three months I saw the Lord begin to raise up several people who needed to grow in their relationship with Christ and in the knowledge of His written Word. These people needed to find their place in the Lord's work.

Since that Holy Spirit anointed prayer, the Lord has raised up five different workers who are assisting me in proofreading and with technical needs which enable us to get the Word of God out affectively to those who do not go to church as well as to Christians who are home bound do to sickness or other life crippling afflictions. With the workers' help we are placing *CrossRoads Articles* in a secular newspaper as well as and in other Christian resource centers.

We are very thankful to the Lord for enabling us to help others find their place of productive work in the Lord. It is my heart's desire to equip Christians to fulfill their part in getting the Word of God out of the church building and out into the world so that people will learn that Jesus Christ died on the Cross for their redemption and is the source of wisdom and strength for life's problems.

Please pray for this ministry as we continue to prayerfully seek out Christians who want to be equipped to minister the Word of God in the times we live in. Ask the Lord to release the finances needed so we can grow this ministry and enable others to serve Christ by becoming a part of "*CrossRoads Articles*" outreach.

Trusting the Lord to lead you as you prayerfully read the rest of this *CrossRoads* Informational Packet.

In His Service

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word



CrossRoads Articles:

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 says, "So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

Financial Accountability

Financial History:

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
June 1, 2002 – June 2008	\$20,600.00	\$24,611.84
June 2008 – May 2009	\$ 4,805.25	\$ 4,680.00
June 2009 – May 2010	Not Available unto July 2010	

PTL!!! Our budget for July 2009 – June 2010 has been met and we have signed a contract with the Norton Telegram ensuring that the Word of God will get outside the church walls and placed before the public's eyes. \$4,805.25 came in for our July 2009 – June 2010 fiscal year. Our expenses for getting the Word of God into every home in Norton County, Kansas was \$4,680.00. **Thanks to the hard work of four different people 100% of your financial support has gone to the publishing of God's Word in a secular paper.** We are very thankful for all who partner with us in prayer, participation and financially.

Projected Budget for July 2010 – June 2011 is \$5,000.00.

Please Note: During the fiscal year of July 2009 – June of 2010, the first \$4,680.00 that comes into the ministry of CrossRoads Articles will be used to pay the expenses of getting these Biblical teachings out into the Norton County area and beyond through the Norton Telegram. The rest of the funds coming in (for fiscal year 2009-2010) will be used to meet the health needs of my family. Terry and Bonnie (writers of the CrossRoads Articles) partner with "Samaritan Ministries." Samaritan Ministries meet the exhortation of Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." CrossRoads Articles ministry, and the Laughlin's know that to minister to the needy and the sick is to minister to Christ. (Matthew 25:31-40) Samaritan Ministry **is not insurance**, it is a network of Christians who are committed to helping Christians meet their medical bills. I, (a called Preacher/Teacher of the Word of God), am fully committed to the work of getting the Word of God out unto lost souls and it is my hope the Lord will provide for me as I fulfill my charge. 1 Timothy 4:13-16 says, "...Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch

your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

You May Send Donations to:

CrossRoads Ministries

C/O CrossRoads Articles

603, Sunset Dr.

Norton, KS 67654

(Make Checks to CrossRoads Ministries/Articles)

Trusting the Lord to lead you as you prayerfully consider the financial responsibilities of this Christ-Centered, Word-filled ministry.

In His Service

Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word

Important Information – CrossRoads Ministries is **not** a 501 (c) (3) non-profit ministry; therefore your donations to CrossRoads Ministries are not deductible on your tax returns. **Reason** – After spending some time in prayer and counsel with ministries that have the same convictions as we do in ministry style, it has become of great concern to us that a day is coming when governmental organizations will use 501(c) (3) tax status as leverage to keep churches, religious organizations and Biblically-based ministries from fulfilling their call to, *“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction.”* (2 Timothy 4:2) The New Testament warns us, *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”* (2 Timothy 4:2-3) Not having a 501(c) (3) status/approval will enable us to keep our focus on the call set before us when such a time comes and confront the culture as the Lord leads.



“A Watchman’s Vision”

“Biblically Achieving Our Call”

Topic: Biblically Understanding CrossRoads Vision

“Stand at the crossroads and look... ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. I have appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet.’” (Jeremiah 6:16 NIV)

Warning of destruction

At this time in Biblical history, Judah was in danger of destruction because she had strayed from the ways of God. Therefore, the Lord raised up a prophet of God to admonish the people and gave them instructions on how to walk in a manner worthy of the people of God.

The New Testament has a warning of a destruction for all who do not desire the ways of God, destruction that affects the life and soul of mankind. Romans 1:18-32 says, “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened...

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, He gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.” (Romans 1:18-32)

I would propose to you that in a world bound in the modern day wrath of God, there is a call upon the church to become aggressive in her fight for the souls of mankind.

Just what is our purpose at CrossRoads Ministries? Just what is our call? What is our belief based on?

Grasp our purpose / concept of prophet as watchman

The first step to enjoying God's will for us in the "Great Commission" is to grasp our purpose. Jeremiah wrote to a people who were about to suffer the consequences of sin, "I appointed watchmen over you and said listen to the trumpet." (Jeremiah 6:17)

The concept of prophet as a watchman is found throughout the counsel of God's word. Hosea 9:8a says, "The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman..."

"Prophet" (*nabiy*) here is an inspired spokesman who is raised up by the Lord to proclaim the message from God who does not contradict the law of the Lord or one who speaks from his own mind or heart. (The Complete Word Study) Thus, a prophet is a spokesman for the Lord and one who speaks under God's authority. (Exodus 7:1; Easton's Bible Dictionary; Harper's Bible Dictionary)

The whole Word of God as it was written by men who received the revelation from God (2 Peter 1:20-21) communicates the Lord's mind and will to men. Anyone who is a spokesman for the Lord, preaching the Word of God is thus exercising the grace gift of prophecy for the purpose of proclaiming divine truths to mankind. (Easton's Bible Dictionary; Harper's Bible Dictionary)

In the New Testament the prophetic office is continued. Our Lord is frequently spoken of as a prophet of the church. (Luke 4:2; 13:33; 24:19; Matthew 13:57; 21:11; John 4:19; 9:17) He is the Great Prophet of the Body of Christ and He has given the grace gift of prophecy to the modern day church. (Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:26-32; Ephesians 2:20; 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:20; Acts 11:27; 13:1; 15:32; James 5:10; Harper's Bible Dictionary; Easton's Bible Dictionary)

The Body of Christ who understands her purpose and call will have someone in their congregation who has the grace gift of "prophet" as mentioned in Ephesians 4:11. "Prophet" (*prophetes*) here generally refers to those who have the Holy Spirit gift of speaking the heart and will of God to mankind. (The Complete Dictionary of the New Testament; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) Men or women exercising this gift have a healthy walk with the Lord and they are sent by Him to warn, correct and exhort people. It has been said of these Christians, "They love God and disturb people." (Donald A. Leggett)

“Watchman” (*sapah*) in practical application is to have someone stand guard. When applied to the duty of being a watchful prophet with Jesus Christ in this dispensation, it is having a spokesman who is proclaiming the truths of God to a people who are being overcome by sins that feed the flesh, that embrace a world view and listen to Satan’s lies.

Where were watchmen stationed? Historical researchers tell us that whenever possible, towers were erected in fields, vineyards and especially in key positions around the city so as to have someone give a warning call. The church who grasps her purpose as being a watchman has someone with the Christ apportioned gift of prophet (Ephesians 4:11-12) getting the Word of God out to those suffering the consequences of not living for the Lord.

Those who are called of the Lord to exercise this gift are very much illuminated with the same exhortation that was given to Ezekiel, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman... so hear the word I speak and give them warning from Me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. ...Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways!..’” (Ezekiel 33:7-11)

Taylor in his teachings on the duty of the watchful prophet writes, “A dying person unwarned would be regarded as a murder victim. The murderer would be the watchman who failed his duty.”

The purpose of the watchmen today is to be out proclaiming the Word of the Lord publicly, give a warning call of God’s wrath, God having surrendered mankind over to themselves, just as warned in Romans 1: 18-32. Through the teaching of God’s Word this watchman is used to bring conviction of sin and to point the lost to Christ Jesus.

By God’s grace, through exercising of the Spiritual gifts of several in this Body of Christ, we can say yes, we are watchmen. *CrossRoads* is found on the second page of the *Norton Telegram* every Monday. It reaches 4,600 homes, including every home in the Norton County area and beyond. These articles are also placed in the church section of *The Telegram* every Friday. In addition, they are scheduled by the Norton County Ministerial Alliance to be used in devotionals on the first Friday of each month. The *Norton Telegram* staff also visits our website regularly to get these Biblical teachings for their devotionals. New *CrossRoads* articles are placed on the front page of our website weekly. Christians and non-Christians, some being shut-ins due to age or physical ailments, have expressed thanksgiving to us for having *CrossRoads* in the paper each week. People cut out the articles and send them to family members and friends.

We have received thanks from individuals around the country who have received CrossRoads articles in this way. *CrossRoads articles* are excerpted from full transcripts of Sunday morning messages, which are regularly placed on two websites: *standatthecrossroads.com* and *SermonCentral.com*. According to *SermonCentral*, we currently have 103 messages on their website with nearly 9,000 viewings. The viewing rate continues to grow weekly.

Proclaiming the Word of the Lord

Once the church has grasped her purpose she is to fulfill her call by proclaiming the Word of the Lord. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 says, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in the view of His appearing and His kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word: be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

The best of men, corporations or anyone in the work force need someone to give and remind them of their duties, even more so the preacher of God’s Word.

The Apostle Paul’s charge to Timothy was not to preach *about* the Bible, but to proclaim or herald the Word of God. To preach (*kerusso*) means to publicly announce, to publish abroad religious truth, the gospel with its attendant privileges and obligations in this gospel dispensation. The herald is to proclaim in such a way as to persuade, urge, warn and intrigue people to comply to the message. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages; The Complete Word Study Dictionary, New Testament; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament)

In the early days of my walk with the Lord, I was so moved by Dr. Billy Graham’s faithfulness to preach the Word of God. There was that so familiar phrase in the messages he spoke forth, “The Bible says.” In watching the film, “The Cross and the Switch-blade,” I took notice of the scene that presented David Wilkerson as a man who was not ashamed of the Word of God. Every letter, e-mail and transcript of messages I get from him is full of the Word of God. I excitedly open his material with a full expectation of receiving something from the heart of God and my hope in the Lord is restored.

Once when Missionary David Haag was about to share a word to a group of Christians, when he stood to speak, some of the younger appointed leaders spoke out, “Don’t preach, Don’t preach!”

To the delight of the God who created him, to the delight of the Christ who died for him and in the empowering of the Holy Spirit who anointed him, Missionary David Haag preached the Word of God anyway.

There is a Biblical term, “man of God.” It has been reduced to someone who is religious or has regular church attendance. However, Biblically the term “man of God” refers to God’s spokesman, often referring to men exercising the gift, prophet, evangelist, apostle, pastor or teacher. Our key text in this division of the message was written to the young pastor Timothy, whom Paul accredited the term “man of God.” (1 Timothy 6:11) This term is given to the person who represents God by speaking His Word. In 1 Timothy 6:11-14 the Apostle Paul lists four marks of the “man of God,” one being a man or women who is faithful to fulfill the responsibility of their charge or calling. (Rediscovering Expository Preaching, John MacArthur)

CrossRoads Articles fulfill the ministry of watchful prophet and must always be overseen by a person who is called to and has proven faithful the “Preach the Word.” The one who proclaims God’s Word in this ministry that reaches out to those in this world, must be overseen by men or women of God who are Holy Spirit illuminated with 1 Timothy 4:13-15, “Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift... Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”

Those who prove faithful and unashamedly preach the Word do so because they have a firm belief in the foundation of what they preach. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16) Hebrews 4:12 says, “The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” (Hebrew 4:12)

Timothy was about to face false teachers and a people who no longer wanted to hear truth. Therefore, Timothy needed assurance and exhortation so as to not fade from his charge. Thus the Apostle Paul reminded the young pastor that all Scripture is God-breathed (*theopneustos*), that is, God’s words were given through men superintended by the Holy Spirit so that their writings are without error.

CrossRoads Articles rest upon the foundational truth that the Bible is the Word of God, is Holy Spirit inspired, and is the key source from which we write. Over the course of a year, CrossRoads Biblical teachings cover all four areas on which Paul told Timothy to preach. These articles teach, rebuke, correct, and train in righteous living addressing the times we live in today.

In the public distribution of CrossRoads Articles we fully trust that the Word of God is able to do the work God wants done in its readers’ spiritual hearts. The Book of Hebrews tells us the Word is living and active (*energes*) meaning energizing (Thru the Bible) having vital power in itself and exerting the same to the human soul. (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon) Paul is also teaching us that man’s thoughts cannot be kept to himself once he has been exposed to God’s Word. What mankind holds secret is brought to the surface before the Lord as he reads or hears the spoken word of God. (The Expositors Bible Commentary; Matthew Henry

Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary; New Bible Commentary)

It is imperative that the word of God get into every home possible so mankind may be made aware of his heart condition in the eyes of God and they may hear about Christ. Faith comes by people hearing the message of God's Word concerning Christ. (Romans 10: 17) As God's Word goes out to the public, it will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it. Isaiah 55:11 gives us this assurance, "So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11) The word of God will either harden unto death or it will soften unto salvation bringing knowledge of and enjoyment in the will of God.

Understanding the results of planting God's Word

Watchful Prophets are confident in their work with the Lord and have full understanding of the results of planting God's Word. 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 says, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building."

Through CrossRoads Articles we joyfully plant the seeds of God's Word in the Norton County area and beyond, knowing full well that Jesus taught that there are four types of soil which represent the hearts of mankind: 1.) The hard trodden-down pathways are like the hearts of those who hear, but the devil comes and steals away the Word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 2.) The rocky ground promotes shallow roots and is like the hearts of those who believe for awhile, but in the time of testing fall away. 3.) The thorny ground creates seed growth that is like those who have hearts of faith but whose faith is quickly choked out by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and the believers never mature. However, 4.) The fertile soil is like those with good and noble hearts. They will hear the Word, retain it, and, by persevering, produce a crop. (Luke 8:11 - 15)

Jesus taught clearly, "But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering, produce a crop." (Luke 8:15) The parable of the seed sower shows us that Jesus was not impressed by the crowds that followed and heard the words He taught. He knew that most of the people did not really hear the Word and receive it in their hearts in true repentance. Jesus gave this spiritual teaching to encourage the disciples in their future ministry, and to encourage us today. When you consider how much of God's Word has gone out into the public over the years through teaching, preaching, and personal witnessing in different ways, it should not surprise us to see so little harvest.

The harvest is small because what Jesus teaches is true, “Enter the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.” (Matthew 7:13)

Although most people will reject the message, there is that heart out there that receives it and not every heart will produce the same amount of harvest, nor is the harvest the same in every person. Some seeds will produce harvesters being used of God to bring others to Christ. (Romans 1:13) Some of the harvesters will give to the Lord’s work. (Romans 15:25-29) Other seeds produce good works and those able to grow in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:10) Some seeds enable others to grow tremendously in Christ-like character (Galatians 5:22-23) and there will be those who will whole heartedly offer praise to God. (Hebrews 13:15) (Matthew Henry Commentary; The Bible Exposition Commentary; Bible Knowledge Commentary)

Getting the Word of God out of the church walls will find noble hearts in due season and it will have its harvest for Christ.

Rests upon the promise

Watchful prophets proclaim like Christ did planting the seeds of God’s Word on every heart and they express a faith based on God’s Word. Every faithful servant of the Lord who takes the gospel out to lost souls rests upon the promise found in Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Here we see the empowerment that is going to enable the Body of Christ to take the gospel of Jesus to lost souls around the world. Without the Holy Spirit’s leading there is no vision from God on what to do, there is no enabling to achieve the task set before us, and mankind is not drawn to hear the message.

The heart of anyone who is a watchman, proclaiming the message of the Lord in this sin-trodden world rests upon the promise found in 1 Corinthians 15:58, “Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

The Apostle Paul did as he often does, suddenly he moves from theology and makes a challenge; suddenly the Holy Spirit speaks through God’s anointed to address the practicality in ministry so that we might stay steadfast in our callings. (The Daily Study Bible Series) Here we have the assurance that as surely as Christ is risen from the dead, Christians shall rise and be fully rewarded for their labors with the Lord. This will be fully enjoyed at the judgment seat of Christ. The challenge of the Holy Spirit to us is that we remain faithful and serve with an expectation that God is going to reward our labors with Christ! (Matthew Henry

Commentary; New Bible Commentary; Commentary, Critical and Explanatory)

In Closing: *The Word of God holds a truth or principle that lays deep in the heart of our CrossRoads Articles ministry which, I believe should govern all ministry opportunities.* 1 Thessalonians 5:12 in the King James Bible says, “And I beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you.”

To “know” (*aida*) generally means to know instinctively, (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament) to have intimate or close relationship with or have knowledge of the work someone is doing for the Lord. (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) In regard to CrossRoads, you should possess information about and have knowledge of the high status of this ministry. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages) Christians are to be able to take note of this work and identify the works of this ministry. (The New American Commentary)

To “partner” with someone in ministry means to have fellowship, to be a partaker in common experience in the work of the Lord. (The Complete Word Study; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) Therefore, quality ministries will make every effort to communicate, share vision, battles, successes and most importantly, prayer needs to all who desire to oversee the Lord’s work in a Biblical manner.

This why we have put together this nice booklet that can be handed out or sent to Christians who may want to know about what the Lord has done and is doing through this ministry. **Your Partnership is Requested:** In partnering with us we ask that you pray the following: 1.) Thanksgiving to the Lord for this ministry. 2.) Anointing and honor given to the Word of the Lord as it is spread rapidly 3.) The calling of lost souls to Christ Jesus. 4.) God’s work through *CrossRoads* articles in connecting people to Bible believing and preaching churches. 5.) God’s will as you consider helping us meet the financial needs of this ministry.

Many of you have heard the story of “Mutiny on the Bounty.” In brief it is the story about men who were sent off on a British ship, bound for the South Seas. The idea was to plant fruit-bearing trees and do other things to make the Islands more habitable. When the job was completed the order to embark was given, however, the men formed strong attachments to the ladies and the climate. The result was “Mutiny on the Bounty.” Captain Bligh and a few loyal men were set adrift and in an almost miraculous fashion, Captain Bligh survived the ordeal and made it back to London to tell the story. An expedition was launched and fourteen men paid the penalty of mutiny under British law, death.

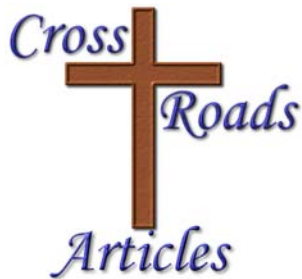
Keith Miller, in “Edge of Adventure,” shares a story only a few have heard about. He shares how the Bible played a very vital part in that historical event. He writes:

“Nine of the men (the mutineers) had gone to another Island. They formed a colony. Perhaps there has never been a more degraded

and debauched social life than that colony. ...Whiskey and other [sins] led to their ruin. Disease and murder took the lives of all the native men, only one white man survived, Alexander Smith. He found a Bible and started reading it, he believed and began to appropriate it into his life. He taught it to the children and women." According to the story by the time they were found, people lived in decency, prosperity and harmony. No crime, disease, immorality." God honored His Word among them. (Swindoll, The Tale of the Tardy Oxcart)

I wonder what might result if we stay steadfast in getting the Word of God out, praying and asking for Holy Spirit revelation of Christ to be given to hearts prepared to receive. Just how many would be saved from this modern day wrath of God. Souls saved from self-living, the world's view and the lies of the devil, so repentant sinners may choose to live in Christ and He in them?

Let us pray!



Prayer Request

CrossRoads Articles and is an outreach that goes outside the church walls answering the call of a watchman for the Lord Jesus Christ in a time when unrepentant mankind has been surrendered over to the consequences of not living for the Lord.

(Romans 1:18-32; As well explained in Message "A Watchman's Vision.") Holy Spirit illuminated Christians are heart broken over the state of mankind without Christ just as Jesus was (Luke 19:41) and are like Nehemiah over the state of Jerusalem when it lay in ruins. (Nehemiah 2:1-5)

Hosea 9:8 warns of the problems that arise when a watchman of God has a style of ministry that speaks forth a message of warning and repentance. (Bible Knowledge Commentary; The New Bible Commentary; 1 Kings 18:4; 19:10; Matthew 23:29-36; The New American Commentary) The Apostle Paul understood the attitudes of those to whom he would preach a message of repentance. 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life."

Through this informational packet we have given you an opportunity to learn about this ministry and partner with us in reaching out to those who are without Christ. Please pray and place these book markers in your Bible.

- **Thanking** God for sending us: "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.'" (Rom. 10:14-15)
- The Lord grant us favor with those who read our "CrossRoads Vision Packet."
- That this ministry be powerful and effective. "Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you." (1 Thessalonians 3:1)
- That God would call lost souls to Christ. Jesus said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him..." (John 6: 44)

I am thankful to the Lord for allowing me this opportunity to present this ministry need to you and I am praying the Lord's leading as you take time to make yourself aware of what He has done and is doing through our "CrossRoads Articles.

In His Service

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word



CrossRoads Articles Advisory Team Application

“As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ.” (2 Corinthians 8:23)

The Holy Spirit moves through the Apostle Paul to inform us of the necessity of making the effort to obtain a good name with others, especially in the body of Christ in regard to the work of God, so we can prove our love for the Lord. (Matthew Henry Commentary) Paul knew that he had enemies and his critics would not hesitate to charge the work he was overseeing in a way that would draw question to what God was doing through him and others who were serving with him. All critics of the things of God will make every effort to do harm to the Lord's work, thus, we are to make arrangements to ensure that those who examine our ministries find that we have been proven faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2, Barclay, Lectures in the University of Glasgow, Ed, Ephworth Commentaries) Sadly, there are well meaning Christians who would like to have their thoughts made known about key spiritual decisions, yet they are not Holy Spirit appointed overseers to Christ's church. (Acts 20:28)

How do we become ministers of high reputation as we serve the Lord? We are to look to the Word of God, as the only solution for rebuilding trust with God and overcoming the destruction that has come about because of congregational rule found in too many local churches today. The charge to those who take on oversight of ministry is, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15)

2 Corinthians 8:23 begins with talking about Titus. He had the qualities of an exemplary servant. He had a long track record of service. He had proved faithful in his callings and was trustworthy. He could be given assignments and follow through on them. He was organized enough to lead others and set up fresh leadership teams. He was such a major asset to the early church, Paul trusted him and left him in Crete to oversee a work. Paul wrote to Titus and gave him instructions on how to set up true meaningful church leadership. (Titus 1:5-9; Who's Who in the Bible) The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write to Titus, “You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.”

CrossRoads Ministries is refocusing “**CrossRoads Articles**,” therefore we are in the process of looking for Biblical partners. We are seeking Holy Spirit appointed overseers (Acts 20:28) who have proven themselves faithful to God in preparation for the teaching of God's Word.

We are living in the last days. Therefore, we are looking for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. However, considering all the Lord has revealed to us and realizing that there are churches overseen by hirelings and CEO's, the present overseers of CrossRoads Ministries do not feel secure with accepting partners in ministry based on church titles such as, "Pastor," "Minister," "Deacon" "Elder" or "Board of Directors." We are choosing to find strength in partnership with men and women who have the conviction that there are Christians who are appointed by Jesus Christ, "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12-13) We are praying to connect with Christ appointed servants of the Lord who have and will spend the painstaking hours of study of God's Word so we may enjoy Biblical "fellowship" and "partnership" in the Lord's work as we endeavor to fulfill our part of "The Great Commission." (Matthew 28:16-20)

Praying the Lord's leading as you fill out the application accompanying this letter of vision and instruction.

In His Service,

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word

Be sure to visit our website
["standatthecrossroads.com"](http://standatthecrossroads.com)

CrossRoads Articles Advisory Team Application

Important definitions:

Textual Teaching: A textual teaching gets truths from a key text, a brief portion from the Word of God. Each truth presented is used as a line of suggestion and the truth in that Scripture is the theme of the teaching.

Expository Teaching: An expository teaching is one in which an extended portion of Scripture is taught in relation to the truths presented in those Scriptures. The heart of the teaching is drawn from those passages of Scripture and the flow of the teaching is consistent with the flow of the portion of Scripture being taught.

We are Requesting from You:

Textual Teaching on Act 2:42, “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” This teaching must involve a “Word Study” on the word:

- **Fellowship** □□□□□□□□ *koinōnía*; -

Expository Teaching on Acts 6:1-7, “In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.’ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.”

Expository Teaching on 2 Timothy 4:1-5, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” This teaching must involve a “Word Study” on the word:

- “Preach - □□□□□□□□ *kērússō*;

Phrase Study from Romans 12:6-8, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. **If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.** If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” The Phrase we want you to focus on is:

- “..If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith...”

This teaching must involve a “Word Study” on the word:

- “Propheying” or “Prophecy” - $\pi\rho\phi\eta\tau\epsilon\iota\alpha$ *prophēteia*;

Textual Study on Jeremiah 6:16 - 17

“Stand at the crossroads and look... ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. I have appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet.’” (Jeremiah 6:16-17 NIV) This study must involve a “Word Study” on the word:

- “Watchmen” - $\bar{a}p\bar{a}h$:

Expository Teaching on 1 Corinthians 9:7 – 14

“Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk? Do I say this merely from a human point of view? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? For it is written in the Law of Moses: ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more?

But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Don't you know that those who work in the temple get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.”

Praying the Lord's leading and direction as you prayerfully fill out this application.

In His Service,

Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin

Unashamedly Believing, Preaching and Teaching God's Word

*Sample of a
CrossRoads as seen
the Norton Telegram*



SO,... YOU SAY YOU BELIEVE?

A. W. Tozer wrote, "Fortunately only a few things are matters of life and death, such as a compass for a sea voyage or a guide for a journey across the desert. To ignore these things is not to gamble or take a chance; it is to commit suicide. Here it is either be right or be dead."

A person's relationship with Christ is a matter of eternal life or spiritual death. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You are saved by faith in Christ alone altogether apart from good deeds or religious works.

Many have convinced themselves that just believing in God and believing that Jesus died and was resurrected automatically saves you. James tells us that even the demons believe that there is one God and shudder. (James 2:19) Demons believe, but they will not be in heaven.

How does the individual man come into a saving relationship with Christ? That was the anxious question presented to Paul and Silas by their jailer, "...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

There are at least three ways to describe the only answer for the eternal salvation of any person: 1.) Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31); 2.) Receive Christ as personal Savior (John 1:12); and 3.) Accept Christ. Acts 11:21 tells us that a great number "...believed and turned to the Lord."

To believe in the Greek means to put trust in, to be convinced of, or have no doubt and be certain of. The important grammatical form of the word "believe" is continuous action. In other words, you must believe and keep on believing.

Minds believe doctrines; hearts trust persons. A child will run to his father for help, direction, and provision when he truly believes in his father's loving care. A patient will go to his physician when there is belief in his doctor's abilities to help.

What good will your so-called belief do you if it has not resulted in your turning wholeheartedly to the Lord? Many profess to believe, but they continue in their sins. Jesus said there are those hypocrites who will "...honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me." (Matt. 15: 8) The person who truly believes in Christ becomes a new creation; his old nature leaves and a new nature, surrendered to Christ, comes. (2 Cor. 5:17) Paul didn't say, "Believe and be saved," but "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved..." (Acts 16:31)

A true believer in Christ orbits his life around Jesus like the earth orbits around the sun. Just as the earth needs the sun, believers need the Son of God to perfect holiness within them. "...Without holiness no one will see the Lord." (Heb. 12:14)

True believers accept God's friends as their friends, they reject what He rejects and they adopt the Lord's lifestyle as their own. Jesus said "Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness..." (John 8:12) meaning not purposely living in sin.

So... you say you believe. Does your belief in Him affect the way you live? To ignore what the Bible says about true belief is not to gamble or take a chance, it is to commit spiritual suicide.

The Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus..." Today is the day of your salvation. You may not have another.